

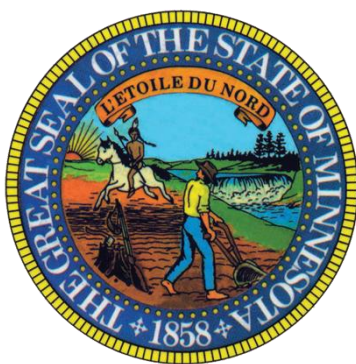


Chicano Latino Affairs Council

State of Minnesota

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Report to Governor Dayton And The Minnesota State Legislature



November 15, 2012

Engaging the Latino community through public service since 1978



**Chicano Latino
Affairs Council**
State of Minnesota

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I: Introduction

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Governor Dayton and State Legislators,

The following Annual Report for 2012 is a review of work performed by the Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC) throughout the previous year. In fulfilling the enabling statutes to advise our executive and legislative officials and serve as a bridge to the Latino community, CLAC is working tirelessly to improve the socioeconomic condition of Latinos in Minnesota and contribute to a stronger state.

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council has dedicated much time, thought, discussion and research to the subject of the dramatic growth in the population of Latinos in Minnesota and across the nation. Between the 2000 and 2010 Census, Latinos grew by 74.5 percent in the state to 250,000 and 43 percent in the United States to 50.5 million; this is the fastest rate of growth of any demographic group in the country. The implications of these statistics are very important to the future of the state and the nation. With a median age close to half that of the majority, this trend may offer relief for the payment of entitlements, as well as additional challenges to the state in costs of education, health care and additional expenditures it could imply. Determining which of these two options will come to be realized lies in education.

I believe that globalization is a game-changer that favors the probability of Latinos to become significant resources and solutions to the current and future problems facing Minnesota. The United States is still the largest global market for products and services but emerging national economies in Asia and Latin America are becoming increasingly attractive, as well as competitive. Consequently, foreign cultures and languages have suddenly turned into assets for market expansion. Divergent perspectives brought to convergence on a practical and valuable application results in innovation; for example, 3M and other international companies in Minnesota are aware of this potential and have applied it profitably through their diverse executive staff across the world.

This means that Latinos, among its various positive potentials, can become vehicles to improve Minnesota trade with Latin America, as long as state policy supports the educational achievement of Latinos. Latinos have had for several decades comparatively low levels of graduation from high school and enrollment in higher education (,) as well as some of the highest drop-out rates among all ethnic communities. In Minnesota, high school graduation rates and drop-out rates of Latino students are 50.5% and 13.5%, respectively, compared to 83.5% and 3% for non-Hispanic White students. CLAC, consequently, has focused much of its energy and resources on the goal of enhancing the achievement of Latino students. Throughout 2011 and 2012, CLAC has carried out research and contracted a study by HACER (Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research) in pursuit of that goal. To do so, we have relied on both our state funding and a grant from the Legacy Fund channeled to us through the Minnesota Humanities Center.

CLAC has taken on the challenge to harness the untapped assets of Latino students and significantly improve the above mentioned rates. In the process, we aim to enhance the awareness of these students in their capacity to not only perform with distinction in educational institutions but also in improving the economic competitive capacity of Minnesota. With the support of state government and our partners in the non-profit and private sectors, CLAC plans to implement the findings of the research it has carried out during the next and following years.

The Board and the staff at CLAC thank you for the opportunity to present this Annual Report.

Sincerely,



Council Members and Staff

Board of Directors (Term dates and District)

Current Officers

Krystell Escobar
(May 2012-January 2016)
At Large, Council Chair

Cynthia Campos
(May 2012-January 2016)
District 5, Vice-Chairwoman

Francisco Gonzalez
(May 2012-January 2016)
At Large, Treasurer

Rebeca Sedarski
(April 2010-Jan. 2014)
District 1, Secretary



Gerardo Bonilla,
(March 2011-Jan. 2015)
District 2

Adriana O'Meara
(April 2010-Jan. 2014)
District 3

Alberto Quintela
(May 2012-January 2016)
District 4

Margaret Villanueva
(March 2011-Jan. 2015)
District 6

Francisco Morales
(April 2010-Jan. 2014)
District 7

Luisa Gutierrez Pierce
(March 2011-Jan. 2015)
District 8

Jesús Villaseñor
(March 2011- Jan. 2015)
At Large

Current Staff

Hector Garcia
Executive Director

Gladys Rodriguez
Administrative Assistant

Sarah Goodspeed
Legislative & Community
Relations Manager

Rosario Plascencia
Intern

Previous Board Members

Mario Vargas (June 2008-Jan. 2012)
At Large

Maricruz Hill (June 2008-Jan. 2012)
At Large

Nicholas Juarez (June 2008-Jan. 2012)
District 4

Edgardo Rodriguez (June 2008-Jan. 2012)
District 5

Previous Staff

Killa Martinez Aleman
Paul Buchel
Astrid Ollerenshaw



Report compiled by the staff of the Minnesota
Chicano Latino Affairs Council



Statutes that govern CLAC

Minnesota Statutes

3.9223 COUNCIL ON AFFAIRS OF CHICANO/LATINO PEOPLE

Subdivision 1.Membership.

The state Council on Affairs of Chicano/Latino People consists of 11 members appointed by the governor, including eight members representing each of the state's congressional districts and three members appointed at large. The demographic composition of the council members must accurately reflect the demographic composition of Minnesota's Chicano/Latino community, including migrant workers, as determined by the state demographer. Membership, terms, compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies are as provided in section [15.0575](#). Because the council performs functions that are not purely advisory, the council is not subject to the expiration date in section [15.059](#). Two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker and two members of the senate appointed by the Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee on Rules and Administration shall serve as nonvoting members of the council. The council shall annually elect from its membership a chair and other officers it deems necessary.

Subd. 2.Chicano/Latino people.

For purposes of subdivisions 3 to 7, the term "Chicano/Latino person" means a person who was born in, or whose ancestors are from, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Panama, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, or Venezuela.

Subd. 3.Duties.

The council shall:

- (1) advise the governor and the Legislature on the nature of the issues confronting Chicano/Latino people in this state, including the unique problems encountered by Chicano/Latino migrant agricultural workers;
- (2) advise the governor and the Legislature on statutes or rules necessary to ensure Chicano/Latino people access to benefits and services provided to people in this state;
- (3) recommend to the governor and the Legislature legislation to improve the economic and social condition of Chicano/Latino people in this state;
- (4) serve as a conduit to state government for organizations of Chicano/Latino people in the state;
- (5) serve as a referral agency to assist Chicano/Latino people to secure access to state agencies and programs;
- (6) serve as a liaison with the federal government, local government units, and private organizations on matters relating to the Chicano/Latino people of this state;
- (7) perform or contract for the performance of studies designed to suggest solutions to problems of Chicano/Latino people in the areas of education, employment, human rights, health, housing, social welfare, and other related programs;
- (8) implement programs designed to solve problems of Chicano/Latino people when authorized by other statute, rule, or order; and
- (9) publicize the accomplishments of Chicano/Latino people and their contributions to this state.

Statutes that govern CLAC

Minnesota Statutes

3.9223 COUNCIL ON AFFAIRS OF CHICANO/LATINO PEOPLE

Subd. 4. Review and recommendation authority.

