



Dave Heineman  
Governor

## STATE OF NEBRASKA

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### LATINO AMERICAN COMMISSION COMMISSIONER RESIGNS TO BEGIN CAREER IN COLORADO

Lincoln educator and community leader leaves legacy of education advocacy

LINCOLN – Chandra Diaz-DeBose, a local educator and Commissioner with the Nebraska Latino-American Commission, is saying farewell to Lincoln to begin a career in Colorado.

Diaz-DeBose was born and raised in Ogallala, Neb. and moved to Lincoln in 1992 to attend the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL).

As a college student, she was active with many student organizations. She joined the Mexican American Student Association (MASA), the UNL Chancellor's Commission on the Status of People of Color, the UNL Chapter of the Future Educator's Association and the Newman Center Catholic Church, now known as the St. Thomas Aquinas Church-Newman Center.

Diaz-DeBose graduated from UNL in 1997 with a Bachelor's of Science in Middle Level Education. She began her career in education as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher at Scott Middle School before eventually making her way to Park Middle School where she would teach math for the next eight years. She observes that it was during this time that she began to work closely with Latino students.

"I was a sponsor for Park's Latino Club for eight years and made a long-lasting connection to families who live near the school," said Diaz-DeBose. "I was fortunate to move into administration, into a building where many of my middle school students attended."

After working with middle school students for a combined 10 years at Scott and Park Middle School, she became a member of Lincoln High School's administrative team as an Instructional Coordinator in 2008.

"Over the past six years in administration, I have learned how important it is for schools to connect to families and community," she said.



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Diaz-DeBose has continued her professional training and education by earning a Master's of Science in Urban Education from UNL in 2002. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Philosophy in Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education from UNL.

College graduation has not stopped Diaz-DeBose from volunteering in the community and serving as a member of local organizations.

She has served on the Board of Directors for Friendship Home in Lincoln, the Hispanic Center now known as El Centro de las Americas, and most recently as a Commissioner on the Nebraska Latino-American Commission (NLAC).

She served two terms as a Commissioner with NLAC in July 2008 and was reappointed in 2011, representing the city of Lincoln. Her background in education provided guidance and resources for NLAC and her constituents. While on the Board, she has served as Secretary and is resigning as Vice-President.

Her most recent honors include serving as keynote speaker for 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Latina Youth Leadership Conference in February held by UNL's Lambda Theta Nu sorority, and receiving the Lt. Colonel Paul Adams Education Award on Jan. 18, 2013.

Diaz-DeBose and her family will be moving to Denver, Col. where she will begin a new position as an assistant principal for Denver Public Schools in the Montbello community.

Diaz-DeBose has a final message for her community, "It is with love and passion we work to strengthen our communities. I am going to dearly miss the Latino community in Nebraska and I will take what I have learned and the passion in my soul with me as I serve the Latino community in Denver."

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*NOTE: Photo Available.*