



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

October 22, 2012 Kearney Nebraska



Your Future
Depends on
Your Success
Today

2012



“La Raza C3smica:
Dare to Dream”

9th Annual Hispanic/Latino
Summit



8:00 am to 8:45 am Registration and Continental Breakfast *Inscripción y Desayuno*
Breaks Sponsored By:
Building Bright Futures Foundation and
Nebraska State Education Association

8:45 am to 10:00 am Welcome and General Session *Bienvenida y Sesión General*
Crystal Ballroom

Keynote Presentation

“The Courage to Dream: My Journey from There to Here”

Reyna Grande

Reyna Grande talks about her life as an immigrant, from her life of poverty in Mexico, her border crossing at age 9, to becoming the first in her family to graduate from college.

“La Valentía para Soñar: Mi Viaje de Allá hacia Acá”

Presentadora: Reyna Grande

Reyna habla sobre su vida como inmigrante, desde su vida de pobreza en México, cómo cruzó la frontera a la edad de 9 años, hasta convertirse en la primera de su familia de graduarse de la universidad.

10:00 am to 10:30 am Break *Descanso*

10:30 am to 11:15 am Select-a-Session I *Selecciona una Sesión I*

11:15 am to 11:30 am Break *Descanso*

11:30 am to 12:15 pm Select-a-Session II *Selecciona una Sesión II*

12:15 pm to 1:45 pm Working Lunch /Panel Discussion (Crystal Ballroom) *Almuerzo*

1:45 pm to 2:00 pm Break *Descanso*

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm Select-a-Session III *Selecciona una Sesión III*

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Dear Conference Participants:

On behalf of the Nebraska Department of Education, thank you for participating in the 2012 Hispanic/Latino Summit. The Nebraska Department of Education is pleased to welcome you to the Summit in partnership with the Latino American Commission and our partnering organizations.

The Department of Education mission is: "To lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living." As our state demographics continue to change, our efforts must assure equitable opportunities and high expectations for all students. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders.

This year we are excited to focus on the many accomplishments of the Hispanic/Latino students. Our Summit program showcases the many pathways to accomplishing future dreams—thus our theme "La Raza Cosmica –Dare to Dream: Your Future Depends on Your Success Today."

We hope the Summit provides discussion, ideas and action. Together we can make a difference and create the positive and productive future we want for all Nebraskans!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger D. Breed".

Roger D. Breed, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

In the name of the Latino American Commission, I wish to welcome all of you to the 2012 Hispanic/Latino Summit. We have here students, school staff, and family and community members, all striving to pursue better educational outcomes.

Latino students make up about 15.7% of the whole K-12 student population in Nebraska, with a 10 year growth of 98.93%, yet this rough percentage does not adequately reflect the variation in local population or the diversity in educational or cultural backgrounds.

The first generation child who faces the challenges of mastering a new language, a new educational system, and a new culture has different needs than a second or third generation child facing the barriers of poverty, low expectations, or an uncertain future in the job market. Yet, here we will see during this conference Hispanic/Latino individuals who overcame those obstacles and accomplished their dreams. We should all follow their examples and focus on what we want to be and not on what we are told to be.

Knowledge is our only true possession, the only one that cannot be taken away. Knowledge comes from studying and learning. The right application of knowledge will lead to wisdom. Let's all encourage our children to acquire better education and apply the wisdom needed in these difficult times.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from all of you during this wonderful event.

Lazaro Spindola
Director, Latino American Commission

Summit Purpose

Increase youth leadership opportunities, showcase Hispanic/Latino student achievement success, highlight resources available to support student success, and inspire ACTION for creating positive futures!



Queridos Participantes en la Conferencia:

A nombre del Departamento de Educación de Nebraska, quiero agradecerles su participación en la Cumbre Hispana/Latina del 2012. El Departamento de Educación de Nebraska en compañía de la Comisión Latino Americana y las demás organizaciones colaboradoras tiene el placer de darles la más cordial bienvenida a esta Cumbre.

La Misión del Departamento de Educación es: "Para liderar y apoyar la preparación de todos los nebrasquenses para aprender, ganar, y vivir." Ya que la población demográfica de nuestro estado continúa cambiando, nuestros esfuerzos deberán asegurar la igualdad de oportunidades y altas expectativas para todos los estudiantes. Los estudiantes de hoy son los líderes del mañana.

Este año nos complace enfocarnos en los innumerables logros de los estudiantes hispanos/latinos. El programa de nuestra Cumbre exhibe las innumerables trayectorias para lograr los sueños futuros – por ende nuestro tema "La Raza Cósmica – Atrévete a Soñar: Tu Futuro Depende de Tus Logros de Hoy"

Esperamos que la Cumbre les proporcione la oportunidad de discusión, ideas y acción. ¡Juntos podemos hacer la diferencia y crear el futuro positivo y productivo que queremos para todos los nebrasquenses!

Atentamente,

Roger D. Breed, Ed.D.
Comisionado de Educación



En nombre de la Comisión Latino-Americana, quiero darles la más cordial bienvenida a todos ustedes a la Cumbre Hispana/Latina del 2012. Hoy tenemos aquí estudiantes, personal escolar, familiares y comunidad, todos con el mismo afán de conseguir mejores resultados educativos.

Según los datos, los estudiantes latinos componen aproximadamente el 13% de toda la población de estudiantes K-12 de Nebraska, sin embargo este porcentaje aproximado no refleja adecuadamente la variación de la población local o la diversidad de historial cultural o de educación.

El niño de la primera generación que enfrenta los retos del dominio de un nuevo idioma, un nuevo sistema de educación, y una nueva cultura, posee diferentes necesidades que el niño de la segunda y tercera generaciones enfrentando las barreras de pobreza, bajas expectativas, o un futuro incierto en el mercado de trabajo. Aún así, en esta conferencia veremos individuos hispanos/latinos que pudieron sobreponerse a estos obstáculos y lograron sus sueños. Necesitamos aprender de ellos siguiendo su ejemplo, enfocándonos en lo que queremos ser y no en lo que nos digan que debemos ser.