All applications for the receipt of federal money and proposed rules of a state agency that will have their primary effect on Chicano/Latino people must be submitted to the council for review and recommendation at least 15 days before submission to a federal agency or initial publication in the State Register.

Subd. 5. Powers.

The council may contract in its own name. Contracts must be approved by a majority of the members of the council and executed by the chair and the executive director. The council may apply for, receive, and expend in its own name grants and gifts of money consistent with the power and duties specified in this section.

The council shall appoint an executive director who is experienced in administrative activities and familiar with the problems and needs of Chicano/Latino people. The council may delegate to the executive director powers and duties under this section that do not require council approval. The executive director and council staff serve in the unclassified service. The executive director may be removed at any time by a majority vote of the entire council. The executive director shall recommend to the council the appropriate staffing necessary to carry out its duties. The commissioner of administration shall provide the council with necessary administrative services.

Subd. 6. State agency assistance.

Other state agencies shall supply the council upon request with advisory staff services on matters relating to the jurisdiction of the council. The council shall cooperate and coordinate its activities with other state agencies to the highest possible degree.

Subd. 7. Report.

The council shall prepare and distribute a report to the governor and Legislature by November 15 of each even-numbered year. The report shall summarize the activities of the council since its last report, list receipts and expenditures, identify the major problems and issues confronting Chicano/Latino people, and list the specific objectives that the council seeks to attain during the next biennium.

Link to Council's website:

www.clac.state.mn.us

CLAC's Mission and Goals

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council was created by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1978 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 3.9223, subdivision 3.

Since its creation, CLAC has advised the governor and state Legislature on matters pertinent to the Latino community. It has held community engagement forums throughout the state to communicate its services and gather information from the Latino communities to be conveyed to the governor, legislators and the public at large.

CLAC has promoted the interests of the community in health, education, employment and business development, housing, incarceration and immigration by making recommendations for new legislation and facilitating the creation of various groups. It has been a conduit to state government for organizations of Latinos in the state. It has publicized the conditions and achievements of Latinos in the state. It has referred Latinos to state agencies and programs that serve their needs. It has also facilitated collaboration and communication between the Latino community and the local and federal government units and private organizations. It has carried out studies to address the needs of the Latino community.

The needs of the Latino community remain significant in particular because of its high proportion of immigrants and the ongoing marginalization of portions of the community.

The efficiency & effectiveness of operational excellence

In pursuit of excellence, CLAC's Board and staff members created the CLAC Operational Excellence Plan and Biennium Calendar as well as the CLAC Policies and Procedures Manual in 2008. This increased the efficiency and effectiveness with which CLAC operates and helped us to more effectively schedule our work in sync with the Minnesota legislative cycle. Through this alignment the Council improved its capability to serve its charter and nine legislative goals. The Council calendar for the two year cycle is structured with a quarterly focus. This is then further segmented into a monthly focus that guides the work of Board members, staff, and other partners.

The Action Plan is designed to serve its charter and nine legislative goals, which define the Council's areas of responsibility. For each area of responsibility objectives are established. Based on the objectives, actions are defined. The actions are implemented by the Executive Director and the staff.

Staff's responsibilities include engagement of the Latino communities, research and analysis, and advice and reporting to the Governor and legislators. Board of Directors provide oversight of actions and outputs, including approval of areas of interest selected, focus and legislative recommendations. Additionally, 11 Board members serve as representatives for their congressional districts and the Latino community at large; there are also 4 nonvoting members representing the Legislature, who ensure connectivity to the state's interests. Staff and Board members capture the collective voice of the Latino community and convey Latino contributions, issues, and solutions to the governor and legislators. The Council staff and Board members actively collaborate to fully implement the biennium action plan in fulfillment of legislative goals and charter, which culminates in this Annual Report.

FY 2013 Council Biennium Calendar

[Year 2: Budget]

Planned In Process Complete

1st Quarter: Research & Policy/ Budget Formulation

July: 2012

- ✓ Update & Develop Research
- ✓ Legislative Implications Analysis
- ✓ Review legislative updates & impact
- ✓ Community Forums/Engagement
- ✓ State Budget Analysis
- ✓ FY 14-15 Biennial budget preparations
- ❖ CLAC/MHC/HACER Grant Education Project Development and Initial Data Analysis

August: 2012

- ✓ Research Review
- ✓ Legislative Proposals & Legislative Implications Review
- ✓ Draft report to be submitted to Legislature on 11/15/12
- ✓ FY 14-15 Biennial budget preparations
- ❖ Education Project Data Collection and Report Writing

September: 2012

- ✓ Council Meeting/Retreat
- ✓ Officer Elections
- ✓ Community Forums/Engagement
- ❖ Identify Testimony Participants
- ❖ Sessions scheduled with: Governor; Legislators & Committees
- ✓ Annual Report Draft (due 11/15/12)
- ✓ Legacy Funding for Year 2 Proposal
- ❖ Education Project Report Finalization
- ✓ FY 14-15 Biennial budget preparations

2nd Quarter: Legislative Policy/Budget Input

October: 2012

- ❖ Legislative Committee Proposals
- ❖ Sessions: Governor; Legislators; Committee Chairs; Committee Members
- ✓ Annual Report to Governor and Legislature Finalized
- ❖ Education Project Policy Suggestions
- ✓ Legacy Funding YR 2 proposal submission (10/15/12)
- ✓ FY 14-15 Biennial budget preparations (due 10/15/12)

November: 2012

- ✓ Council & Board Meeting
- ✓ Session Outcome Review & Response
- ❖ Follow-up Sessions: Legislators
- ❖ Board Candidate Recommendations
- ✓ Approve Report to be Submitted to Legislature (Nov. 15)
- ❖ Education Project Policy Recommendations Finalized

December: 2012

- Legislative Session
- Testimony Preparation

3rd Quarter: Legislator Visits & Testimony

January: 2013

- Sessions: Legislators; Committee Chairs; Committee Members
- Testimony Final Preparation

February: 2013

- Council & Board Meeting
- Sessions: Legislators; Committee Chairs; Committee Members
- Legislative Testimony
- Interim Staff & Board Performance Assessment

March: 2013

- Sessions: Legislators; Committee Chairs; Committee Members
- Legislation Monitoring & Reporting
- Legislative Testimony

4th Quarter: Bill Tracking & Assessment

April: 2013

- Legislative Testimony
- Response to Amendments

May: 2013

- Council & Board Meeting
- Review Bills & Amendments
- Discuss: Latino Community Opportunity & Impact
- Community/Engagement Forums
- Election of Officers
- CLAC FY 2014 Budget approved

June: 13

- Legislative review and Summary of Latino Community Opportunity & Impact
- Legislative Summary Report
- Community Forum/Engagement

Outcomes that resulted from our Goals

For over 30 years, the Chicano Latino Affairs Council has dedicated its work to improve the socioeconomic condition of Latinos in Minnesota. By closing disparities, promoting appropriate policy, and connecting the state government to the Latino population, CLAC is able to capture the needs and strategies to support strong communities and a thriving economy for the entire state of Minnesota.

