

LATINO AMERICAN COMMISSION

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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.

2015 Nebraska Legislative Session Update

The 2015 Legislative Session was from January 7 to May 29. The Commission supported and worked on seven bills, of which three were positive and became law, and three were negative and did not advance. The last bill, Medicaid, was positive but did not advance.

Below is an update on the bills we worked on:

- LB 107 (Crawford) Eliminates requirements for nurse practitioners to have integrated practice agreements with physicians, was signed into law by Governor Ricketts on March 5;
- LB 111 (Larson) Require identification to vote, was bracketed and not debated before Sine Die;
- LB 113 (Larson) Provide a co-payment for correctional inmates' health care services, was Larson's priority bill but did not Advance;
- LB 121 (Schumacher) Require voter identification and secret ballot envelopes, did not Advance;
- LB 294 (Scheer) Adopt the Human Trafficking Victims Civil Remedy Act and change and adopt provisions relating to service of process, sexual assault, human trafficking, etc., advanced and was signed into law by the Governor on May 19;
- LB 472 (Campbell) Adopt the Medicaid Redesign Act, was Bracketed and not debated before Sine Die; and
- LB 623 (Nordquist) Provide for issuance of motor vehicle operators' licenses and state ID cards to persons with lawful status, passed into law notwithstanding the Governor's objections on May 28.

The bills listed below were ones we followed during the session:

- LB 24 (Krist) Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Capitol Commission did not make it out of Committee;
- LB 28 (Krist) Adopt the Radon Resistant New Construction Act Advanced to General File with Amendments, but did not advance beyond that;
- LB 36 (Bolz) Adopt the Community College Gap Assistance Program Act was indefinitely postponed on April 1;
- LB 50 (Scheer) Change provisions relating to Medicaid covered services was eventually withdrawn by Sen. Scheer;
- LB 77 (Nordquist) Require a Medicaid state plan amendment for family planning services and state intent relating to appropriations

for the Every Woman Matters program, failed to Advance beyond Select File;

- LB 82 (Cook) Appropriate funds in support of dental services, did not make it out of Committee;
- LB 84 (Davis) Permit a public body to use telephone conferencing or video conferencing for public meetings, did not Advance farther than floor debate;
- LB 98 (Bolz) State intent regarding appropriations for tobacco use prevention control, did not make it out of Committee;
- LB 108 (Crawford) Appropriate funds to University of Nebraska for behavioral health internships, didn't get out of Committee;
- LB 125 (Nordquist) Create a fund relating to health care homes for the medically underserved, did not make it out of Committee;
- LB 147 (Crawford) Change provisions relating to asset limitations for public assistance, did not make it out of Committee;
- LB 182 (Haar) Create the School Funding & Educational Outcomes Review Committee, did not make it out of Committee;
- LB 196 (Campbell) Change provisions of the Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act, Advanced and was signed into law by the Governor on May 27;
- LB 224 (Harr) Provide and change restrictions relating to electioneering, did not make it out of Committee;
- LB 227 (Hansen) Change provisions relating to educational bridge programs, did not Advance beyond General File;
- LB 232 (Nordquist) Adopt the College Choice Grant Program Act, was Sen. Kolterman's Priority Bill but did not Advance;
- LB 233 (Howard) Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services, did not make it out of Committee;
- LB 243 (Bolz) Create a pilot project relating to family finding services, Advanced and signed into law by the Governor on May 27;
- LB 343 (Kolowski) Provide funding for schools offering certain programs and courses, failed to Advance beyond General File;
- LB 379 (Bolz) Adopt the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program Act, was indefinitely postponed;
- LB 380 (Morfeld) Create and provide duties for the Higher

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Lazaro Arturo Spindola
NLAC Executive Director

Latino American Commission Commissioners

- Chabella Guzman (Chair)**
- Ramon Otero (Vice Chair)**
- Norma de la O (Secretary)**
- Daniel Castillo**
- Jack Gutierrez**
- Aida Olivas**
- Leticia Rodriguez**
- Deyanira Salgado**
- Adrian Sanchez**
- Maria Valentin**

NLAC Staff

- Lazaro Arturo Spindola. M.D.**
Executive Director
- Jasel Cantu**
Public Information Officer
- Dora Lima**
Staff Assistant
- Visit Our Website:**
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A Message from the Executive Director

The 2015 Legislative Session has just ended. It brought some outstanding new laws, the most important for Latinos being LB 623, the driver's license bill for Dreamers. It received majority support in the first and second round of voting, and received majority vote without discussion on its Final Reading on May 21. It was presented to the Governor later that day. The same Senators who supported LB 623 would continue to support the bill to override a veto, which caused the bill to go into law on May 29, 2015.