El conocimiento es nuestra única posesión verdadera, la única que no se nos puede quitar. El conocimiento se puede lograr con el estudio y aprendizaje. La correcta aplicación del conocimiento nos puede llevar a la sabiduría. Exhortemos pues a nuestros hijos a adquirir una mejor educación y apliquemos la sabiduría que se necesita en estos tiempos difíciles.

Esperamos verlos a todo y escuchar sus experiencias durante este magnífico evento.

Atentamente,
Lázaro Spíndola

Keynote Speaker **REYNA GRANDE**

Reyna Grande is an author, speaker, educator, and event coordinator. Her first novel, *Across a Hundred Mountains* (Atria, 2006), received a 2010 Latino Books Into Movies Award, a 2007 American Book Award, and the 2006 El Premio Aztlan Literary Award. It was chosen by Eastern Connecticut as its 2007 "One Book/One Region" selection and in 2010 the city of Watsonville, CA selected it for its "On the Same Page" community reads program. Her second novel, *Dancing with Butterflies* (Washington Square Press, 2009) was critically acclaimed and was the recipient of a 2010 International Latino Book Awards.

Both novels have been read widely in schools across the country and have been very popular with book clubs. *Across a Hundred Mountains* and *Dancing with Butterflies* have been published in Norway, and publication will soon follow in South Korea.



Born in Mexico, Reyna was two years old when her father left for the U.S. to find work. Her mother followed her father north two years later, leaving Reyna and her siblings behind in Mexico. In 1985, when Reyna was going on ten, she entered the U.S. as an undocumented immigrant. She went on to become the first person in her family to graduate from college.

Reyna holds a B.A. in creative writing and film and video from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She received her M.F.A. in creative writing from Antioch University. She is an active promoter of Latino literature and has worked as a program coordinator for festivals such as the 2009 and 2010 Latino Book and Family Festival. She has also served as a judge for literary awards such as Pen USA Literary Awards and the El Premio Aztlán. She teaches creative writing workshops in her community and speaks at high schools, colleges, and universities across the nation. Reyna is also a member of the Macondo Writers Workshop, founded by renowned author Sandra Cisneros.

The Distance Between Us, Reyna's third book, will be published on August 28, 2012, by Atria Books, an imprint of Simon and Schuster. In this memoir, Reyna recounts her experiences as a child left behind in Mexico by her parents, and as an immigrant in the United States. *The Distance Between Us* is an inspirational coming-of-age story about the pursuit of a better life.

10:30 am - 11:15 am Select a Session I**Say what? Que Dijo? Interpreting 101 Diamond 1***Presenter: Carlos Barcenas, Multicultural Coalition of Grand Island*

Introduction to the importance of interpreting and translating. What are the roles of the interpreter and what can you do to improve your skills. (This presentation will be bilingual).

Hungry for College? S.A.L.S.A. May be the Answer Diamond 2*Presenter: Lina Translavina Stover, Coolspeak*

Choosing the right college should be fun not painful. In this interactive session, students learn to think of college using the acronym SALSA. You will use it as a formula to search for the right fit of college for you, and/or learn about the major differences between universities. Students at all grades in high school benefit from this workshop, as it encourages students to identify their priorities and teaches them how to “shop” for colleges.

Social Networking and Your Digital Fingerprint Diamond 3*Presenter: Jeromy McCoy, Nebraska State Patrol*

Everyday we access the internet and social networking sites we leave a digital fingerprint behind. Every comment on our Facebook page or our friend’s Facebook page is saved somewhere. Once you tweet it, it’s too late to take it back. Do you know how much about you is available to be found on the internet and how this can impact your future?

Planning for Your Future-Steps to Turn a Dream into a RealityDiamond 6*Presenters: Javier Rendon, Imelda Catalan, and Amanda Levos, Grand Island Public Schools*

What can you do to turn your dreams into a reality? In order to set goals and plan for success you need to know your full potential. We will discuss tips and engage in activities related to graduating high school and planning for your college and career goals. You will receive and learn how to use a checklist and goal setting form that can be used as a guide in high school to set academic and personal goals. .

Meet Your Voice in the Legislation Diamond 7*Facilitator: Arturo Spindola, Nebraska Latino-American Commission**Panelists: Ramon Otero, Chabella Guzman and Yolanda Chavez Nuncio, Commissioners, Nebraska Latino American Commission*

Three Commissioners from the Nebraska Latino American Commission will talk about their roles and duties as a Commissioner, how each Commissioner represents a different part of the state, and how they all work together to achieve Commission goals. They will go into their backgrounds: education, city of origin, their experiences, observations, how their different backgrounds come together to help as a group, etc. They will also explain why they became Commissioners and what being a Commissioner means to them. There will also be a Q and A session and the Commissioners will promote being involved in the community.

College Funding para mi gente: Scholarship and Financial Aid Resources**For Latino Students (repeat Session III) Diamond 8***Presenters: Romulo “RJ” Vega Jr. and Victor Garcia, EducationQuest Foundation*

Everyone knows that college can be expensive, but what financial resources are available for Latino students? Come learn about different scholarships and financial aid resources, as well as other tools to prepare you for a successful college experience.

11:15 am - 11:30 am Break

11:30 am - 12:15 pm **Select a Session II**

The Miracle Worker (repeat Session III).....Diamond 1

Presenter: Servando Perales, Victory Boxing Club and Community Center

Servando Perales grew up in an alcoholic abusive home, raised by a single mother only to become active in a life of crime. Join him as he shares his story of success through adversity. Now the founder of the Victory Boxing Club and Community Center, Servando shares his story to promote success in young kids and adults.

“The Leader Within”.....Diamond 2

Presenter: Lina Transylvania Stover, Coolspeak

In this interactive session we will distinguish between the positive and negative thoughts that drive or stop us from action. Words are powerful, even if we are the ones telling ourselves one thing or the other. What is that little comic-self on our shoulder scream for us to do?

A Smart Start for Your College EducationDiamond 3

Presenters: Kristin Hoelsing, Lora Hastreiter, and Maria Lopez, Central Community College.

In this interactive and informative session, students will learn about the many advantages of attending a community college. Whether your goal is a two-year degree that will prepare you for a career you’ve always wanted OR if you’re planning to transfer to a four-year institution to complete your Bachelors Degree...Join us and discover why Central Community College is a smart start for your college education. Students will hear from Central Community College professionals who work closely with students, helping them to achieve their academic career goals. A panel of current CCC students will also provide first-hand information on their experiences and the reasons why they chose a community college as their path to a college degree and a promising career.