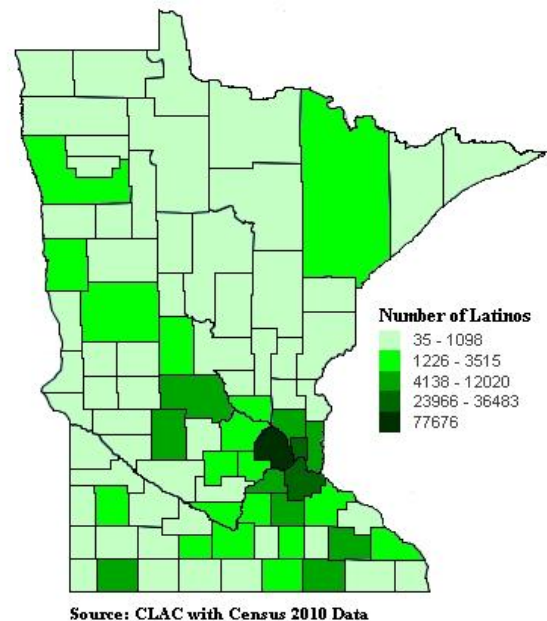
The methods that CLAC uses to carry out its work are based in extensive cross-sector communications and strategic programming in priority areas that leverages internal resources to maximize efficiency. Through collaboration with other state agencies and external organizations, CLAC has demonstrated effectiveness in providing insight to increase success in projects that align with our goals. Attached to this report are 11 letters of support from a few of the dozens of organizations with which this office works closely that document some of the impacts that CLAC has had on external programming.

In addition to reaching thousands of Minnesotans through our collaborations and networks, CLAC has worked directly with community members through community engagement forums held throughout the state, through projects and events focused on civic participation, education, and economic development, as well as over 200 participants in this year's Latino Legislative Day at the Capitol. Detailed accomplishments of these projects are further described in subsequent sections of this report.

CLAC has been able to leverage appropriations with external grants and collaborations in order to multiply its resources and effectiveness beyond its limited capacity. With support from MHC Legacy funding, CLAC has directed in-depth research in educational achievement which is the foundation for much additional programming. Partner organizations have collaborated in organizing series of events to create policies supporting economic development and other issues.

Finally, CLAC successfully completed all projects assigned in the 3rd and 4th quarter of FY 2012 that had been in progress in the 2011 Annual Report. The ambitious FY 2013 Council Calendar included in this year's report shows an increased activity list to allow CLAC even greater success as both a government advisor and as a bridge to the community. By concentrating certain activities around Education and Economic Development, CLAC has been able to complete more intensive programming and take a greater leadership role in two of our priority areas, which will contribute to improving trends across the additional priority issues including health, housing, immigration and public safety.

The demonstrated leadership of CLAC in supporting Latino communities across Minnesota will only be more necessary as the Latino population, particularly that of immigrants, continues to increase. The continued success of this agency will ensure that our state is a national frontrunner for economic prosperity and social well-being.



Meetings and Collaborations

In order to fulfill its Mission and support State outcomes (see attached Small Agency Profile) in improving community disparities in broad areas of interest, CLAC has dedicated its activities this year to an incisive approach based on: a) shifting the image of Latinos from liability to asset, b) targeting the education achievement gap and high drop-out rates of Latino students, and c) promoting Latino community inclusion with leaders across sectors of Minnesota society. The Outcomes, Meetings and Collaborations below are based on these strategic approaches. Of the numerous outcomes of these meetings taking place across the state, some highlights are as follows:

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

CLAC's former Board Chair Villaseñor, Board members Sedarski, Pierce, and Villanueva, and Executive Director Garcia met with Governor Mark Dayton and his staff on January 11, 2012 to determine how CLAC could best serve the interests of the Latino community and the people of Minnesota. Governor Dayton instructed ED Garcia to meet with his Cabinet members to pursue that goal.

Executive Director Garcia has met and communicated with State Commissioners working in CLAC's priority issues to establish effective collaborations and messaging to address disparities, enhance accomplishments, and to best serve Latino communities and the State of Minnesota.

In keeping with its Statute to be a conduit between the Latino community and local/federal government and private sector, CLAC has also coordinated programming with other federal, state, and local officials, as well as nonprofit, private, and community leaders, in order to gather a comprehensive purview of voices and resources.

STATE AGENCIES

1. During several meetings with Commissioner Cronk and his staff, CLAC proposed collaborating with the Department of Administration as recommended in the Sunset Act regarding possible administrative services that could be contracted to the Department. Although no specific changes were viable at that time, numerous cost saving opportunities were explored.
2. Meetings with MMB Commissioner Schowalter and Budget Officers have led to improved efficiency in the area of budget management, which included a reimbursement of a surplus to the State at the end of last biennium.
3. Various meetings were held with Education Commissioner Cassellius, Assistant Commissioners Bruggeman and Chu and other staff, resulting in:
 1. Planning and organizing the Family Engagement Conference (see reference in appendix);
 2. Planning and organizing the State Councils' Education Retreat (see reference in appendix);
 3. Ongoing participation in the Commissioner's Education Finance Task Force;
 4. Significant communications with MnSCU Chancellor Rosenstone and other State Councils and Latino leaders;
 5. A recommendation to reduce the Latino education achievement gap by studying Finland's system, the most successful worldwide in reducing educational disparities (see reference in appendix).

Meetings and Collaborations

4. Several meetings with former Commissioner Phillips, Hennepin and Ramsey Commissioners and with Mpls/St. Paul/Rochester Mayors Rybak, Coleman and Brede, Robin Sternberg and Kathy Tunheim (Governor's Jobs Initiative) and MTO Director Clark (now DEED Commissioner) and their staffs resulted in recommendations (see reference in appendix) to generate foreign investment; reintroduce job training legislation; add global connectivity to state and metro area projects; and rekindle economic energy that immigrants bring to our state. Participation in the EverybodyIn committee intended to increase employment in minority and American Indian communities in Ramsey and Hennepin Counties.
5. Meetings with Health Commissioner Ehlinger, OMMH Director Jose Gonzalez and other MDH staff, as members of Advisory Committee to Office of Minority & Multicultural Health and of Healthy Minnesota Partnership to address disparities in health services. CLAC offered insight in preparation of *The Health of Minnesota*, a statewide assessment of health issues, challenges, and contributing factors to health in Minnesota, prepared under the guidance of the Healthy Minnesota Partnership, a multi-sector group of community leaders convened by the Minnesota Department of Health.
6. Meetings with DHS Commissioner Jesson, Antonia Wilcoxon and other agency staff resulted in insights and advice on the Latino community issues through participation in the Disparities Reduction Advisory Committee, including emergency medical services to undocumented immigrants, which already resulted in one life-threatening case resolved thanks to this collaboration between CLAC, DHS and DHR.
7. Multiple meetings with Human Rights Commissioner Lindsey, Assistant Commissioner Santiago and other staff have improved communication and cooperation among the State Councils. These meetings and events, such as the Family Engagement Conference and the Education Retreat, brought the Councils to collaborate closely with OHE, MnSCU, Met Council, the Departments of Education, Employment & Economic Development, Health, Human Services and others. These collaboratives have significantly increased the integration of the Councils into the State's government system, which will reduce their marginalization, which had at times led to confusion and inefficiency. With the leadership of Commissioner Lindsey, CLAC and other Councils made recommendations to the Met Council on the Thrive 2040 MSP plan. CLAC followed up by bringing LEDC (Latino Economic Development Center) together with Met Council for strategic meetings. CLAC and DHR also facilitated meetings in the community for Department of Justice representatives from Washington D.C. and Chicago regarding prevention of discrimination and hate crimes.
8. Discussions were held on how to integrate the interest on the part of DLI, DEED, Met Council, Department of Public Safety and MnDOT, leading to a meeting convened by CLAC to strategically plan economic development projects for Latinos. Meetings and correspondence with Commissioner Peterson have resulted in a project to explore the formation of a Latino construction company. MnDOT, DPS and CLAC are planning training sessions for Latinos on skills related to landscaping, construction and equipment transportation. CLAC connected DLI with Service Employees International Union in relation to the training being performed for the Deferred Action Executive Order.

