



Pete Ricketts
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

Latino American Commission
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DEYANIRA SALGADO APPOINTED AS GOVERNOR'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE NEBRASKA LATINO AMERICAN COMMISSION

LINCOLN – Deyanira Salgado of Lincoln has been appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts to serve as the Governor's Representative on the Latino American Commission's Board of Commissioners.

Salgado will fill in the vacancy left in March by Jose Santos who served as the Governor's Representative for many years. She was working at the Dept. of Labor (DOL) in the Unemployment Insurance sector when she was promoted to the Labor Law sector on April 6, 2015. Her duties include investigations that may consist of payroll audits and on-site inspections. She will also interview meatpackers, businesses and construction sites to ensure they are in compliance with the Non-English Speaking Employees Law, the Wages and the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act, the Contractor Registration Act and the Employee Classification Act.

“As a bilingual Labor Law Investigator and Meatpacker Bill of Rights Coordinator I will be working closely with the Spanish speaking population regarding wage/employment issues, document inspections, and may have to meet with workers, company officials and coordinate with federal agencies,” said Salgado. “My goal is to improve the working conditions and create awareness for workers that don't know their rights by creating a meaningful relationship with employers in order to improve working conditions. I will be conducting business visits and maneuver around meat packing plants, active construction sites and other business locations.”

Born in Los Angeles, Calif., Salgado is a first generation Mexican-American and the eldest of three children. She and her family moved to Grand Island, Neb., to join extended family when she was 14-years-old.

“Establishing in Nebraska became a lot more difficult than what my family and I had anticipated,” said Salgado. “It was a culture shock, to all of us. We realized that for once in our lives we were minorities. You see, I say that because in Los Angeles we were surrounded by Latinos and variety of different cultures.”



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The differences would lead to a new set of responsibilities for Salgado that she didn't have in California, of which the experiences would create a perspective that would shape her future.

"My parents came to this state knowing little-to-no English, and I was placed in a situation where I had to step up and become a young adult. I then realized that my drive to see my family succeed began with me," said Salgado. "I had to demonstrate responsibility and ownership from a very young age. I was placed in situations where I had to represent my parents through difficult situations such as doctor appointments, school conferences and even with their direct employer. Coming from immigrant parents has been very challenging as I have experienced the reject and discrimination they've been put through. Seeing their lack of opportunity pushed me to maintain myself, focus in school and work towards greater goals."

She graduated from Grand Island Senior High School in 2009 and attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) in the fall.

As one of the few minority students on campus, Salgado sought out a community that could provide the support and familiarity she needed. She joined the UNL chapter of Lambda Theta Nu, Sorority Inc., a Latina-based sorority that provided the support, empowerment and resources to help her as a student. Her experience as a sorority sister would eventually give her the push to venture out to the local community and help the public.

"I became involved with our Latino community by volunteering in community service events, helping out our local El Centro de Las Americas and the Malone Center. I was also able to contribute on many Latino events on Campus such as the annual Latina Youth Leadership Conference which is hosted by (Lambda Theta Nu), a yearly event that is geared toward 8th grade Latina students," she said.

In addition to work and volunteering through the sorority, Salgado also worked at the Community Learning Center at North Star High School in Lincoln helping students with their homework and encouraging them to pursue a higher education. She also served as a mentor at Grand Island Senior High School and provided college preparatory aid for students.

"I was thankful to be working with students that were close to me and that aspired to pursue their dreams. I learned that many of these students were first-generation college attendees and had little understanding of the responsibility they were taking on. Most of these students now are preparing to receive their college careers," said Salgado, who continues to volunteer and mentor with her sorority as an alumni member.



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She graduated from UNL in December 2013 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a minor in Spanish. She was hired by the DOL on July 15, 2014 and has remained there since.

Salgado views her new role as the Governor's Representative as a way to continue helping others just as she has been doing for years, only on a different scale:

“As a first generation Mexican-American citizen I feel it is my duty to represent my Latino Community and use my voice to speak on behalf of those that don't know their rights. Our Latino community is made from resilient countries fighting for the same American dream. If I can be a resource to help them get there, I will be.”

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