Make Your School No Place for Hate (repeat Session III).....Diamond 6

Presenter: Jessica Gall, Anti-Defamation League

Are students in your school being picked on or left out? Have you heard any offensive jokes, name-calling or biased remarks on your campus? Standing up to bullies and against bigotry is never easy – particularly for young people. This is why ADL's No Place for Hate® initiative empowers the whole school community – teachers and students, administrators and parents – to tackle prejudice, bullying and intergroup conflict. Join this Anti-Defamation League session for an informational session on how to make your school a place of respect, unity and character.

Be Your Own #1 AdvocateDiamond 7

Presenter: Eduardo Cruz, Nebraska State HOSA

The Latino Community needs more representation in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers; learn about the need for more technical jobs in Nebraska and how to advance your student career. Eduardo will share his experience growing up in central Nebraska, teaching his knowledge of networking, leadership, and career advancement opportunities available to students through the Career Technical Education organizations of Nebraska.

Fraternity life: Being a Brother In Sigma Lambda BetaDiamond 8

Facilitator: Romulo “RJ” Vega, EducationQuest

Panelists: Thomas Nguyen, Milton Barrientos, Benito Sanchez and David Pacheco, Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity

Four Brothers from the Sigma Lambda Beta chapter at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will discuss their student careers while being brothers in a Hispanic fraternity. They will go into their backgrounds, education, city of origin, their experiences, observations, college life, their goals and how being in a brotherhood supports and benefits them as college students. They will also explain why they became brothers and the process of becoming a member in a fraternity. There will be time for Q and A . Romulo “RJ” Vega of Education Quest will facilitate this session. He is an alumni member of this fraternity, and can explain how being in it helped him in college and after.

12:15 pm - 1:45 pm Working Lunch and Panel Discussion– Crystal Ballroom

Facilitator: Rebecca Valdez, Nebraska State Board of Education Member

Each year one of the most popular sessions at the Summit is the student panel. The student panelists provide opportunities for us to learn about their pathways to success. Students participating in the panel this year are: Samantha Cuellar Figueroa, Southeast Community College; Jani Martinez, University of Nebraska - Lincoln; Marlin Perez, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and Maricia Guzman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The panelists will answer questions from the audience and serve as a resource to other Hispanic/Latino students and school staff. Through their experiences, we will learn more about how we can all make a difference.

1:45 pm - 2:00 pm Break**2:00 pm - 2:45 pm Select a Session III****The Miracle Worker (repeat from Session I)Diamond 1**

Presenter: Servando Perales, Victory Boxing Club and Community Center

Servando Perales grew up in an alcoholic abusive home, raised by a single mother only to become active in a life of crime. Join him as he shares his story of success through adversity. Now the founder of the Victory Boxing Club and Community Center, Servando shares his story to promote success in young kids and adults.

What the Best College Students Do.....Diamond 2

Presenter: Reyna Grande

Author of three books: *Across a Hundred Mountains, Dancing with Butterflies* and *The Distance Between Us*, join Reyna as she shares what successful students do to make the best of their college.

Make Your School No Place for Hate® (repeat from Session II) Diamond 6

Presenter: Jessica Gall, Anti-Defamation League

Are students in your school being picked on or left out? Have you heard any offensive jokes, name-calling or biased remarks on your campus? Standing up to bullies and against bigotry is never easy – particularly for young people. This is why ADL's No Place for Hate® initiative empowers the whole school community – teachers and students, administrators and parents – to tackle prejudice, bullying and intergroup conflict. Join the Anti-Defamation League for an informative session on how to make your school a place of respect, unity and character.

Hermanas Por Vida: Sisters of Lambda Theta Nu and Sigma Lambda GammaDiamond 7

Facilitator: Jasel Cantu, Nebraska Latino American Commission

Panelists: Janeth Barocio and Lorena Ortega, Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority, Dayana Rodriguez and Stephanie Sotelo, Lambda Theta Nu Sorority

Four Sisters from the Lambda Theta Nu and Sigma Lambda Gamma chapters at UNK will discuss their student careers while being sisters of a Hispanic sorority. They will go into their backgrounds, education, city of origin, their experiences, observations, college life, their goals, and how being in a sisterhood supports and benefits them as college students. They will also explain why they became sisters and the process of becoming a member in a sorority. There will be a Q and A session. Jasel Cantu of the Nebraska Latino-American Commission will facilitate this session.

College Funding para mi gente: Scholarship and Financial Aid**Resources for the Latino Student (repeat from Session I)Diamond 8**

Presenters: Romulo "RJ" Vega Jr. and Victor Garcia, EducationQuest Foundation

Everyone knows that college can be expensive, but what financial resources are available for Latino students? Come learn about different scholarships and financial aid resources, as well as other tools to prepare you for a successful college experience.

10:30 am - 11:15 am Selecciona una Sesión I**Say what?_Que Dijo?_Interpreting 101Diamond 1**

Presentador: Carlos Bárcenas, Coalición Multicultural de Grand Island

Una introducción a la importancia de la interpretación y la traducción. ¿Cuáles son los papeles de un intérprete y que puedes hacer para mejorar tus habilidades? (Esta presentación será bilingüe).

¿Tienes Hambre /Ganas de Universidad? S.A.L.S.A Puede Ser la RespuestaDiamond 2

Presentadora: Lina Translaviña Stover, Coolspeak

Escoger el colegio o universidad apropiados debería ser divertido no tan difícil. En esta sesión interactiva, los estudiantes aprenden a pensar en la universidad utilizando el acrónimo SALSA.

Lo utilizarás como fórmula para buscar el colegio o universidad que mejor te convenga, y/o aprenderás sobre las principales diferencias entre las universidades. Los estudiantes de preparatoria de todas las edades se benefician con este taller, ya que los incita a identificar sus prioridades y les enseña cómo buscar la universidad perfecta para cada uno.