Meetings and Collaborations

9. Collaborations with MnDOT Commissioner Sorel and staff have produced a presentation to Latino students and community members on the job and career possibilities offered by MnDOT, which took place at Hennepin Technical College and participation in the collaborative to increase the number of projects for which minority DBEs are contracted. CLAC was also invited to participate in the visioning committee that produced the Minnesota GO, a 50-year vision for multimodal transportation. CLAC contributed an international connectivity dimension to the Visioning Committee's report, which responds to the Federal Government's requirement for state transportation systems to have global connectivity, and discussed with MnDOT's Commissioner and Finance executives ways in which such connectivity can materialize.
10. Participation with DPS Assistant Commissioner Dunaski, Sheriffs, Chiefs of Police, prosecutors and others in the Violent Crime Coordinating Council. CLAC and attorney Manuel Guerrero have worked to include the voice of Latinos in reducing crime in Minnesota. Among other contributions, ED Garcia has promoted the formation of a Violent Crime Community Roundtable to share government and community perspectives in a cooperative, civil and problem-solving manner, based on the success that the Twin Cities Immigrant Community Roundtable has had since launched by Garcia and INS District Director Aljets in 2000.
11. CLAC has participated in the Metropolitan Business Plan Initiative and made recommendations to: enhance the image of Twin Cities as Metro Global Area, increase international trade and tourism by utilizing Cultural Corridors and international connections of Latino executives, and reduce barriers to productivity of immigrants. CLAC also participated in MBP's Entrepreneurship Accelerator committee to create an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Twin Cities and increase access within it to Latino entrepreneurs. CLAC convened and proposed ad hoc Latino Corporate Advisory Committee to Greater MSP, which provided several recommendations to Mike Langley's staff (see reference in appendix).
12. CLAC organized with Partners for a New American Economy and co-hosted with Globe University a presentation on Immigration and the U.S. Economy by Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security Markey, who praised work done in Minnesota to further understanding and cooperation between government and community. CLAC met with representatives of Americas Society Berger and Marczak to discuss collaboration in bringing attention to the ongoing historical value of immigrants to the U.S. economy.
13. CLAC has collaborated with Secretary of State Ritchie and his staff to increase voting registration and turnout by Latinos.

Meetings and Collaborations



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

1. ED Garcia and members of CLAC Board and staff have met with legislators in the Minnesota House and Senate and provided testimony at various hearings. Testimony conveyed the historical relevance of Latinos to Minnesota in a new global economy and an aging Minnesota population, highlighting the imperative to reduce the educational achievement gap and drop-out rate of Latinos. These were also the subjects of presentations to House and Senate committees, the Sunset Advisory Committee, and others.
2. Improving agency outcomes and accountability through collaboration with members of the Sunset Advisory Commission.
3. Connected about 200 Latino community members to Governor Dayton and legislators on Latino Day at the Capitol (see reference to report in appendix).
4. Encouraged Legislature to support Spanish translation of plumbers code as part of ongoing language accessibility efforts.
5. CLAC has advised Senators Franken and Klobuchar on Latino issues, accompanying Senator Franken in his October visit to Academia Cesar Chavez.

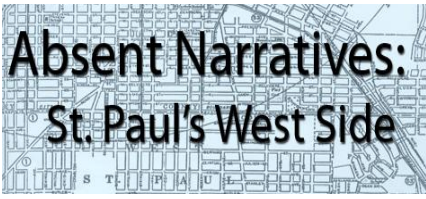
COMMUNITY, FOUNDATIONS & NONPROFITS

1. Community Engagement Forums in several cities were carried out to inform the community about CLAC services and research data on education, economic development, DACA and immigration.
2. Latino Day at the Capitol, as mentioned above, was a great success in engaging youth and community members into political participation.
3. CLAC has collaborated with Humanities Center, HACER, MDE and various schools and programs in a study to identify barriers and elements of success in improving Latino achievement gap and graduation rates and to understand why such elements of success are not being sufficiently replicated. CLAC directly researched the model in Finland through the writings of the head of Finland's Ministry of Education, Finnish teachers and others.
4. CLAC has met with Latino Economic Development Center, Neighborhood Economic Development Center, Casa de Esperanza, Latino Political Caucus, Neighborhood House and other community organizations to generate solutions to improve the socioeconomic conditions of Latinos in Minnesota.

Meetings and Collaborations

5. CLAC is discussing strategic improvements to Latino family engagement, education and health with U of M Extension.
6. Collaborating with U of M School of Journalism, MPR and others to increase Latinos participation in journalism and to better convey the opinions of the Latino community on Latino issues.
7. CLAC has taken leadership in discussing the educational achievement gap and successful models with many groups including MDE, Northfield, Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Schools, (MMEP,) EducationEvolving, Growth & Justice, Center for School Change, Parents United and participated in MMEP and former Mpls. Mayor Fraser's Achievement Gap luncheon meetings.
8. Improving civic engagement by collaborating with ECHO on bilingual videos about how to register to vote, how to vote, and the importance of doing so.
9. CLAC has also assisted in the formation of the nonpartisan Latino Political Caucus, and in providing important information to the Latino community from the Office of the Secretary of State and US Department of Justice in collaboration with organizations such as Asamblea de Derechos Civiles.
10. CLAC has made community presentations including to the Latino State Roundtable, and meetings convened by the Alliance for Metro Stability. CLAC has written articles for the Alliance newsletter, the Star Tribune and others (see appendix) on the contributions that Latinos and other minorities can make to the state's economy and the role of Latinos to meet the challenges facing the state of Minnesota.
11. CLAC helped the Minneapolis Foundation organize its Latino Business Leadership meeting to harness the Latino leadership in all sectors. CLAC has provided ideas to Funders Collaborative, LISC, EDTC and other community organizations on the potential contribution that minorities can make to the metro economy.
12. CLAC has made motivational presentations to Latino and other students at Augsburg College and Hennepin Technical College on the importance of education.
13. Collaboration with US Army Commander Hinck and other officers in events to foster good health practices and education among Latinos in the Twin Cities.
14. Collaboration with Minnesota Historical Society in producing the Latino Business Leaders Defining Success that is being used to mentor and encourage Latino students throughout the State.
15. Continued support for the Absent Narratives program at Minnesota Humanities Center in order to educate teachers and students in Minnesota on the contributions of Latinos to the state.

Meetings and Collaborations



Absent Narratives: St. Paul's West Side

Listen to past and present residents and business owners of St. Paul's West Side as they share their lived experiences and reflections, revealing a strong sense of cultural pride and community in this St. Paul neighborhood. *Part One: St. Paul's West Side Flats* includes reflections about the unique and thriving community in the West Side Flats prior to the early 1960s when the neighborhood was forced to move due to "urban renewal." *Part Two: St. Paul's West Side Cultural Corridor* presents reflections on rebuilding the community since leaving the Flats, and the efforts to build a strong economic and cultural identity.