I would like to thank all of the Senators who supported this Bill: Senators Baker, Bolz, Campbell, Chambers, Coash, Cook, Crawford, Davis, Ebke, Friesen, Garrett, Gloor, Haar, Hadley, Hansen, Harr, Howard, Hughes, Johnson, Kolowski, Kolterman, Krist, Kuehn, McCollister, Mello, Morfeld, Nordquist, Pansing Brooks, Schumacher, Seiler, Smith, Stinner, Sullivan and Williams. I especially have to point out Senator Nordquist for introducing this bill and Senator McCollister for making LB 623 his Priority bill. Thousands are in your debt. If you supported LB 623 I recommend you contact them to thank them. You can find their contact information here: http://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_list.php

Unfortunately, we had to say farewell to Senator Nordquist who resigned as senator to take a new position as Chief of Staff for Congressman Ashford in Washington, D.C. While he accomplished much during his tenure, I believe he will be most remembered for this result. One sad moment of the session was when Senator Bill Kintner referred several times to "operation wetback" during the Eisenhower administration. In this country we have seen the use of derogatory terms applied to all ethnic and national groups, both native and immigrant, but one of the things that make our country great is the ability to learn from our mistakes and correct them. Perpetuating the use of derogatory terms only leads to perpetuating derogatory feelings. The Commission feels that the highest level of Nebraska's legislative branch should also use the highest level of language, both for decorum and education, of the population in general. The Commission issued a public statement condemning the use of such terminology in the floor of the chamber.

Now that the Session has ended, you can look forward to our Hispanic Heritage Month State Commemoration on October 9 at the Capitol Building starting at 3:30 p.m.

If there is an issue or a current law or program that you feel should be addressed, or something you like to see in this newsletter, please let us know.

Dr. Arturo Spindola - Executive Director, Latino American Commission

Minority Health Month Proclamation



On April 8, Governor Pete Ricketts signed a Proclamation observing April 2015 as Minority Health Month in Nebraska. As a member of the Nebraska Minority Health Council, NLAC Director Dr. Spindola was present (far right) along with more Council members and staff of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Among the public awareness and overall promotion, the Proclamation strives to promote "raising public awareness about health and healthcare disparities that continue to affect racial and ethnic minorities and efforts to advance health equity."

NLAC Welcomes Commissioner Deyanira Salgado

Deyanira Salgado of Lincoln was appointed in early April by Governor Pete Ricketts to serve as the Governor's Representative on NLAC's Board of Commissioners.

Salgado will fill the vacancy left in March by Jose Santos who served as the Governor's Representative for years.

She was working at the Dept. of Labor (DOL) in the Unemployment Insurance sector when she was promoted to the Labor Law sector on April 6, 2015.

Her duties include investigations that may consist of payroll audits, on-site inspections, and interviewing meatpackers, businesses and construction sites to ensure

they are in compliance with the Non-English Speaking Employees Law, the Wages and the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act, the Contractor Registration Act and the Employee Classification Act.

"As a bilingual Labor Law Investigator and Meatpucker Bill of Rights Coordinator I will be working closely with the Spanish speaking population regarding wage/employment issues, document inspections, and may have to meet with workers, company officials and coordinate with federal agencies," said Salgado.

"My goal is to improve the working conditions and create awareness for workers that don't know their rights by creating a meaningful relationship with employers in order to improve working conditions."

Born in Los Angeles, Calif., Salgado is a first generation Mexican-American and the eldest of three children. She and her family moved to Grand Island, Neb., to join extended family when she was 14-years-old.

"Establishing in Nebraska became a lot more difficult than what my family and I had anticipated," said Salgado. "It was a culture shock, to all of us. We realized that for once in our lives we were minorities. You see, I say that because in Los Angeles we were surrounded by Latinos and variety of different cultures."

The differences would lead to a new set of responsibilities for Salgado that she didn't have in California, of which the experiences would create a perspective that would shape her future.

"My parents came to this state knowing little-to-no English, and I was placed in a situation where I had to step up and become a young adult. I then realized that my drive to see my family succeed began with me," said Salgado.