La Redes Sociales y Tu Huella DigitalDiamond 3

Presentador: Jeromy McCoy, Nebraska State Patrol

Cada que utilizamos el Internet y los sitios de las redes sociales dejamos una huella digital atrás. Cada comentario en nuestra página de Facebook o en la página de Facebook de nuestros amigos se queda guardado en alguna parte. Una vez que has enviado un tweet, es demasiado tarde para arrepentirte y regresarlo. ¿Sabes cuántas cosas hay sobre ti o están disponibles en el Internet?

Planeando Tu Futuro – Paso para Convertir un Sueño en RealidadDiamond 6

Presentadores: Javier Rendón, Imelda Catalán, y Amanda Levos, Escuelas Públicas de Grand Island

¿Qué puedes hacer para hacer tus sueños realidad? Para poder tener metas y planear el éxito, necesitas conocer todo tu potencial. Te daremos algunos consejos y haremos actividades relacionadas con la graduación de la preparatoria y sobre la planeación sobre tus metas universitarias y de tu carrera. Recibirás y aprenderás cómo usar una lista de cotejo y una forma para poner metas que pueden ser usadas como guías durante la escuela preparatoria para ponerte metas académicas y personales.

Conoce Tu Voz en la LegislaciónDiamond 7

Facilitador: Arturo Spíndola, Comisión Latino-Americana de Nebraska

Panelists: Ramon Otero, Chabella Guzman y Yolanda Chavez Nuncio, Commissioners, Latino-Americana de Nebraska

Tres Comisionados de la Comisión Latino-Americana de Nebraska hablarán sobre sus papeles y obligaciones como Comisionados, cómo cada Comisionado representa a diferente parte del estado, y cómo trabajan todos juntos para alcanzar las metas de la Comisión. Hablarán sobre sus antecedentes: educación, ciudad de origen, sus experiencias, observaciones y cómo sus diferentes antecedentes se juntan para ayudarse como grupo, etc. También explicarán cómo es que se hicieron Comisionados y lo que esto significa para ellos. También habrá una sesión de preguntas y respuestas además que los Comisionados promoverán la participación en la comunidad.

Fondos Universitarios para mi Gente: Becas y Recursos de Ayuda**Financiera para el Estudiante LatinoDiamond 8**

Presentadores: Romulo "RJ" Vega Jr y Víctor García, Fundación EducationQuest

Todos sabemos que la Universidad o colegio puede ser caro, pero ¿qué tipo de recursos de ayuda financiera hay disponibles para los estudiantes Latinos? Ven a informarte sobre los diferentes recursos de ayuda financiera y becas, lo mismo que otras herramientas que te prepararán para una experiencia universitaria exitosa.

11:15 am - 11:30 am Descanso

11:30 pm -12:15 pm **Selecciona una Sesión II****El Trabajador Milagroso (repetido a las 2:00 pm).....Diamond 1***Presentador: Servando Perales, Club de Boxeo y Centro Comunitario Victory*

Servando Perales creció en un hogar rodeado de abusos y alcohol, criado solamente por su madre, lo que lo llevó a una vida de delincuencia. Acompáñalo mientras no habla sobre su historia de éxito a través de la adversidad. Actualmente como el fundador del Victory Boxing Club and Community Center, Servando nos habla sobre su historia para promover el éxito entre jóvenes y adultos.

“The Leader Within”Diamond 2*Presentadora: Lina Translaviña Stover, Coolspeak*

En esta sesión interactiva distinguiremos entre los pensamientos positivos y los negativos que nos llevan o nos impiden actuar. Las palabras son poderosas, aún cuando seamos nosotros mismos los que nos decimos una cosa u otra. ¿Qué es lo que nos está gritando que hagamos ese pequeño ‘yo’ en nuestro hombro?

Un Comienzo Inteligente para Tu Educación UniversitariaDiamond 3*Presentadores: Kristin Hoelsing, Lora Hastreiter y María López, Central Community College*

En esta interactiva e informativa sesión, los estudiantes aprenderán sobre las muchas ventajas de asistir a un Colegio Comunitario. Aunque tu meta sea un diploma de dos años que te prepare para la carrera que siempre has querido O si planeas transferirte a una institución de cuatro años para completar tu Licenciatura.... Ven y descubre por qué Central Community College es un comienzo inteligente para tu educación universitaria o de colegio. Tendremos un profesional del Central Community College que trabaja conjuntamente con los estudiantes ayudándolos a lograr las metas académicas de su carrera. Además, un panel de estudiantes del CCC nos dará información sobre sus experiencias personales y las razones por las cuales escogieron un colegio comunitario como su camino hacia un título universitario y una carrera prometidora.

Haz de Tu Escuela Un Lugar Sin Odio (repetida a las 2:00 pm)Diamond 6*Presentadora: Jessica Gall, Anti-Defamation League*

En tu escuela, ¿se burlan, maltratan o no dejan participar a algunos estudiantes? ¿Has oído chistes, apodos o expresiones ofensivas en el campus de tu escuela? Hacer frente a los chicos agresivos y defenderse en contra de los de ideas recalcitrantes nunca es fácil – especialmente para los jóvenes. Es por esto que la iniciativa No Place for Hate® de ADL da poder a toda la comunidad escolar – maestros y estudiantes, administradores y padres de familia por igual – para hacer frente al prejuicio, las agresiones y los conflictos intergrupales. Acompaña a la Anti-Defamation League en una sesión informativa sobre cómo hacer de tu escuela un lugar de respeto, unidad y carácter.

Aboga por Ti #1 MismoDiamond 7*Presentador: Eduardo Cruz, Nebraska State HOSA*

La Comunidad Latina necesita más representación en carreras STEM (ciencias, tecnología, ingeniería, y matemáticas); infórmate sobre la necesidad de más trabajo técnicos en Nebraska y cómo avanzar tu carrera estudiantil. Eduardo nos hablará sobre sus experiencias mientras crecía en el centro de Nebraska, enseñando sus conocimientos sobre cómo hacer redes de contacto, liderazgo, y oportunidades para el avance de carreras disponibles a través de organizaciones de Carreras de Educación Técnica de Nebraska.

