



Pete Ricketts
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

Latino American Commission
Jasel Cantu
Public Information Officer
State Capitol Building
P.O. Box 94965
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4965
Phone: (402) 471-2791
Fax: (402) 471-4381

For Release:
Date:

Media Contact:
Phone:

Jasel Cantu
(402) 471-2791

COMMISSIONER YOLANDA NUNCIO TO RETIRE

GRAND ISLAND - Yolanda Chavez Nuncio has retired as a Commissioner with the Latino American Commission (NLAC).

She had been a Commissioner with NLAC for more than 10 years, first joining when the Commission was known as the Mexican-American Commission.

“The Commission has a long history in the state, beginning as the Mexican-American Commission, and I am proud to say that even before the name change to Latino-American Commission we served the Latino community,” said Nuncio. “We didn’t differentiate between whether a Latino was Mexican, Chicana, El Salvadorian, Puerto Rican or Cuban, we served our *familia* and the Commission will continue to serve them.”

Nuncio is a lifelong resident of Grand Island, Nebraska.

She received her Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1990 from Kearney State College and a Master of Arts in Education in 1996 from the same institution, which by then had become known as the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK).

She began her lifelong career in education in 1990 as an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Walnut Middle School in Grand Island. She would remain at the school for 11 years, with nine of those years as the sole ESL teacher in the entire middle school. During her tenure there she developed and redeveloped their ESL program, which would eventually bring in two more ESL teachers.

While working, raising a family, and continuing her education she still made the time to serve her students and community. At Walnut Middle School she founded and sponsored the Multicultural Club and the Soccer Club. She also sponsored and implemented a tutoring and leadership program for the students, which would go on to receive the First Lady’s Leadership Award.



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In 2001, she left Walnut Middle School to become principal of Morton Elementary School in Lexington. She was responsible for a K-5 elementary school of 380 students with 46 percent in the ESL program.

In 2004, she became the Central Services Area Administrator at the Nebraska Dept. of Health & Human Services (DHHS) office in Grand Island. As Administrator she oversaw 300 staff members and was responsible for implementing DHHS programs and systems in 22 Nebraska counties. Many of the programs that were implemented included areas in protection and safety, developmental disabilities, and economic assistance.

Nuncio retired from DHHS in 2012, but continued to serve her community.

Nuncio is currently an advisor to Peter Kiewitt Scholars at UNK. She also recently received Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) accreditation, meaning the BIA has given permission to Nuncio to be a specially qualified non-lawyer to represent undocumented immigrants on behalf of a recognized organization. The BIA will accredit non-lawyers only when they work for a recognized organization and will never accredit a non-lawyer who tries to practice immigration law on his or her own. As a BIA Accredited Representative, she works with Grand Island's St. Mary's Cathedral Immigration Program.

Nuncio has advice to NLAC Commissioners based on her many years as Commissioner:

"I think it is important that Commissioners be actively involved in their communities. Being a Commissioner and the duties we accepted are to represent our communities and in order to represent them we need to know what is going on, who the key leaders in the communities are, and how can we as Commissioners connect with them and help to give our communities a voice in Nebraska. There are too many things going on and representation and advocacy for our communities is a necessity."

Nuncio continues to reside in Grand Island with her family including husband Saul, three children: Rachel, Feliciano, and Mario, and four grandchildren: Gabriella, Alicia, Bella and Anthony.

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