"I had to demonstrate responsibility and ownership from a very young age. I was placed in situations where I had to represent my parents through difficult situations such as doctor appointments, school conferences and even with their direct employer."

"Coming from immigrant parents has been very challenging as I have experienced the reject and discrimination they've been put through. Seeing their lack of opportunity pushed me to maintain myself, focus in school and work towards greater goals."



Deyanira Salgado

She graduated from Grand Island Senior High School in 2009 and attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) in the fall of the same year.

As one of the few minority students on campus, Salgado sought out a community that could provide the support and familiarity she needed. She joined the UNL chapter of Lambda Theta Nu, Sorority Inc., a Latina-based sorority that provided the support, empowerment and resources to help her as a student. Her experience as a sorority sister would eventually give her the push to venture out to the local community and help the public in Lincoln. What she learned helped her professionally.

"I became involved with our Latino community by volunteering in community service events, helping out our local El Centro de Las Americas and the Malone Center. I was also able to contribute on many Latino events on Campus such as the annual Latina Youth Leadership Conference which is hosted by (Lambda Theta Nu), a yearly event for 8th grade Latinas," she said.

In addition to work and volunteering through the sorority, Salgado also worked at the Community Learning Center at North Star High School in Lincoln helping students with their homework and encouraging them to pursue a higher education.

"I was thankful to be working with students that were close to me and that aspired to pursue their dreams," she said.

She also served as a mentor at Grand Island Senior High School and provided college preparatory aid for students.

"I learned that many of these students were first-generation college attendees and had little understanding of the responsibility they were taking on. Most of these students now are preparing to receive their college careers," said Salgado, who continues to volunteer and mentor with her sorority as an alumni member.

She graduated from UNL in December 2013 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a minor in Spanish. She was hired by the DOL on July 15, 2014 and has remained there since.

Salgado views her new role as the Governor's Representative as a way to continue helping others, just on a different scale:

"As a first generation Mexican-American citizen I feel it is my duty to represent my Latino Community and use my voice to speak on behalf of those that don't know their rights. Our Latino community is made from resilient countries fighting for the same American dream."

The Latino American Commission (NLAC) welcomes Salgado as our new Governor's Representative. She attended her first Quarterly Meeting on June 6 in Lincoln where all Commissioners were able to meet her in person.

Salgado will be one of two NLAC representatives to attend the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) National Conference in July in Kansas City, MO. She will represent Latinos in the state of Nebraska.

Latinas Win Letters About Literature Contest

Six students in Nebraska have won big in the Letters about Literature writing contest, and of the six, two are Latinas: Ashley Xiques of Elkhorn and Grace Gutierrez of Omaha.

Letters about Literature is a national writing promotion program with almost 50,000 participants. The annual contest, sponsored by Center for the Book with the Library of Congress, asks students to write personal letters to authors explaining how his or her work changed their view of themselves or the world. Winners were chosen from three competition levels: upper elementary, middle, and secondary school.

The Nebraska Library Commission oversaw the Letters about Literature contest in Nebraska, sharing information with the state's libraries and schools.

Xiques wrote a letter to Leigh Bardugo, author of the popular fantasy-adventure *Grisha* trilogy for young adults. Gutierrez wrote a letter to Deborah Wiles, an award winning children's book author. The Nebraska winners were publicly honored and received cash prizes and gift certificates.

The students will advance in the national competition. The Letters have been placed in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Lincoln's Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln. Their winning Letters can be read, with their permission, below:

Ashley Xiques

Dear Leigh Bardugo,

Cruel judgment, I've discovered, is like a weed. A monstrous, pestering, behemoth thrust into our lives to create chaos. For I am a thousand thoughts and ideas intricately spawned together.

I am beauty, destruction, and sin. But I must assure you, I am not a monster. I am not a slave chained to the insignia society has etched into my flesh. *Selfish. Freeloader. Nerd. Atrocious. Insane.* I am me.

I am the fifth in my family's ten member circus. My ferocious cinnamon waves cascade to my narrow waist, providing my sepia eyes shelter from the world. Yet the world always seemingly stares at me.

Well, maybe their gaze never settles on me, for they classify me as a quirky, petulant, lonely child. But the size of my family astonishes them. *I am only the insignificant middle child. Nothing else.* Constantly, we packed into our little clown car, hitting the next stop on our road map. *Always moving and entertaining, never settling.*

I need a home. Not a house, I've known a plethora of those.

But a home?