Vida en una Fraternidad: Ser Hermano en Sigma Lambda BetaDiamond 8*Facilitador: Romulo “RJ” Vega, Education Quest**Panelistas: Thomas Nguyen, Milton Barrientos, Benito Sánchez y David Pacheco, Fraternidad Sigma Lambda Beta*

Cuatro hermanos de la Fraternidad Sigma Lambda Beta de la Universidad de Nebraska-Lincoln hablarán sobre sus carreras como estudiantes durante su pertenencia en la fraternidad hispana. Discutirán sus antecedentes de herencia, educación, ciudad de origen, experiencias, observaciones, vida universitaria, su metas y cómo perteneciendo a una fraternidad les sirve de apoyo y beneficia como estudiantes universitarios. También explicarán el por qué se hicieron hermanos y el proceso para hacerse miembro de una fraternidad. También habrá tiempo para preguntas y respuestas. Rómulo “RJ” Vega, de Education Quest será el facilitador de esta sesión. El, siendo un exalumno miembro de esta fraternidad puede explicar cómo al pertenecer a ésta lo ayudó durante la universidad y después de ella.

12:15 pm - 1:45 pm Almuerzo de Trabajo y Panel de Discusión- Crystal Ballroom

Facilitadora: Rebecca Valdez, Miembro de la Nebraska State Board of Education

Cada año una de las sesiones más populares en la Cumbre es el panel de estudiantes. Los estudiantes panelistas nos proporcionan oportunidades para aprender sobre su camino hacia el éxito. Los estudiantes participantes en el panel de este año son: Samantha Cuellar Figueroa, Southeast Community College; Jani Martínez, Universidad de Nebraska - Lincoln; Marlin Pérez, Universidad de Nebraska-Lincoln; y Maricia Guzmán, Universidad de Nebraska-Lincoln. Los panelistas responderán a preguntas de la audiencia lo que servirá de recurso para los demás estudiantes latino-hispanos y personal escolar. A través de sus experiencias aprenderemos un poco más en cómo todo podemos hacer la diferencia.

1:45 pm - 2:00 pm Descanso

2:00 pm - 2:45 pm Selecciona una Sesión III

El Trabajador Milagroso (repetida a las 11:30 am) Diamond 1

Presentador: Servando Perales, Club de Boxeo y Centro Comunitario Victory

Servando Perales creció en un hogar rodeado de abusos y alcohol, criado solamente por su madre solo para llevar a una vida marcada por la delincuencia. Acompañémoslo mientras nos habla sobre su historia de éxito a través de la adversidad. Actualmente como el fundador del Victory Boxing Club y Community Center, Servando nos habla sobre su historia para promover el éxito entre jóvenes y adultos.

Lo que Hacen los Mejores Estudiantes Universitarios Diamond 2

Presentadora Principal: Reyna Gande

Escucha a Reyna Grande, autora de tres libros: *Across a Hundred Mountains, Dancing with Butterflies* y *The Distance Between Us*, mientras nos habla sobre lo que hacen los estudiantes universitarios exitosos para aprovechar al máximo su educación universitaria.

Haz de Tu Escuela Un Lugar Sin Odio (repetida a las 11:30 am) Diamond 6

Presentadora: Jessica Gall, Anti-Defamation League

En tu escuela, ¿se burlan, maltratan o no dejan participar a algunos estudiantes? ¿Has oído chistes, apodosos o expresiones ofensivas en el campus de tu escuela? Hacer frente a los chicos agresivos y defenderse en contra de los de ideas recalcitrantes nunca es fácil – especialmente para los jóvenes. Es por esto que la iniciativa No Place for Hate® de ADL da poder a toda la comunidad escolar – maestros y estudiantes, administradores y padres de familia por igual – para hacer frente al prejuicio, las agresiones y los conflictos intergrupales. Acompaña a la Anti-Defamation League en una sesión informativa sobre cómo hacer de tu escuela un lugar de respeto, unidad y carácter.

Hermanas de por Vida: Hermanas de Lambda Theta Nu y

Sigma Lambda Gamma Diamond 7

Facilitadoras: Jasel Cantu, Nebraska Latino American Commission

Panelistas: Janeth Barocio y Lorena Ortega, Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority, Dayana Rodriguez y Stephanie Sotelo, Lambda Theta Nu Sorority

Cuatro hermanas de las Hermandades de Lambda Theta y Sigma Lambda Gamma de UNK hablarán sobre sus carreras como estudiantes mientras pertenecen a una hermandad Hispana. Hablarán sobre sus antecedentes de herencia, educación, ciudad de origen, experiencias, observaciones, vida universitaria, su metas y cómo el pertenecer a una hermandad les sirve de apoyo y beneficia como estudiantes universitarios. También explicarán el por qué se hicieron hermanas y el proceso para hacerse miembro de una hermandad. También habrá tiempo para preguntas y respuestas. Jasel Cantú de la Nebraska Latino-American Commission será el facilitador de esta sesión

Fondos Universitarios para mi Gente: Becas y Recursos de Ayuda

Financiera para el Estudiante Latino (repetida a las 10:30 pm) Diamond 8

Presentadores: Romulo "RJ" Vega Jr. y Victor García, Fundación EducationQuest

Todos sabemos que la Universidad o colegio puede ser costoso, pero ¿qué tipo de recursos de ayuda financiera hay disponibles para los estudiantes Latinos? Ven a informarte sobre los diferentes recursos de ayuda financiera y becas, lo mismo que otras herramientas que te prepararán para una experiencia universitaria exitosa.

12 Presenters

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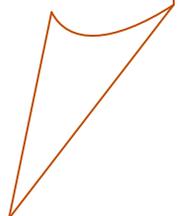
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NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

October 22, 2012 Kearney Nebraska



Your Future
Depends on
Your Success
Today

2012



Gallery of
Stars



Our Gallery of Stars students were nominated by educators and community members for exemplary leadership capabilities in the classroom, the community, and with their peers.

Thank you to all the teachers and administrators for believing in the student leaders and taking the time to nominate them.

Please join the Nebraska Department of Education and our partners in congratulating these young individuals as they continue pursuing their achievement goals and reaching for the stars.