Absent Narratives: Minneapolis' Mercado Central

Discover how a Latino immigrant community joined forces with a faith-based organization group and a variety of community organizations to build a traditional marketplace in their inner-city neighborhood of Minneapolis. The Mercado Central, a retail cooperative of more than 40 businesses at the intersection of Lake Street and Blooming Avenue in Minneapolis, has become a successful model of asset-based community development.



Absent Narratives: Voices from Greater Minnesota

Did you know that 31% of the population in St. James is Latino, compared to only 1.5% in Duluth? Hear from individuals from these cities, as well as Northfield, Rochester, and Willmar about how Latinos are contributing to the economy and culture of their communities.

Latino Arts: A Community Vision

Take a journey through dance, hip hop, poetry, and stunning canvasses during this one-hour documentary in which twelve of Minnesota's finest Latino artists convey a vision of a Minnesota



future enriched by Latino culture. The voice of the Latino community is illustrated through five themes as expressed in a recent CLAC statewide survey: Arts and Culture, Language, Heritage, Education, and Multigenerational Relationships. This is a coproduction of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, the Minnesota Humanities Center, and [tpt's MN Channel](#).



Latinos, Business, and the Arts

Hear from distinguished business and arts leaders from Minnesota's Latino community about the contributions Latinos and Latino culture are making to the state.

Hector Garcia, Executive Director of CLAC, conducts interviews with executives from 3M, Cargill, Best Buy, the Walker Art Center, and an independent business owner. This is a co-production of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, the Minnesota Humanities Center, and the [St. Paul Neighborhood Network \(SPNN\)](#).

Section II: Our Accomplishments

Our Accomplishments



2012 Latino Legislative Day at the Capitol & Voter registration/Civic Participation

The Latino Legislative Day at the Capitol (LLDC) took place on March 29, 2012 in the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda. The event began with a series of inspirational speeches on the importance of civic engagement and our two focus areas: Latino education and economic development.

We were honored to have the following speakers: Governor Mark Dayton, Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, Senate Majority Leader David Senjem, Senator Patricia Torres Ray, Senator Carla Nelson, Representative Carlos Mariani, Midwest Vice President of LULAC Maggie Rivera, and the Minneapolis Public Schools Board Chair Alberto Monserrate.

Over 200 members and friends of the Latino community attended the event. Following the rally, participants were invited to attend previously scheduled meetings with ten different House Representatives and eight Senators. Each of the legislators led important committees such as education and health or had worked on issues important to the community such as Emergency Medical Assistance or the Sunset Commission.

These legislative community groups were spearheaded by CLAC-trained team leaders who were either part of CLAC's staff, CLAC Board Members, or community leaders who volunteered. During the legislative visits, members of the community were able to speak with their elected officials and voice their interests and concerns.

For instance, one of the community members had the chance to share a very touching personal story with Representative Carlos Mariani who committed to keep in touch with her and help her in addressing her problem. We believe that these legislative visits and the fact that people were able to see that they really can be heard if they participate in the legislative process will encourage people to continue to be civically engaged.

CLAC also facilitated community education by asking organizations, which provide various services to the Latino community, to attend the LLDC, and set up display tables and explain what their organizations offer. CLAC was able to have six organizations set up a table: College Possible, La Conexion de las Americas, Latino Economic Development Center, La Asamblea de Derechos Civiles, Civil Society, and Centro (a multi-disciplined assistance center for Latinos).



CLAC's legislative events provided the means through which members of the community could meet with their elected officials and representatives, voice their concerns and learn more about the legislative process. Furthermore, CLAC was able to hand out and explain the fact sheets, legislative recommendations, and information about registering to vote and the process of being civically engaged.

Our Accomplishments

Latino Legislative Briefing on March 15th, 2012

CLAC organized and carried out a Legislative Briefing at which the 2012 Legislative Recommendations and plans for the Latino Legislative Day at the Capitol were presented.

The Legislative Briefing took place on March 15, 2012, and it was aimed at informing Latino community members and leaders as well as Latino supporters about CLAC's activities, the projects CLAC is working on, and to present the Legislative Recommendations that were drafted as a result of the 2011 Community Forums; this fulfills our goal to distribute CLAC's legislative agenda.

Thirty members of the community attended this event, which included members of La Asamblea de Derechos Civiles, La Conexion de las Americas, the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, and the Department of Labor and Industry and others.

Hector Garcia, CLAC's Executive Director spoke to those in attendance about the purpose and vision of CLAC in general and, specifically, about Latino education and the Latino Day at the Capitol. Robert Zuniga, the CEO of Investor Catalyst LLC spoke about the economic development of Latinos in Minnesota. Then, participants engaged in a Q & A session with the presenters about the legislative process and the importance of their participation.

Overall, this event prepared participants to be part of the legislative process, and also they were able to become more informed about the status of Latinos in Minnesota.

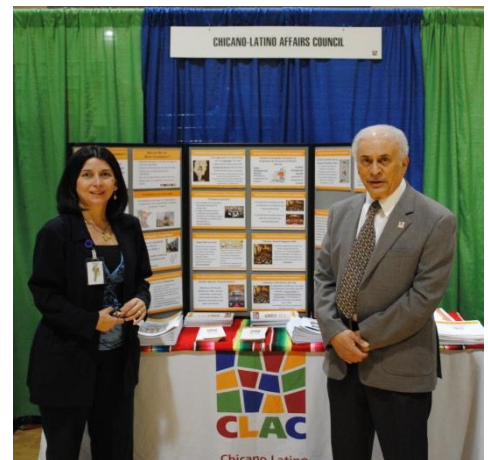
Community Engagement

The community engagement process enables the Council to genuinely capture the voice of the Latino community and gain input from others working within agencies or organizations that support the Latino community.

The community engagement plan supports the following objectives:

- ❖ To directly engage Latino community members in discussing their accomplishments and challenges;
- ❖ To understand the Latino community's perspective on root causes of socio economic challenges and solutions;
- ❖ To provide Latino community members with information regarding the state legislative process, policies and budget programs that support their socio economic situation;
- ❖ To understand the perspectives on Latino community contributions and support challenges of: local government, employers, educators, faith based leaders and service providers;
- ❖ To identify individuals that may provide testimony in presenting issues & solutions to state government;
- ❖ To identify individuals and organizations that would support recommendations in issues briefs;
- ❖ To gather and integrate direct qualitative research into CLAC analysis.

With a full community engagement schedule and itineraries designed to support the above objectives, The Council serves its charter and several legislative goals. Direct and genuine engagement of Latino community members across the state of Minnesota insures a comprehensive development of socio economic analysis and high quality recommendations.



Our Accomplishments

Further, engagement of others in the community provides an opportunity to understand holistically the circumstances surrounding the Latino community and all its influences.

To maximize the ability to engage the Latino community members while staying within the Council budget, a focus is placed on the Latino cluster communities. This year, CLAC was able to visit Shakopee, Austin, St. James, Brooklyn Park, and Duluth.