As Aleksander Morozova fiercely assured himself he'd make a refuge for himself and all others like him, I too promised to build my own private world.

Diving into Ravka, this fictitious, fantasyland, you masterly devised

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The students were honored on April 8th at a Proclamation signing ceremony observing April 12-18 as National Library Week. From left to right: Ashley Xiques, Governor Ricketts, Owen Morrow, Morgan Curran, Grace Gutierrez and Rod Wagner, Director of the Nebraska Library Commission.

Grace Gutierrez

Dear Mrs. Wiles,

I really enjoyed your book *The Little Bird that Sings*. I'm not going to lie, I myself have never been to a funeral, none of my relatives have died, and I do not know much about death. Your book really made me think about how I would feel if one of my loved ones died. Obviously I would feel sad but would there be any more feelings? Would I think it was my fault? Would I spend hours in my closet like Comfort?

The relationship between Peach and Comfort, really made me think about the relationship I have with my own cousins. We fight like cats and dogs, but like Comfort deep down I love them. Comfort spends lots of time in the book talking about how much she despises Peach. Which is usually how I feel about my cousins, but every once in awhile life throws a curve ball, and I find myself caring and even protecting them. For example, when one of my younger cousins gets hurt, I feel this kind of motherly sense that I shouldn't just stand there, and that I should help.

I think the moment near the graveyard with Comfort, Peach, and Declaration really related to my life. Many times before have I found myself going against my friends to defend other people. No matter how hard I tried I could not shake this moment from my mind. I found myself rereading over and over, trying to get a better understanding of how they were all feeling, and how things played out. It really made me think about what kind of person I want to be. Comfort is a kind of spunky, independent, and just an all around kind girl; she really cares

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Ashley's Letter Continued

from the darkest crevices of your conscience brought me home. I formed friendships with the Grisha. For they were their own circus act. The Inferni's DNA breathed fire. The Tidemakers released delicate waves from the tips of their fingers. The Corporalnik seized a life by snapping their hand. Outsiders considered them magically gifted fiends. I deemed them delightfully unique creatures.

Although these creatures fascinated me, I especially concocted a deep obsession with the ring-master of this circus group, the attractive, dark-locked, slate-eyed dictator "The Darkling."

Dictator? How dare I assign him society's malicious label. For society made him malicious.

Cursed with the power of summoning darkness, The Darkling, much like I, was forced to live a childhood of loneliness. *Always moving and never settling.* Society glared at him because he was different. *When did it become a curse to be different?* How dare humans call him a party trick when he breathes and feels pain and happiness in the same manner as them?

When did a life become so worthless?

The Darkling stirred a hurricane of emotions inside me. He wanted to reign the world yet he terrified everyone because of his power. Alina Starkov summoned light and Ravka adored her because of her celestial gift yet at the opportunity to save her world, she ran away from it. However, the Darkling, in his obsessive, crazed manner, longed to put his country back together yet because he was a being of darkness no one wanted him to piece together society.

How is it that a villain is in fact a victim of society?

How is it that society may turn someone as mad as the hatter and as lonely as Alice?

How is it that when we fell down the rabbit hole of humanity, I found refuge and he reached insanity?

The citizens of Ravka labeled him as a terrifying monster, so he became exactly that. Whereas like a rose, I grew and blossomed from my isolation.

When my family quit the circus act and settled in Nebraska, our new threshold ended up being in the wealthy district of Omaha. Before anyone actually knew the person I was, society had already placed a label on my shoulders. *Rich, selfish, living of her parents money.* Their opinions dictated my life much like the Darkling's controlled his. *They only see me as a label. Again.* I felt hollow. *Hollow with rage.*

Time to prove them wrong. The money in my pocket would be my own. The books I bought, I'd buy with my money. My food. Everything. I would earn my own. *Prove those demons wrong.*

I could.

I would.

I did.

Grace's Letter Continued

about her family to the point where she would risk losing her best friend, to defend her family. This is defiantly the kind of person I want to be, and Comfort's character made me think about how I can do that.

Going along with that thought was the fight between Comfort and Declaration. Since I have had many fights with friends, I could really relate to this part of the book. Fortunately, my fights are not as large as the one Comfort had, but nonetheless, a fight with friends is bad.

Usually I find myself so angry I hardly look at them, let alone talk to them. I also sometimes find it hard to forgive them, I don't know quite how Comfort forgave Declaration, but that just shows that Comfort is a kind, forgiving girl. Sometimes I wish I could be like this. After reading your book, I find it easier to forgive people.

