

LATINO AMERICAN COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED IN 1972 | SUMMER 2012 NEWSLETTER | WWW.LATINOAC.NEBRASKA.GOV



Mission Statement: The mission of the Latino - American Commission is to serve as a voice in the Nebraska State Government for Latino Americans/ Latinos.

Vision Statement: The vision of the Latino - American Commission is to empower the Latino Community through a pro-active approach to issues that affect their access to educational, political, economical and social opportunities in Nebraska.

Worker Permit Program Accepting Applications

Details are emerging on the temporary worker permit program for young undocumented immigrants who are residing in the United States.

In June 2012, President Barack Obama made his announcement on a two-year work permit program, which will allow thousands of undocumented residents to continue living in the United States without fearing deportation, but the permit will not grant amnesty or citizenship.

In a press release from the White House, applications, instructions, and additional information relevant for the worker permits became available on August 15, 2012. Applicants will be served on a case-by-case basis.

There are eligibility requirements for the applicants, each of which will require evidence and supporting documents. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is finalizing a process when, once completed, will immediately begin accepting requests for consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals.

Among the eligibility requirements, the applicant must have:

- Arrived in the United States prior to their 16th birthday;
- You were born after June 15, 1981;
- Were present in the United States on June 15, 2012;
- Entered the country without inspection before June 15, 2012;
- Your lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012;
- Have lived in the United States for at least five years; and
- Currently be attending or graduated from a United States high school, or have earned a GED and/or served in the military.

An applicant will be ineligible if they have been convicted of a felony, three misdemeanors or a significant misdemeanor, which includes driving under the influence and gun and sex offenses.

Applicants must attend an appointment and submit to a background check. The permits are subject to renewal every two years.

People who are currently in removal proceedings, those with final orders, and those who have never been in removal proceedings will be

able to affirmatively request consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals with USCIS. Requestors will use a form developed for this specific purpose of those in removal proceedings, and will mail their deferred action request along with an application for an employment authorization document and all applicable fees to USCIS. They must provide biometrics and undergo background checks as well.

Individuals will be charged \$465 for the temporary work permit. Fee exemptions will be available in limited circumstances. The four USCIS Service Centers will review fee exception requests.

Individuals who believe they are eligible should also be aware of immigration scams.

Tips to know before you file:

- The official website for USCIS is www.uscis.gov;
- USCIS does not charge you a fee to download forms;
- Read the form instructions before completing the form. Remember to fill in all required fields and send in any required documentation;
- You must sign your form before sending it to USCIS;
- Before you sign an immigration form make sure that you understand it and that the information on it is true and accurate;
- Never sign blank forms;
- USCIS requires you to pay a filing fee for most forms. Please see the list of fees on our website;
- You can pay filing fees with a money order, certified check or valid credit card;
- Make sure you get a receipt for any payment you make to an attorney or accredited representative; and
- Keep copies of all forms and other documents that you file with USCIS.

After you file, USCIS will mail you a receipt after they receive your application. Make sure to keep the receipt for your records. Use the receipt number to track the status of your application online. If you have questions, you can make a free Infopass appointment to visit a USCIS office and speak with an immigration officer.



*Lazaro Arturo Spindola
NLAC Executive Director*

A Message from the Executive Director

Welcome and Bienvenido to the Summer edition of the Nebraska Latino-American Commission newsletter.

While the summer has been a time for relaxation and preparation, I think we can all agree we are looking forward to the cooler breezes of fall and the cold of winter. The Commission has been working on projects since Spring to present to you in the Fall. We are putting the finishing touches on the Hispanic Heritage Month State Commemoration and promoting voter registration and voter education.

This year is an election year and I cannot emphasize how important it is for you to go out and vote. If you are not a registered voter, there is still time to register, if you do not know whom to vote for, there is still time to read about the candidates in your local newspaper.