Additional copies of this booklet can be requested from:



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**PO Box 94987
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Lincoln, NE 68509
402-471-2932**

Marlin Perez
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Home Town: Lincoln, NE



Marlin Perez is currently a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). She is majoring in criminal justice with a minor in Spanish. She graduated from Lincoln North Star High School in 2009. In high school she was actively involved in Latinos Sin Fronteras, sports, student council, and many other extracurricular activities.

She has been able to maintain her community involvement while attending the UNL. She is the current president of the Mexican-American Student Association, a member of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc., she plays on the UNL women's rugby team, and has participated in many more activities and intramural sports in her years at the UNL.

Marlin is a member of the United States Marine Corps Reserves. She hopes to graduate from the UNL in May 2014. She aspires to take the LSAT and go on to law school or work for the Lincoln Police Department.

Marlin wants you to take away this message:

Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." It takes knowledge and strength to take the lead and take the road less traveled. Sometimes being a leader isn't always being number one, but instead being able to have the courage to stand up for what you believe in.



Maricia Guzman
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Home Town: Scottsbluff, NE



Maricia Guzman is currently a junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln . Her major is journalism and broadcasting with a minor in Spanish. Her education goals are to graduate next year and apply for the Fulbright Scholars program which would take her abroad to a country where she would teach for a year. Maricia would also like to apply for Teach for America and eventually attend graduate school and pursue a master's degree in higher education. She is considering a career in broadcasting production. Maricia aspires to work in a student affairs department in a university or work with an organization dedicated to the prevention of human trafficking and rehabilitating trafficked persons.

Maricia was the recipient of the J&A Sweet Memorial Journalism Scholarship, the Jack Fischer Scholarship, and the G. Foreman Scholarship in Journalism. Her extracurricular activities include being an intern at the Omaha World-Herald, conducting human trafficking research with a grant from Microsoft, participating in the Diversity Enhancement Team and the Mexican-American Students Association. She also spent time in New Delhi and Haryana, India during the summer of 2011 for the Digital Media India project. Maricia is the President of Multicultural Students in Media, is a new student enrollment leader, and is a former mentor and participant of the Melvin Jones Scholars and mentor for Nebraska College Preparatory Academy.



Jani Martinez
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Home Town: Lincoln, NE



Jani Martinez is a student attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) majoring in political science. She is currently an intern at White Law Office in Lincoln. She is a 2010 graduate of Lincoln's Southeast High School where she graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was a member of the National Honor Society, student council, and debate team.

While at UNL Jani has served on the Student Court University Judicial and Appeals Board, the Cornhusker Marching Band, the Diversity Enhancement Team, UNL Ambassadors, Honors Ambassadors, and the College of Arts & Sciences Student Advisory Board. She served as the student representative in the state government's Hispanic Heritage Month Committee where she helped organize the 2012 Hispanic Heritage Month State Commemoration with the Nebraska Latino-American Commission, an independent state agency, and was the only student to participate on this committee. Jani is proud of her Latina heritage and strives to promote multiculturalism and Hispanic heritage in Nebraska.



Samantha Cueller-Figueroa
Southeast Community College
Home Town: Lincoln, NE



Samantha Cueller-Figueroa is currently attending Southeast Community College. After she completes her associates degree she will transfer to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) as a transfer student. She is considering majoring in law because Samantha would like to be in a position to help individuals in her community. Samantha was the recipient of the Learn to Dream Scholarship. She has also been recognized for her excellent attitude and spirit as a recipient of the Attitude Navi Award.

Samantha was the co-founder and president of the Cross Cultural Mentee Club at Lincoln North Star High School. Each member of the club has mentor from the UNL who helps their mentee to develop his or her study skills and to work on his or her second language, English. It was in this club where she participated in several activities that not only involved the Latino/Hispanic community, but cultures, traditions, and people from all over the world. Samantha also assisted with a fundraiser, in which each club member contributed food or desserts from numerous heritages. The funds raised were later donated to two charitable organizations.

During her high school career she was also an active member of Latino Dance club (Grupo Movimiento club), Latino Caucus (Latinos Sin Fronteras), and National Honor Society. As a member of the National Honor Society she helped with a fundraiser which donated money to a non-profit organization using the proceeds from "The Prom Fashion Show." As a member of Latinos Sin Fronteras she helped with additional fundraisers and with important Hispanic holiday celebrations. As a member of Grupo Movimiento she served as the vice-president of the club. It was in the club that she had fun with the other members dancing to Latin music. In addition to all of her extracurricular activities Samantha also assisted Hispanic families with their reading skills at the Family Reading Program at the Loren Corey Eiseley Branch library.



Yajaira López Villa
Crete High School



Yajaira López Villa is currently a junior at Crete High School. Her educational goals are to graduate from high school and then study to become a special effects makeup artist and cosmetologist. After Yajaira has completed her training she plans to open her own salon and teach cosmetology following in the footsteps of her mother and aunt.

Yajaira was awarded a second place certificate in the University of Nebraska-Omaha's Spanish Creative Writing Contest. She is also the recipient of a varsity letter in soccer and a superior rating in band. Yajaira is a junior class representative for the Prizm multicultural club. She is also a member of the Latino Leaders Club.



Alfonso Maciel
Harvard High School



Alfonso Maciel is currently a senior at Harvard High School. He wants to attend college for a minimum of a of a bachelor's degree. As of now, Alfonso has not declared his major but he knows he wants to continue singing and acting, even if he does not pursue a career in the arts field. Like he says in his own words, "sky's the limit".

During Alfonso's sophomore year he has been on the Superintendent's list- all A's. At the end of his sophomore year he was awarded honorable mention from the Future Diversity Leaders club. Last year he represented his school at Boys State, was awarded One Act best actor at the Twin Valley Conference, and young artist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He also was selected champion at district speech and contributed to the win of second place during Math day.

Alfonso has been an active member of the Future Diversity Leaders (FDL) club since his sophomore year. Since his junior year he has participated in show choir where he served as a vocal leader, FDL where he served as president and this year co-president, Future Business Leaders of America, math club, Spanish club, mass media, speech, basketball, Quiz Bowl, Science Bowl, and One Act where he served as the lead role. This year Alfonso was chosen to be class president and has also joined Student Council.