The death of Great, Great Uncle Edisto made me think about how I think about death in comparison to Comfort. Although Comfort didn't talk much about it, I feel like it really meant a lot to her. Comfort is taught to embrace death with open arms, but I really don't think that's what Comfort does. Which is kind of the way I feel about things other than death. For example, like Comfort when my dog ran away. My mom kept telling me and telling me he was gone, and I refused to stop looking.

Over all this was a great book that really made me think about how about my own life, it changed the way I think about death, friendship, and just life in general.

Legislature Continued

Education Affordability Commission, did not make it out of Committee;

- LB 382 (Cook) Change provisions of the Diploma of High School Equivalency Assistance Act and state intent relating to certain transfers, Advanced and was signed the Governor on May 27;
- LB 383 (Hansen) Permit registered voters moving within Nebraska without re-registering to vote provisionally, did not make it out of Committee;
- LB 470 (Hansen) Provide an income tax credit for caregivers, did not make it out of Committee;
- LB 494 (Nordquist) Change minimum wage for persons compensated by way of gratuities, failed to Advance beyond General File;
- LB 519 (Sullivan) Provide for school and student aid, grants, and assistance as prescribed, was signed into law on May 13;
- LB 525 (Sullivan) Change provisions relating to education, which included portions of "Frida's Law" was signed into law by the Governor on May 27;
- LB 530 (Sullivan) Provide a duty for Student Achievement Coordinator, did not make it out of Committee;
- LB 572 (Davis) Provide duties for the state school security director relating to cyberbullying and digital citizenship issues, did not make it out of Committee, but portions known as "Frida's Law" merged with LB 525.

Pieces of Nebraskan Hispanic History

William Jennings Bryan's Missions to Mexico

"The Mexican Journeys of William Jennings Bryan, A Good Neighbor," written by Edward H. Worthen, was originally published in the 59th edition of "Nebraska History," in 1978, by the Nebraska State Historical Society. Excerpts and photographs have been reprinted with permission by the Nebraska State Historical Society. For the complete article online, visit www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/index

In 1897 William Jennings Bryan toured Mexico. In 1904 the by-then twice-chosen presidential standard bearer of the Democratic Party and future Secretary of State again ventured south of the border. He visited Mexico for the third and last time in 1922.

The Bryans began their 1897 Mexican tour in Nuevo Laredo where he was welcomed by 2,000 people. In the three weeks following, they visited Monterrey, San Luis Potosi, Mexico City, Orizaba, Veracruz, Puebla, Toluca, and Guadalajara.

"Nothing impressed me more than the scene here presented..the Indian and the Spaniard, the rich and the poor, all mingle together in the public schools and vie with each other for the prizes," said Bryan.

Journalists were impressed by the Protestant visitor's pilgrimages to the Basilica of Guadalupe and other Catholic shrines, by his purchase from a street peddler of citrus fruit on a day he chose to forego lunch rather than sacrifice valuable sightseeing time, and by his interest in Mexican commerce and industry as reflected in visits to silk and chocolate factories in Mexico City, and to coffee wharves in Veracruz. Mexican hospitality cemented the friendship that he was to hold for the Latin nation until his death in 1925.

Bryan was invited to address Mexico's Chamber of Deputies and received a standing ovation from its members. Participating in most activities was Mrs. Bryan, no less effective as an ambassador of good neighborliness. Other indications of Bryan's warm and personal response to Mexico are found in his memoirs and speeches. At the School of Mines, he stated that an American could feel as much at home in Mexico City as in Washington and concluded: "I shall look to Mexico with a feeling of the warmest friendship for its people, with a feeling of the deepest interest in its progress, with a profound feeling of faith in its future."

In 1908, Bryan suffered his third defeat for the presidency, but his two-year term as President Woodrow Wilson's Secretary of State (1913-1915) was a personal victory in the field of Mexican-American relations. "Americans in the United States knew very little of the real hospitality of Mexico and Mexicans," said Bryan.