There are thousands of Latinos who are registered voters in Nebraska, but only a fraction actually goes out to vote. That is a problem. You can help select your child's school board members, the board of regency for the University of Nebraska, and most importantly, the President of the United States. However, first you need to vote! There is still time to register to vote, you can register through an online form, visit your County Clerk/Election Commissioner's Office, application through mail and even apply at the Department of Motor Vehicles. Visit the Nebraska Secretary of State's website for more information at: www.sos.ne.gov/elec/voter_info.html.

By now the temporary worker permit will be open for applications, this can be a step in the right direction, let's see how this goes. If you want to apply for a permit, please read the article on our front page and visit www.uscis.gov for qualifications and an application. It is the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services website. Seeking legal aid from an immigration lawyer is also a good idea.

As always, to all students out there, it is not too early to work on scholarship applications and college applications. You may think you have time and will work on it after Christmas, but thousands of students have the same idea just like you. If you are early in turning in your application, you will be among the first to get reviewed, and at least you will not be denied college acceptance or a scholarship due to lack of spots.

You can receive information on college applications and scholarships by going online or visiting your local EducationQuest Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to help students achieve a higher education. EducationQuest has offices in Lincoln, Omaha, and Kearney. If they do not have an office in your city, do not worry, they have events across the state. Visit their website, www.educationquest.org, for help.

Anyone who would like to express their opinion or offer suggestions is welcome to contact us.

VOTE!

Lazaro Arturo Spindola
Executive Director
Nebraska Latino-American Commission

Latino American Commission Commissioners

Ramon Otero (Chair)

Norma de la O (Vice-Chair)

Yolanda Nuncio (Secretary)

Chandra Diaz De-Bose

Ralph Hauke, MD, FACP

Chabella Guzman

Gisella Munoz

Leticia Rodriguez

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Visit Our Website:
www.latinoac.nebraska.gov

SAVE THE DATE

6TH ANNUAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
STATE COMMEMORATION

OCTOBER 5, 2012 • 3:30 PM

Nebraska State Capitol Building

NLAC Welcomes New Commissioner

NLAC is pleased to present Dr. Ralph J. Hauke as our new Commissioner representing the City of Omaha.

Originally from the country of Panama, he earned his medical degree at the University of Panama School of Medicine in Panama City before coming to Nebraska in 1993.

He completed his internal medicine residency at UNMC in 1996 and stayed on as faculty until 2008 when he joined his current practice: Nebraska Cancer Specialists.

His primary focus is urological tumors and melanoma. His practice includes the treatment of benign blood disorders as well as all malignancies. He is still actively engaged in research, both clinical and laboratory-based, and has written many clinical trials.

"I don't think there is any other country in the world that provides the opportunity for an individual who works earnestly and honestly to succeed as the U.S. does. My hope is that we can all appreciate the good we can bring to our society and work together towards making



Dr. Ralph J. Hauke, FACP

that possible," he said.

Dr. Hauke is a member of the American Society of Hematology, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Metro Omaha Medical Society (MOMS), Nebraska Medical Association (NMA) and was listed as one of the 2009-2010 Best Doctors in America in Medical Oncology and Hematology.

Dr. Hauke was appointed by Governor Heinemen in June and will serve a three-year term. NLAC is honored to have Dr. Hauke represent the Commission where he will share his opinions and ideas from the perspective of a doctor, a husband and father, an Omahoean and as a Panamanian.

"I believe that immigrants in general can contribute substantially to their communities," said Dr. Hauke. "Most immigrants come to this country seeking a better life for themselves and their loved ones."

Dr. Hauke and his wife, Yasmin, also from Panama and a pediatrician, currently reside in Omaha with their son, Ralph, Jr. When not at work, he enjoys spending time with his family and coach's soccer and chess at his son's school.

NLAC Commissioner Honored in Grand Island

NLAC Commissioner Yolanda Nuncio of Grand Island was honored on March 30, 2012 as the Multicultural Nebraska Cultural Unity Conference Educator of the Year 2012 at the Annual Unity Conference hosted by the University of Nebraska – Kearney (UNK).