Shakopee

Shakopee is in Scott County and according to the US Census Bureau, Shakopee has a population of 37,814. For 2010, Latinos and Hispanics comprised 7.8% of the population and owned less than 100 firms in Shakopee. For Scott County Latinos have a purchasing power of \$62 million (Corrie). Data for graduation rates were not available for Hispanics in Shakopee.

On May 30, 2012, CLAC held a community forum at Saint Mark's Catholic Church in Shakopee. The purpose was to inform the community of the education gap that exists in Minnesota and in their community regarding Latino children. The forum also dispelled myths about immigration and created a space in which the participants could discuss their concerns and their hopes about Latino immigration. Participants also expressed interest in business assistance and guidance, ancillary educational programs that Latino children can attend, and additional forums on immigration related issues.

Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/27/2759350.html>

Austin

The City of Austin is the county seat of Mower County and has 24,834 residents. Latinos and Hispanics constitute 15.4% of the population, owned fewer than 100 firms, and have a purchasing power of \$31 million in Mower County. In Austin, for the academic year 2010-2011 47.6% of Hispanics graduated in 4 years.

On June 26, 2012 CLAC held a joint community forum with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development at Riverland Community College in Austin, MN. The purpose of this forum was two-fold: to present to the community facts and figures that demonstrate the importance of integrating new Latino immigrants into the community and the benefits that can come from it. DEED presented very valuable information regarding the various free, available, resources for small businesses. Participants' suggestions from the meeting were the following: provide more one-on-one business assistance opportunities, do more to inform Latino community of draw backs of business creation when one has no legal residence, raise awareness of available funding and business assistance, since it appears that Latino community is not aware of the availability of these resources.

United States Census Bureau. "Austin (City), Minnesota." September 2012
Corrie, Bruce. "Economic Contributions of Latinos in Minnesota."
Minnesota Department of Education. "2010-2011 Graduation Indicators."
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/27/2702908.html>

Our Accomplishments

St. James

St. James has a population of 4626, of which 31.8% is Hispanic. Graduation rates were not recorded for Hispanics for the academic school year 2010-2011 for St. James by the Department of Education.

On August 28th, CLAC held meetings aimed to identify people and strategies that could help Latino entrepreneurs thrive in St. James. There were 7 people in attendance which included Rep. Bob Gunther, people from the St. James Chamber of Commerce, and the St. James Development Corporation. Those in attendance discussed the resources available for Latino entrepreneurs for businesses as well as future steps to take to have a larger forum in the future that would cater to Latinos in the area.

St. James Chamber of Commerce. "Demographics Report (St. James, Minnesota)." 2011.

Brooklyn Park

In 2010, Latinos or Hispanics represented 6.4% of the 76,583 residents and owned 1.4% of the firms for the year 2007. Osseo School District serves most public school students in Brooklyn Park. In this district, in the 2010-2011 academic year 54.5% of Hispanic students graduated within 4 years.

On September 25, 2012, CLAC held a community forum with the help of the City of Brooklyn Park, District 279, and the Office of Higher Education. The goals of the forum were to do the following: convey the importance of higher education to Latinos, equip parents with tools needed to help students gain access to higher education opportunities, brainstorm ideas and steps to take to motivate Latino students to stay in school and finish college, and present basic information on the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The participants identified the following barriers to Latino education: low expectations, lack of parental involvement, lack of documentation, affordability, and student's financial responsibilities with family. The participants suggested the following ideas to address these barriers: peer leadership groups, schools employing more Latino staff, increased parental participation.

*United States Census Bureau. "Brooklyn Park (City), Minnesota." September 2012.
Minnesota Department of Education. "2010-2011 Graduation Indicators."*

Duluth

In Duluth, there were 86,277 residents in 2010, of which Latinos or Hispanics represented 1.5%. Graduation rates for Hispanics in Duluth were not reported by the Minnesota Department of Education for the academic school year 2010-2011 and economic data for Hispanics in Duluth was not found.

On October 9, 2012, CLAC held a community forum in collaboration with the Office of Education Equity, Duluth and UMD Office of Cultural Diversity. The purpose of the forum was to inform the community on the following: the importance of Latino education for students, parents and Minnesota in general, the opportunities to access higher education, as well as immigration and the economy. The main topics discussed by the participants were the following: English and citizenship. The participants expressed interest in intermediate and advanced English classes, since only elementary English classes were offered in Duluth. Participants discussed key stakeholders in getting these classes going. Stakeholders mentioned were public schools, libraries, government representatives and the Office of Education Equity Duluth. In addition to education, participants wanted to know the benefits and the process of becoming US Citizens. The primary benefit identified was voting, which as Hector pointed out was how they would get their voices heard and one step closer to their demands being met.

United States Census Bureau. "Duluth (City), Minnesota." September 2012.

Our Accomplishments

Latino Education Involvement

1. Research on Educational Achievement with HACER

Education has been one of CLAC's top working priorities in the past year, being a nexus for socioeconomic success of Latinos in Minnesota in which increased achievement would support increased economic and integration opportunities, while decreasing crime and other challenges. To understand the framework in which educational disparities arise, CLAC is directing research in partnership with Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER, a University of Minnesota program). This project is made possible with Legacy funding arranged by the Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC).

This research analyzes elements of success that could be replicated to increase Latino student achievement, identifies specific causes of Minnesota's large gap in achievement rates between Latino and non-Hispanic white students, and presents an array of policy recommendations that can be implemented at the state and local level to close the achievement gap and support Latino students in graduating from high school and enrolling in higher education, while improving educational opportunities for all students.

Providing a strong foundation from which to continue advocacy for educational reform, this research is valuable in documenting and contrasting statewide and international case studies for teachers and school systems to adapt innovative teaching methods. This study will be complete later this year, and CLAC will pursue renewed funding from MHC for complementary research and implementation to further the insights being developed in this study.

2. Family Engagement Council

Collaborating with the Minnesota Department of Education, CLAC helped organize and participated in a dialogue on May 19, 2012, with families and educators to develop strategies to engage parents in the learning process of their children. Through a series of presentations, listening sessions, and small group discussions, participants developed a menu of individual and organizational behaviors, practical system-wide resources, and understanding and skills for both educators and parents that would enhance the level of engagement that families are able to achieve in their children's education and ultimately to enhance student performance.

CLAC provided a wealth of information regarding barriers and opportunities as identified in its research and advocacy for Latino educational advancement. Over 150 participants and organizers developed action steps to be incorporated into local school boards' Family Involvement Policies under Minnesota Statutes 124D.8955.

3. State Council's Education Retreat

On April 19, 2012, the State Councils Spring Retreat was held. The retreat was a collaboration among the following: Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Human Rights, Minnesota Humanities Center, Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning, Chicano Latino Affairs Council, Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, Minnesota Council on Disability, Somali American Parent Association.

Our Accomplishments

The purpose of the Retreat was to share success stories and create a public agenda to address the needs of Minnesota's underserved K-12 students.

During the retreat, participants heard presentations by CLAC and other Councils, the Commissioners of DE, DHR, DH, MnSCU Chancellor, Director of LISC and others that identified initiatives for meeting the educational needs of minorities, American Indians and of all students (of color). The retreat was an important starting point for a richer conversation among educators, community leaders and state policy makers that allowed resources to be focused on strategies to improve education opportunities and outcomes for Minnesota's youth.