On the day Mexican President Victoriano Huerta (a military dictator) left Mexico, Secretary McAdoo came and told Bryan of Huerta's retirement, Charles Morrow Wilson wrote:

"Bryan bounded toward the tallest and thinnest Cabinet member. 'Guess what!' he shouted, 'Huerta's out!' Then, as one gathers, to the complete astonishment of most or all of those present, the dignified



William Jennings Bryan with his hat in hand (left, center) in 1897 at the Cuauhtemoc Brewery in Monterrey during his first tour of Mexico. Photo courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

McAdoo grasped Bryan's shoulders and they began to dance, first in solo efforts, then as partners, executing a sort of jig step. McAdoo rarely danced, and so far as anyone present knew, Bryan had never danced before, but look now! Next they locked arms and began frolicking around the table, high-kicking and prancing like happy colts in a summer shower. Their wives may have gasped, but other onlookers began to applaud vigorously. The most surprised onlooker was the last to arrive." And that was President Woodrow Wilson.

As extreme as was his loathing of Huerta was Bryan's admiration for Pancho Villa. Critics have unjustly attributed to Bryan the 1916 "punitive expedition" led by General Pershing in pursuit of the revolutionary; actually it was launched nine months after Bryan had resigned as Secretary of State. Villa was for Bryan the personification of his ideals. And, according to Martin Luis Guzman, journalist, chronicler of the Revolution, and Villa's secretary, Villa held Bryan in equal esteem.

In answering a "friendly and complimentary" letter from the Secretary of State, Villa says: "We and our Revolutionary government and all the people of our Republic appreciate the kindness with which the Washington government and the frontier authorities have supported the Revolutionaries in their struggle." This letter, "pleased Mr. Bryan very much."

In 1922, Bryan and his wife visited Mexico for a third and final time despite ill health, representing international business interests in Latin America and involved in the settlement of British and American claims against the Mexican revolutionary government.

In July 1925, the news of Bryan's death was received in Mexico City "with deep sorrow."

Upcoming Events

- **Event: June 22**
Binational Teacher Ceremony - Lincoln
- **Holiday: July 3**
Office Closed - Fourth of July Observation
- **Holiday: July 4**
Fourth of July
- **Event: July 8**
Dr. Hector Garcia Proclamation Signing
- **Event: July 10-14**
NCLR National Conference - Kansas City
- **Holiday: September 7**
Labor Day
- **Deadline: September 17**
Essay Contest Deadline
- **Meeting: September 26**
NLAC Quarterly Meeting - Lincoln

Contact Information

Latino-American Commission
Sixth Floor, State Capitol
P.O. Box 94965
Lincoln, NE 68509-4965
Phone: 402-471-2971
Fax: 402-471-4381
Email: latino.info@nebraska.gov
Website: www.latinoac.nebraska.gov
Twitter: @NLACommission
www.facebook.com/NLACommission
www.pinterest.com/nlacommission



Cesar Chavez Day Proclamation



On March 18, a Proclamation was signed observing March 31, 2015 as Cesar Chavez Day, at the ceremony was, from left to right: Community Leader Dr. Marty Ramirez, El Centro de las Americas Executive Director Roger Garcia, Governor Pete Ricketts, NLAC Executive Director Dr. Arturo Spindola, NLAC Public Information Officer Jasel Cantu, and Community Leader Marta Nieves.

On January 14, Governor Pete Ricketts signed a Proclamation observing January 2015 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Nebraska. The Proclamation reads:

WHEREAS, On March 31, 1927, Cesar Chavez was born on a small ranch near Yuma, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, When severe drought forced the Chavez family to give up their ranch in Yuma, they began picking crops on California farms; and

WHEREAS, After serving our nation in WWII, Cesar Chavez returned to farm labor in California and began advocating for worker's rights; and

WHEREAS, In 1962, Cesar Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers of America (UFW), AFL-CIO, the first successful farm worker's union in United States' history; and

WHEREAS, Under Cesar Chavez's tireless leadership, the UFW was the first to win collective bargaining for farm workers; and

WHEREAS, At its peak in the 1980's, the UFW's collective bargaining agreements covered approximately 80,000 workers across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez led a successful five year grape-pickers' strike that rallied millions of supporters to the UFW and forged a national coalition of unions, church groups, students, minorities and consumers; and

WHEREAS, On April 23, 1993, Cesar Chavez passed away, leaving behind an enduring legacy of service and leadership; and

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez's influence has made a lasting impact on farm labor issues and inspired millions of Latinos to achieve educational and political success; and

WHEREAS, On March 31, 2015, individuals and organizations throughout Nebraska are encouraged to celebrate Cesar Chavez's life and work by participating in community service projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the 31st day of March, 2015 as CESAR CHAVEZ DAY OF SERVICE AND LEARNING

In Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.