The daylong conference is held in UNK's Nebraska Student Union for high school students. Through a series of workshops, discussions, and motivational speakers, UNK hopes to recruit and inspire high school students to consider committing to a college or university to further their education. The Conference is presented by the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) at UNK, which aims to promote cultural diversity in higher education.

The Educator of the Year Award was established at the first Unity Conference 10 years ago by OMA Director Juan Guzman, who said the award is a way to recognize educators for their contribution and commitment to students.

"I realized sometimes it was not always a counselor who will motivate you, it can be a teacher," said Guzman. "In my personal experience, it was a teacher who believed in me, who motivated me and pushed me. It wasn't a counselor who inspired me and gave me information about college. It was a teacher; it was Yolanda Nuncio."

He said Nuncio's name would often appear in Educator of the Year nomination forms, but he felt that it was on the Unity Conference's 10-year anniversary that was the right time to honor his former teacher who would go on to become a principal and eventually a Service Area Administrator with the Nebraska Dept. of Health and Human Services. A position she held for eight years before retiring in August 2012.

"As I listened to Juan introducing the recipient, it wasn't until he started talking about his teacher that I realized he was talking about me and then we both started crying," said Nuncio. "What made me feel personally satisfied was that in attendance were some of my former students and student teachers that are now educational professionals, and they took their students to the Conference. As an educator, I have been blessed!"



Yolanda Nuncio holding her 2012 Nebraska Cultural Unity Conference Educator of the Year Award.

2012 Latina Summer Academy Draws 46 Students

Forty-six Latina high school students from Nebraska and surrounding states converged on the College of Saint Mary in Omaha in June to participate in the 11th Annual Latina Summer Academy.

The College of Saint Mary (CSM) is a private all-girls Catholic university in the heart of Omaha that is dedicated to the education of women. The Academy, which took place from Sunday, June 24 to Friday, June 29, hosted the mix of female freshmen, sophomores and juniors who wanted to learn about college life while still in high school. This year's theme was "BLOOM: Body, Mind and Spirit." To incorporate the theme, the girls took several science, art, dance and environmental classes taught at the college level, how to take care of themselves through exercise and helping their environment and how to self-reflect through art, writing and dance.

The one-week educational symposium offered a variety of hands-on instruction and encouraged leadership. CSM Sisters of Mercy, Academy coordinators and college students served as chaperones and oversaw all activities. The students boarded in the college residence halls and had their meals in the dining hall.

"It was a wonderful productive week for the impressive young women participants, the instructors, and all staff members who worked with them," said Merryellen Schulz, Teacher Education Program Director at CSM. "The Latinas learned much about the health of the brain and the heart and developed understanding of their connection to the mind and the spirit."

This year, the group included 24 Latinas from Nebraska including the cities of Bellevue, Fremont, Ralston and Omaha, 15 from Missouri cities that included Kansas City, Lexington, Raytown and Sedalia, six girls from Iowa primarily from Council Bluffs and Shenandoah, and the girl who traveled the farthest hailed from Weslaco, Texas.

"When I first heard about the Latina Summer Academy, it sounded very fun and interesting, I learned a lot and it was great to stay at a real college dorm for a week," said Janette Cantu from Weslaco, Texas. "It was a wonderful experience to make new friends and meet new people. My favorite classes were art and ballet. It felt good to express yourself through art, and the ballet class was very fun and was a great workout. I also enjoyed trips to parks and exploring nature."

On Sunday and Monday, the group had orientation and team building exercises. Academy coordinators taught the importance of volunteering by taking the girls to pick up trash and clean up a local park.