Latino Economic Development

CLAC convened a meeting on Latino Economic Development and Education on October 31, 2011 to discuss the connections Latinos have with government, investors, corporations, and Latino executives. Participants stressed the importance of leveraging these connections to build a better economic future in the metro area. Mayor Rybak and Greater MSP CEO Langley spoke. As a result of the meeting, a Latino advisory committee for the Greater MSP would be formed to help tap into these resources.

A meeting was convened on September 11, 2012 including more than 20 organizations and state agencies that work in economic development, workforce training and education, and Latino issues, to increase understanding of Latino potential and offer solutions to barriers facing Latinos in state jobs and businesses. The participants identified barriers Latinos had in attaining state contracts and permits for their business and discussed solutions such as bilingual Certification and Licensing testing, workshops for Latino contractors to understand contract requirements, and building trust with government clients. Opportunities for Latinos to obtain state jobs were also discussed, including the need for employees that have language and cultural awareness.



Hector Garcia, CLAC's E.D., addressing the audience during the Greater MSP and Latino Executives meeting (Latino Economic Development) on October 31, 2011

Mayor R.T. Rybak, City of Minneapolis, addressing the audience during the Greater MSP and Latino Executives meeting (Latino Economic Development) on October 31, 2011



Section III: Financial Summary

Financial Summary

Unlike larger agencies, CLAC does not have a large budget nor carries out programs. Most of the general appropriation fund is for staff salaries, Board members expenses (Per MN Statute 15.0575, Subd. 3.), rent and office expenses.



FUNDING SOURCES	Fiscal Year	
	2012	2013
General Fund Appropriation	275,000	275,000
General Fund Carry-forward from Prior Year	0	22,324.45
Other Source: Otto Bremer	20,000	--
Other Source: Legacy Funds	23,232	22,623.81
TOTAL FUNDING	318,232	319,948.26

EXPENSES	Fiscal Year	
	2012	2013 YTD (as of 10/29/12)
General Fund Appropriation	252,675.55*	64,697.99
Other Source: Otto Bremer	19,620.31*	--
Other Source: Legacy Funds	608.19*	10,017.70
TOTAL EXPENSES	275,904.05	74,715.69

Notes:

FY 2012

* General Fund surplus of \$22,324.45 carried forward to FY 2013. However, because of a system glitch, only \$11,508.69 has carried forward to date.

* The Otto Bremer Grant account had a surplus of \$379.69 which was sent back to them.

* CLAC entered into a contract with the MN Humanities Center which covered part of FY 2012 and FY 2013. The funds that were not spent in FY 2012 carried forward to FY 2013 with the contract ending date of December 31, 2012.

FY 2013

Year to Date financial statements as of 10/26/12

Section IV: Measuring Our Contributions

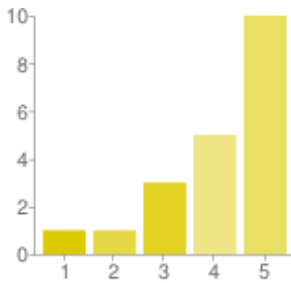
Performance Measures

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
Latino Legislative Day at the Capitol # participants	43	200	Improving
Voter registration and civic participation training	1	3	Improving
Community engagement forums	6	7	Improving
Latino Education Improvement	4	8	Improving
Latino Economic Development	3	8	Improving

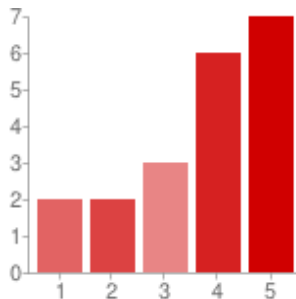
- Latino Legislative Day at the Capitol compares number of attendees in FY 2011 (previous) and 2012 (current).
- Voter registration and civic participation compares projects, collaborations and outreach in FY 2011 (previous) and 2012 (current) to improve MN Latino socioeconomic conditions.
- Community engagement forums compares data from FY 2011 (previous) to FY 2012 (current).
- Latino Education Improvement compares number of education reports, collaborative projects with other agencies, documentaries and videos disseminated in FY 2011 (previous) and 2012 (current).
- Latino Economic Development involvement compares projects, events and collaborations in FY 2011 (previous) to 2012 (current).

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC) performed a survey to assess the impact our activities are having on individuals, organizations and agencies in Minnesota. The results below are based on 20 responses to the survey.

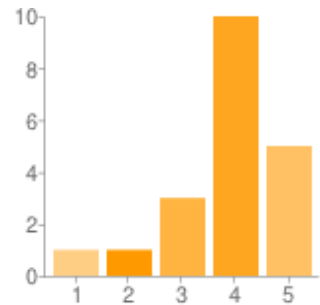
These survey results demonstrate an overwhelmingly positive perception of this agency in communicating and succeeding in our mission and positively impacting external organizations through multifaceted programming in a wide variety of priority issues impacting the Latino community.



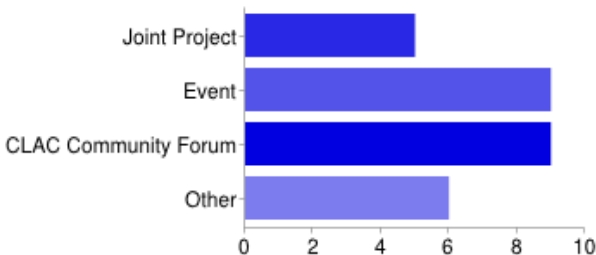
How well do you know and understand CLAC's mission and the resources we offer?



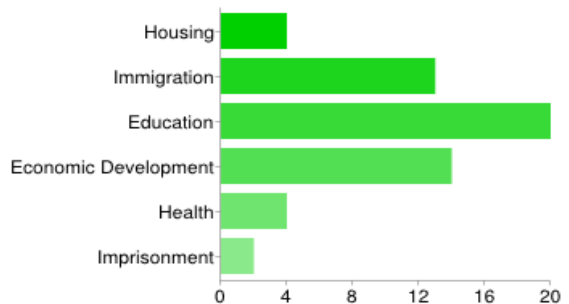
How well do you believe CLAC is fulfilling its mission and goals?



How much did CLAC contribute to the achievement of your goals?



How have you interacted with CLAC?



Please choose three disparities (vis a vis the majority community) that you believe most affect Latinos' socioeconomic conditions in Minnesota.

Letters from our Partners



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Mark Ritchie

October 29, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC) has collaborated with the Office of the Secretary of State and community organizations in engaging the Latino community to vote and otherwise participate more actively in the political process; this is especially important in a community that has a large proportion of recent immigrants to the United States.

CLAC's Latino Day at the Capitol this year attracted a large number of Latino youth, who became better acquainted with our system of government and were given the opportunity to present their interests to several legislators.

CLAC has also supported events by the U.S. Army intended to motivate minority youth to value good education and health practices. In my role as a member of the Senior Advisory Committee for the Minnesota National Guard I am grateful for this effort by CLAC in support of our servicemen and women.

Finally, CLAC plays a critical role in helping our Office keep informed about new ideas and perspective that improve our service to the Latino business community. Entrepreneurs who are starting new businesses in Minnesota are planting the seeds of our future economy. CLAC has a very valuable role in making sure that the business services provided by our office are helping to support new and on-going Latino-owned and operated firms in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Ritchie".