Dana Martel
Harvard High School



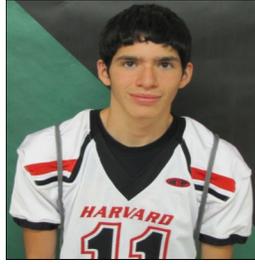
Dana Martel is currently a senior at Harvard High School. After high school she wants to go to college and graduate with honors. She plans to become both a cosmetologist and a nutritionist. She would like to work diligently on both careers.

Dana has been actively involved in Harvard High's Future Business Leaders of America throughout her high school career. She has also participated in Future Diversity Leaders club which she served as a secretary, Future Business Leaders of America where she currently serves as a parliamentarian, Drug Free Youth where she was chosen by faculty to become part of a leadership group, the high school musical, drama, choir and power drive.

Dana's extracurricular activities include volunteering for her school and community; she is most noted for volunteering for her school's preschool program and the community's nursing home. Dana is truly noted among Harvard High staff and the school as a good student and hard worker with a great attitude.



German Alvarez
Harvard High School



German is currently a senior at Harvard High School. He plans on attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) after graduation to study architecture. He hopes to play on the school's basketball team.

German's teachers speak highly of him as a very smart and motivated student. Since German arrived at Harvard High, he has been on the honor roll – all A's and B's. His sophomore and junior year he lettered in track and also lettered in basketball his junior year.

This year German joined the football team, choir, and show choir. German was not only nominated for the Gallery of Stars for the leadership he has demonstrated, but also for the attitude and enthusiasm he has promoted at Harvard High.

Karina Hernandez
Harvard High School



Karina Hernandez is currently a senior at Harvard High School. Karina plans to attend Central Community College in Hastings to take her general education classes and then transfer to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and major in broadcasting. Her professional goal is to be a well known newscaster.

Karina's teachers commend her for being an active, motivated, and persuasive student. Last year, Karina was chosen to represent her school at Girls State. This year, she serves as a captain of her school's flag team, as secretary for her class and as president for the Spanish club.

Since her freshman year, Karina has been a member of Future Diversity Leaders which she has served as vice-president, choir, and One Act. Since her sophomore year, she has been involved in volleyball, speech, flags, show choir, H-club, and the school's musical. During her junior and senior year she has also been a part of the Spanish club, golf, and she volunteers to be the host for the schools talent show. This year, Karina has joined the student council. For her participation in various extracurricular activities, she has been able to receive the most outstanding member in Harvard High's show choir award and a special recognition at Harvard High's Future Diversity Leaders club. Karina has been able to be involved in many extracurricular activities while still fulfilling her educational requirements.



Kevin Medrano
Harvard High School



Kevin Medrano is currently a senior at Harvard High School and plans to attend college with a major in culinary arts. After finishing his studies, Kevin would like to become a professional chef.

During Kevin's junior and senior years at Harvard High he has been on the honor roll - all A's and B's. He lettered in basketball during his sophomore and junior years and in track all four years of his high school career. He has also been recognized for his abilities in art and music since his freshman year.

Currently Kevin is a volleyball student manager where he assists in practice and pregame drills, keeps live stats during matches, and keeps other younger and less experienced managers organized and on-task. He also serves as secretary of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). He served as treasurer of FBLA during his sophomore and junior years. During his junior year Kevin also volunteered at the Harvard preschool program. Kevin's teachers say that he serves as a role model for many.

Miguel Chavez
Harvard High School



Miguel Chavez is currently a senior at Harvard High School. After high school he plans to attend a community college to take general education classes and then transfer to a university to study mechanics or construction management.

Miguel has received recognition in volunteering with the Harvard elementary school and for participating in clubs such as Drug Free Youth. Miguel is currently a member of Future Diversity Leaders and is enrolled in advanced construction technology, carpentry, and auto mechanics. He also serves as a teacher assistant in all these classes. During the summer Miguel works in construction and roofing.

He plans to play basketball and be on the track team during his senior year. Miguel was nominated by his teachers to be part of the Gallery of Stars not only for being involved in extracurricular activities but for being a role model to underclassmen in all areas.



Salvador Ledesma
Harvard High School



Salvador "Sal" Ledesma is currently a junior at Harvard High School. His plans are to finish high school and go to college to go into the medical field. His hopes are to become a well known physical therapist.

Sal has had a successful high school career at Harvard High. During his freshman year Sal was a member of the track team. He has played varsity football and basketball since his freshman year. Beginning with his freshman year he lettered in football and then he lettered in basketball his sophomore year. Sal is has also been a member of the Drug Free Youth club, Future Diversity Leaders club, and student council.

Sal was nominated for the Gallery of Stars by his teachers for his leadership and attitude on the sports field and in the classroom. Sal's teachers say he is a great example to others and this is what makes him a great candidate for the Gallery of Stars.



Camila Benavides
Burke High School



Camila Benavides is currently a senior at Burke High School. In the four years she has attended Burke she has experienced many things. She has had the opportunity to volunteer in several different places, both in Nebraska and outside the state.

Camila's life goals are to graduate from high school and get accepted to the University of Nebraska. She would like to obtain a degree in biology. After she obtains her undergraduate degree, she would like to go on to medical school to get a degree in pediatrics. She hopes to be able to travel around the world helping children in need.

Camila is a member of the National Honor Society. She has been awarded the Latino Academic Achievement Council award. Camila's extracurricular activities include being a member of National Honor Society, Future Educators of America, Key club, the Latino Leaders club, Random Acts of Kindness, and Kumbé; a Colombian folkloric dance group. The mission of Kumbé is to show the richness that diversity brings to the community.

Karla Trujillo
Burke High School



Karla Trujillo is currently a junior at Burke High School. In the time she has been a student at Burke she has had the opportunity to participate in several after school activities and clubs. These activities have given her an opportunity to get to know more people and to gain knowledge on many topics.

Karla's life goals are to graduate from high school with exceptional grades and to go to college. She wants to study forensic science and criminal justice. She aspires to be a college graduate with a bachelor's and master's degree.

Karla's extracurricular activities include being a student ambassador, a member of the Spanish National Honor Society, International club, Manga Anime and Dance Dance Revolution (MAD) club, book club, and being an officer of the Latino Leaders club. She also serves as a guidance aid during the day at school.