On Tuesday the focus was on science and computer technology by learning about physics, the brain and how to do Public Service Announcements (PSAs) using the computer. Dr. Patricia Soto, a Physics professor at Creighton University, shared her research about the inner working of the human brain and cognitive disorders, primarily Alzheimer's disease. The girls were then taught how to create and edit a PSA on a computer. In groups, they filmed their own footage, added music or a voice over, and edited everything together as a PSA on issues such as bullying, stereotypes and the environment. Afterward, the girls took a writing workshop with Joy Castro, Ph.D. a Creative Writing professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who just published



The 46 Latina high school students who participated in the 11th Annual Latina Summer Academy at the College of Saint Mary.

her third novel. Dr. Castro taught the girls how to express themselves and look inward for inspiration. The girls would jot their thoughts in their journals and share them with each other throughout the week.

On Wednesday, the focus was on the environment beginning with a morning class taught by Sister of Mercy Kathleen Erickson who showed a video about nature and the effects of pollution. The girls were separated into groups and had to present solutions to help the world. After the session, the girls took a field trip to Fontenelle Forest for a nature walk. From there, they traveled to Ballet Nebraska for a ballet class to help encourage a healthy lifestyle. Latina guest speakers shared their background, experiences and careers with the students at dinner. In the evening, the girls watched the documentary, "Precious Knowledge" about the banning of ethnic studies classes in Arizona. A panel addressed the girls after the film to encourage debate.

The students were treated to private art lessons and performances on Thursday. Linda Garcia, an Omaha artist, presented an art lesson in the morning, "Art from the Heart", revolving around the heart and self-reflection. Each girl took home their self-portrait. In the afternoon, a tenor and pianist from Opera Omaha gave a private performance at the CSM Theater to introduce a new art form to the girls who had never been to the opera before. Three selections were performed: *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi, *The Magic Flute* by Wolfgang A. Mozart and *Hansel and Gretel* by Engelbert Humperdinck. The pieces were performed in Italian, German and English, respectively.

"My favorite class was the Art class. I did like the camp and really liked the speakers and guests we had come visit us," said Leslie Lopez of Shenandoah, Iowa.

The Academy concluded with a graduation ceremony followed by a picnic on the campus lawn. All of the girls who participated became eligible for a special Academy scholarship to CSM.

Local Resources Available for Victims of Abuse

One of the ways an abuser controls his victims is by making them feel as though they are alone and no one can help them.

However, there is help. Nationally and locally, there is aid available to anyone; men, women and children who are being physically, emotionally, or sexually abused.

Sometimes a person can be afraid of leaving their hostile environment due to financial reasons or fear that they will be followed. There are many sanctuaries and resources in Lincoln that can help anyone in any situation. The information you provide will be kept confidential and counselors can help you face-to-face.

First and foremost, the most important thing to know is that it is not your fault. No one ever asks to be hurt no matter what anyone says. An abuser can be anyone; please do not be afraid to seek help just because the person who hurt you is a family member, friend, coworker or community member. If you do not think domestic, sexual or emotional abuse and incest is a problem, then why did Voices of Hope receive over 7,500 phone calls from people seeking help in 2011 alone?

These places of refuge have trained individuals who will you in a safe and comfortable environment. Please do not wait, if you or someone you know needs help, call today.

The sanctuaries you can find throughout the state are:

