



Pete Ricketts  
Governor

## STATE OF NEBRASKA

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### AIDA OLIVAS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT HASTINGS AREA

HASTINGS – Aida Olivas was appointed by Governor Dave Heineman in July as a Commissioner with the Latino-American Commission (NLAC).

Olivas replaces retired Commissioner Yolanda Chavez Nuncio, and will represent the Hastings – Grand Island area.

Originally from Sinaloa, Mexico, Olivas immigrated to Hastings, Neb. in 1996 where she soon began her career in migrant education with the Head Start program. She currently works in the Migrant Education Program as a recruiter, a position she has held for the past 15 years after leaving Head Start. Among her duties is to help migrant students and their families with services and consultation.

“I love my job; I love what I do,” said Olivas. “You have to love what you do to help people; this is not an 8 to 5 job. I work holidays and on Sundays.”

Olivas is also working towards a bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education at Central Community College. As a part-time student, she expects to graduate by 2018.

“I’m a single mom and it’s not easy. Even if it takes me 10 years, I’m going to graduate,” she said.

Olivas has three children: sons Jorge a student attending Hastings College, Carlos, a high school student, and daughter, Karla, a student currently attending the University of Texas – El Paso.

She hopes her future degree will inspire others.

“If I can do it, you can do it,” she said.

In addition to her work and family life, she makes the time to give back to her community with a dedication that stretches back several years, giving back as both a volunteer and board member.



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Olivas is a volunteer with Homeless Connection, the Nebraska Dept. of Health & Human Services, Catholic Social Services, the YMCA and with local schools as an interpreter among other roles.

Her Board Membership positions include memberships with the Hastings Chamber of Commerce Board for six years, CASA Board for the past four years and ASSAP Board for the past six years.

Olivas is also one of the three founders of the Multicultural Alliance of Hastings, a grassroots community organization that serves the local refugee and immigrant population, which is going on its third year.

As a Commissioner, Aida wants to help change attitudes about the Latinos community:

“I really want to be the voice of these people and bring information. I want to work with the Commission. I want to be helpful.”

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