Karla was the winner of the University of Nebraska-Omaha Spanish writing contest this year. Karla was also awarded as a Latino Distinguished Scholar for the past three years. Kara has been commended for her fantastic writing capabilities. She is someone who leads by example and is always willing to lend a hand.



Maritza Estrada
Central High School



Maritza is currently a senior at Omaha Central High School. Her goals are to graduate from high school and to attend a four year college in the fall of 2013. She wants to prepare herself by taking pre-medical courses so that she will be ready to later attend medical school. Her career aspiration is to be a doctor. After finishing her education she would like to take a year off and volunteer outside of the USA.

Maritza's awards and recognitions include a Purple Feather award, a Latino Academic Achievement award, being on honor roll, and being a Student of the Month. Maritza was on the honor roll each semester of her high school career.

Maritza's extracurricular activities include being a member of National Honor Society and the Latino Leaders club. She is also an active NHS volunteer. She feels that her volunteer work has shaped her into the person that she is today.

Maritza has been recognized for her maturity and her dedication to her education. Her study habits and desire to succeed in life have been commended. Maritza is the kind of person that continually challenges herself.

Jose German
Central High School



Jose German is currently a senior at Omaha Central High School. His goals are to go to college and obtain a degree in athletic training. His career aspiration is to be an athletic trainer. Jose has played for Central's varsity baseball team for three years. He was the recipient of a NSAA Award for baseball.

Jose's additional awards and recognitions include a Purple Feather award, being on honor roll, and being a Student of the Month. Jose is an active member of the Latino Leaders club. He has been recognized for his intellect, maturity and helpfulness. The main focuses in his life are his academics, his family, and baseball.



Jeovanni Ladron de Guevara
Central High School



Jeovanni Ladron de Guevara is currently a senior at Omaha Central High School. His goals are to finish high school and attend the University of Nebraska and study mechanical engineering. After he finishes his education he would like to work in a capacity that helps his community.

Jeovanni's awards and recognitions include a Purple Feather award, a Bright Start award, being a Student of the Month, being on the honor roll, and receiving a Latino Academic Achievement Award. He is known to challenge himself academically and has continued to excel during his high school career.

Jeovanni is an active member of the Latino Leaders club, Jovenes Para Cristo, and Jovenes Angeles de San Jose. He is has been recognized for his professionalism, helpfulness, and wonderful charisma.



Jazmin Castillo
South Sioux Senior High School



Jazmin Castillo is currently a senior at South Sioux Senior High School. After high school she plans to attend a four-year college where she wants to major in biology or animal science. She plans on continuing her studies at a veterinary school where she will work toward her doctorate in veterinary medicine. After finishing school, Jazmin plans on living in a rural area and starting her own veterinarian clinic or partnering with another vet and working together.

Jazmin has received many awards and recognitions. These include: Student of the Term, three letters in varsity soccer and one letter in drama, Gold/Silver Honor Roll, ranking in the top ten percent of her class, and a National Council of Youth Leadership recognition. Jazmin's extracurricular activities include: Future Business Leaders of America, speech team, Spanish club, soccer, student council, yearbook staff, One Act, school musicals, Club Red, National Honor Society, prom committee, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Selma Deanda
South Sioux Senior High School



Selma Deanda is currently a senior at South Sioux Senior High School. After high school she plans to attend a four-year college where she will take her pre-dental courses. She then wants to go on to dental school where she will complete her course work to become an orthodontist. Selma would like to attend the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Awards and recognitions Selma has received include: Gold Honor Roll, ranking in the top ten percent of her class, National Honor Society member, and the hardest worker on the track team recognition. Selma's extracurricular activities include: cross country, track, soccer, Spanish club, yearbook staff, volunteering to babysit at church retreats, and participating in the Down Syndrome Awareness Walk.



Zendy Sotelo
Wahoo High School



Zendy Sotelo is on track to graduate from high school in May 2014. She plans on attending Creighton University and eventually the University of Nebraska Medical Center to become a pediatrician. Professionally, Zendy wants to pursue a career in Omaha serving the area as a pediatrician. She is also interested in law.

Zendy has received top honors for her grades since she was a middle school student. She has qualified for honor roll and the Presidential Academic award. She is currently enrolled in two college courses as well as taking advanced courses in math.

Zendy's extracurricular activities include being the co-captain of the Wahoo High varsity cheer squad where she leads her team and school by example showing good sportsmanship. She has also helped start a multicultural club within the high school. Zendy is an exceptional student who always aims high, whether that is academically or simply being a good person.



Our Stars

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8:00 am

Registration- Pre-function Area

Crystal Ballroom	Welcome and Keynote Presentation 8:45 am 10:00 am		
	10:30 am -11:15 am	11:30 am-12:15 pm	2:00 pm-2:45 pm
Diamond 1	Say what? Que Dijo? Interpreting 101 Carlos Barcenas	The Miracle Worker Servando Perales	The Miracle Worker (repeat) Servando Perales
Diamond 2	Hungry for College? S.A.L.S.A. may be the answer Lina Translavina Stover	The Leader Within Lina Translavina Stover	What the Best College Student Do Reyna Grande
Diamond 3	Social Networking and Your Digital Fingerprint Jeromy McCoy	A Smart Start for Your College Education Kristin Hoelsing, Lora Hastreller, Maria Lopez	
Diamond 6	Planning for Your Future-Steps to Turn a Dream into a Reality Javier Rendon, Imelda Catalan, Amanda Levos	Make Your School No Place for Hate Jessica Gall	Make Your School No Place for Hate (repeat) Jessica Gall
Diamond 7	Meet Your Voice in the Legislature Arturo Spindola, Ramon Otero, Chabella Guzman, Yolanda Chavez Nuncio	Be Your Own #1 Advocate Eduardo Cruz	Hermanas Por Vida: Sisters of Lambda Theta Nu and Sigma Lambda Gamma Panelists
Diamond 8	College Funding para mi gente: Scholarship and Financial Aid Resources for the Latino Student Romula "RJ" Vega, Jr., Victor Garcia	Fraternity Life: Being a Brother in Sigma Lambda Beta Panelists	College Funding para mi gente: Scholarship and Financial Aid Resources for the Latino Student (repeat) Romula "RJ" Vega, Jr., Victor Garcia

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