- Bright Horizons, PO Box 1904, Norfolk, NE 68702, (402) 379-2026, (877) 379-3798, www.brighthorizonsne.org
- Catholic Charities: (402) 435-7384, 1511 S. 19th St., Lincoln, & PO Box 4346, Omaha, (402) 558-5700, www.ccomaha.org
- Cedars: (402) 434-5437, 6601 Pioneers Blvd., Lincoln, NE, www.cedars-kids.org
- Center for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Survivors: PO Box 42, Columbus, NE 68602, (402) 564-2155, (800) 658-4482 www.centerforsurvivors.net
- Child Advocacy Center: (402) 476-3200, 5025 Garland St., Lincoln, NE, www.smvoices.org
- Crisis Center for Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault: PO Box 622, Fremont, NE 68026, (402) 721-4340, (888) 721-4340
- Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Services: PO Box 714, McCook, NE 69001, (308) 345-1612, (877) 345-5534, www.dasas.net
- Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault Crisis: 222 S. 29th Omaha, (402) 345-7273
- DOVES: PO Box 98m Gering, NE 69341, (308) 436-2787, (866) 953-6837, www.dovesprogram.com
- Family Violence Council: (402) 489-9292, 4600 Valley Road Ste# 408, Lincoln, NE, www.fvclincoln.org
- Friendship Home: (402) 437-9302 or (402) 434-6353, P.O. Box 85358, Lincoln, NE, www.friendshiphome.org
- Garrison Counseling: (402) 432-3746, 650 J St. Ste# 108, Lincoln, NE, www.garrisoncounseling.org

- Haven House Family Service Center: PO Box 44, Wayne, NE 68787, (402) 375-5433, (800) 440-4633, www.havenhousefsc.com
- Healing Hearts & Families: PO Box 96, Broken Bow, NE 68822, (308) 872-2420, (800) 942-4040
- Hope Crisis Center, PO Box 365, Fairbury, NE 68352, (402) 476-2110, (402) 475-7273
- Lighthouse: (402) 475-3220, 2601 N St., Lincoln, NE, www.lincolnlighthouse.org
- Lincoln Police Department Victim Wellness Unit: (402) 441-7181, 575 S. 10th St., www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police
- Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition: (402) 476-6256, info@ndvsac.org, www.ndvsac.org
- North Central Quad County Task Force Against Domestic Violence: PO Box 224, Valentine, NE 69201, (402) 376-2045, (877) 376-2080
- Parent-Child Center: PO Box 722, Lexington, NE 68850, (308) 324-2336, (800) 215-3040, en español (866) 351-9594
- Prevent Child Abuse Nebraska: (402) 476-7226, 215 Centennial Mall Ste# 200, Lincoln, NE, www.nebraskachildren.org
- Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center: (402) 475-7273, 2545 N St., Lincoln, NE, www.rsacc.org
- Rape/Domestic Abuse Program: PO Box 393, North Platte, NE 69103, (308) 532-0624, (888) 534-3495
- Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP): PO Box 22, Ogallala, NE 69153, (308) 284-8477, (308) 284-6055
- Spouse Abuse/Sexual Assault Crisis Center (SASA): 220 S Burlington Ste 4, Hastings, NE 68901, (402) 463-5810, (877) 322-7272 www.sasacenter.org
- The SAFE Center, 3710 Central Avenue Suite 10, Kearney, NE 68847, (308) 237-2599, (877) 237-2513, www.safecenter.org
- The Crisis Center, PO Box 5885, Grand Island, NE 68802, (308) 382-8250, (866) 995-4422, www.gicrisis.org
- WCA, 222 S 29th St., Omaha, NE 68131, (402) 345-6555, (402) 345-7273, www.wcaomaha.org
- Voices of Hope: (402) 476-2110, (402) 475-7273, 2545 N St., Lincoln, NE, www.voicesofhopelincoln.org

Abuse Hotline Services:

- Boys Town Hotline for Sexual Assault: (800) 448-3000
- Heartland Family Services Domestic Violence: (402) 339-2544
- Just Tell.org - for kids: (800) 422-4453
- Línea de Crisis en Nebraska (en español): (877) 215-0167
- Lutheran Family Services: (402) 342-7038
- Methodist Women's Hospital Sexual Assault Service: (402) 354-8899
- National Center for Victims of Crime: (202) 467-8700
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline: (800) 656-4673
- National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline: (866) 331-9474
- Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN): (800) 656-HOPE

Pieces of Nebraskan Hispanic History



Circa 1937, Rachel (Muniz) Corrales (left) and her son, Guadalupe, age 13, show off a prize calf at their family farm in Mitchell, Neb. The family had a farm west of Mitchell and kept chickens, cattle, pigs and other livestock. The calf above was kept for breeding purposes. Rachel is the grandmother to NLAC Commissioner Chabella Guzman, Guadalupe is her uncle.



Circa 1940s, a 19-year-old Guadalupe Corrales of Mitchell, Neb. fought in WWII serving in a tank division in Italy and Africa. He joined the Army at the start of the war and continued through until the end in 1945. His brother Foster was captured by the Germans and spent time in a POW camp until the end of the war. Guadalupe later moved to Denver, Colo. and worked in construction.



Guadalupe Corrales's father, Jose Corrales, with mules, Tom and Jerry, at the Nebraska Experiment Station five miles east of Mitchell, close to Scottsbluff, Neb. Legend has it that Jose was the only man who could handle the mules. He worked at the Station from 1943 to the 1960s where he irrigated, raised lambs, pigs and cattle and worked at the dairy. The Experiment Station was owned by the University of Nebraska for research in crop, sheep, swine, dairy and beef production and is still in use today. All photos courtesy of Chabella Guzman of Scottsbluff.

Upcoming Events

- **Holiday: September 3**
Labor Day
- **Month: Sept. 15-Oct. 15**
Hispanic Heritage Month
- **Deadline: Sept. 17**
Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest
- **Event: October 5**
Hispanic Heritage State Commemoration
- **Holiday: October 8**
Columbus Day
- **Summit: October 22**
Latino Summit - Kearney
- **Festival: October 28**
6th Annual Dia de los Muertos - Lincoln
- **Holiday: Nov. 1-2**
Dia de los Muertos

Contact Information

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52 Students Graduate with GED



The 52 men and women who graduated with their GED on June 30. The graduates took the GED courses at supporting organizations in Lexington, Lincoln, Hastings, Omaha and Schuyler.

On Saturday, June 30, 52 students graduated with their GED at a ceremony held at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln.

The students, of various backgrounds and ages, took GED courses with supporting institutions in Lexington, Lincoln, Hastings, Omaha and Schuyler.

The students are Hilda Alva of Lexington, Olimpia Barnes, Liliana Patricia Rosales and Norma Saucedo of Hastings, respectively, and Jesús López Núñez and Juan Pablo Yépez of Schuyler.

The students from Lincoln are Mayda Acosta, María Barrón Chávez, Alexa Galeno, Uri Guerrero, Norma Izaguirre, Ricardo Izquierdo, Alma Delia López, Noelia Martínez, María Lourdes Nava, Melania Palacios, Erika Pérez, Leticia Román Pérez, Nathan Santiago, María del Rosario Salinas-Jarzynka, Dalia Urías and Julio Zelada.

The graduates from Omaha are Martha Aguilera, Juan Alvarado, Verónica Carrera, Silvia Cervantes, Nicolás García, Edith González, Jesús Grano, Marisela Grano, Nina Gutiérrez, Adán Hernández, Pablo Hernández, Esmín Kattan, Margarito Lara, Sergio López, Clara López Quezada, Oscar Martínez, Elizabeth Montoya Domínguez, Joel Lara, Armando Moreno Armenta, Isaura Moreno García, Rosa Olvera, Diana Oviedo, J. Tránsito Ramírez, Lizbeth Ramírez, José Luis Serrano, Juan Carlos Serrano, Antonio Torres, Laura Troche, María Vásquez Maldonado and Isidra Vidal.

The supporters of the GED program include Catholic Social Services of Lincoln, El Centro De Las Américas of Lincoln, Everett Elementary School of Lincoln, Iglesia Amistad Cristiana of Omaha, Iglesia Camino De Vida of Lexington, Latino Center of the Midlands of Omaha, Lincoln Parks & Recreation, the Migrant Program of Hastings, Nebraska Latino-American Commission, Nebraska Wesleyan University, the Schuyler Resource Center and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Service Learning Center.