MARK RITCHIE
Secretary of State

Letters from our Partners



Senator Al Franken

October 10, 2012

Mr. Hector Garcia
Executive Director
Chicano Latino Affairs Council
60 Empire Drive, Suite 203
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Dear Mr. Garcia,

Thank you for joining me at La Academia de Cesar Chavez School on October 2.

I truly enjoyed the opportunity to tour the school and see firsthand the success they are making with bilingual educational programming. The great strides the school has made in addressing the educational achievement gap is impressive. I applaud your efforts at CLAC to help meet the educational needs of Latino students across Minnesota, and look forward to continuing to work with you.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Al Franken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Al Franken
United States Senator

Letters from our Partners



October 19, 2012

Hector Garcia
Executive Director
Chicano Latino Affairs Council
60 Empire Drive, Suite 203
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear Mr. Garcia:

I am delighted to write this letter of support on behalf of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council's (CLAC) application for a Humanities Center Grant to help you continue your excellent work to close the achievement gap for Latino students in Minnesota.

I am proud of the work that our agencies have done together to promote community and parental engagement and educational programs to assist Latino students. Under your leadership and dedication, the council has been committed to working with schools in order to promote academic achievement for all Latino students.

I strongly support the important work that CLAC does for the citizens of Minnesota.

With admiration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Brenda Cassellius". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Commissioner

Letters from our Partners



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

October 23, 2012

Hector Garcia, Executive Director
Chicano Latino Affairs Council
60 Empire Drive, Suite 203
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Thank you for the opportunity to convey our thanks for contributing your professional expertise and cultural experiences as a member of the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) Office of Minority and Multicultural Health (OMMH) Advisory Committee.

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC) is stipulated to partner with the Commissioner of Health, along with community health boards and other culturally based organizations including the Indian Affairs Council, the Council on Black Minnesotans, the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, and tribal governments in the development and implementation of a comprehensive, coordinated plan to reduce health disparities in priority health areas identified in the Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative (EHDI), MS 145.928. Your faithful attendance to our quarterly OMMH Advisory Committee meetings provides a consistent community voice necessary to move our goal of eliminating health disparities forward with the benefit of a historical context.

Because of you and CLAC, we are provided with critical information from a variety of sources on our Latino communities. For example,

- Latinos comprise almost 5 percent, or almost 250,000 people, of Minnesota's total population in 2010; an estimate by the American Community Survey that many people believe to be a serious undercount.
- Latinos are estimated to make up about 8 percent of the state's population by 2030, becoming more prominent than Minnesota's other racial or ethnic populations.
- In 2009 the Urban Institute found that over 85 percent of Latino children with immigrant parents were US citizens.
- Unauthorized immigrants comprised over 2 percent of the state's workforce, according to the Pew Hispanic Center that pay an estimated \$81.7 million in state and local taxes in 2010 (according to the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy).

Letters from our Partners

Hector Garcia, Executive Director

October 23, 2012

Page Two

Many of our state's Latino children go without health care because they may not be accessing health resources which they may be eligible to receive because their parents fear deportation even though they contribute to the state coffers that support these programs. This well-founded fear puts the health of all Minnesotans in jeopardy. Your data and advocacy are important to advance the mission of the MDH, which is to protect, maintain, and improve the health of all Minnesotans.

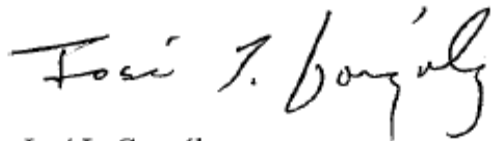
Your participation in our OMMH Advisory Committee has helped to develop three separate Request for Proposals over the past three years using EHDI funds focused on eliminating health disparities in eight priority health areas: infant mortality, adult and child immunizations, breast and cervical cancer screening, diabetes, heart disease and stroke, HIV/AIDS/STIs, teen pregnancy, and unintentional injury and violence. You have helped assure that our various communities' needs are addressed and their voices heard.

I look forward to your ongoing participation in the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated plan to reduce health disparities in our state as the demographics and needs of our populations of color and American Indians change.

Sincerely,



Edward P. Ehlinger, MD, MSPH
Commissioner



José L. González
Director, OMMH

Letters from our Partners

Governor Dayton and Minnesota State Legislators,

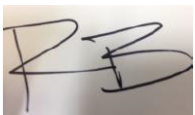
The Minnesota Historical Society just completed a major oral history project documenting the successes, challenges, and contributions of Latinos living throughout the state of Minnesota. The only way that the Minnesota Historical Society could have undertaken such a project was with the help of our partners at CLAC (Chicano Latino Affairs Council). CLAC has advised us on narrators, issues, and topics for our Latino project.

This partnership has completed 42 interviews producing published books for each narrator which total more than 1,300 pages of transcripts and a video project “Latino Business Leaders Defining Success”

The value of these projects is seen on several levels. From a curatorial standpoint the Latino community is underrepresented in our collection and the only significant collection the Society has are these oral histories. Many immigrant communities have no documents, or 3D objects to donate, so oral history is the best way to preserve their history. From an education standpoint, these interviews have already been used in individual History Day projects and will be used in resources for teachers being put together with the Education Department. By cultivating relationships with our partners, the Society gains credibility within these communities which in turn may open doors in the future.

With the “Becoming Minnesotan” website going online in the spring of 2013, these interviews will be able to be accessed by all and tracked to measure how often they are being utilized by the public.

With deepest gratitude,



Ryan K. Barland
Oral History
Minnesota Historical Society



Letters from our Partners



October 26, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding: The Chicano Latino Affairs Council

CLAC is an important resource for numerous individuals, businesses and non-profits here in Minnesota. We rely on their ability to network throughout the State to deliver important public information and to develop and deploy reports concerning the demographic information related to Hispanics in our state.

They maintain information on housing, education, health and economic data as well as summarize various issues pertaining to these topics. The State benefits greatly by their existence as a resource for information and by having the infrastructure made possible through CLAC to engage the Latino community around the State.

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Minnesota looks forward to an ongoing partnership with CLAC. We value and need this resource in our community.

Please call me if I can be of further assistance. 612.312.1692 or email vargas@hispanicmn.org

Regards,

Val Vargas

Val Vargas
Founder & CEO

Letters from our Partners

casa de esperanza

October 29, 2012

Governor Dayton
Minnesota State Legislators
State of Minnesota

Governor Dayton and Minnesota State Legislators:

Casa de Esperanza is a national Latina organization whose mission is to mobilize Latinas and Latin@ communities to end domestic violence. Based in St. Paul, Minnesota, we have 30 years of direct service experience providing advocacy and other community services and support to Latinas and their families. Organizationally, Casa de Esperanza has three primary program areas; Family Advocacy—direct services to victims/survivors of domestic violence, Community Engagement, and the National Latino Network for Healthy Families and Communities—one of ten DHHS funded national resource centers on domestic violence.

I am writing to express support for the work of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC). Latinos and organizations across the State have looked to CLAC over the years for census related information and other critical information affecting Latino communities. This has been helpful in our work, whether it was to write a proposal or to share information with partner agencies locally and nationally. Casa de Esperanza is a well-established non-profit with our own national training, policy and research initiatives. However, all Latino based organizations and allies, especially those located in greater Minnesota, need to have the resources and information CLAC provides to ensure they are relying on accurate data, trends and other critical information needed to carry out their work and relate to the issues and realities of our communities.

CLAC staff, even new staff, show a strong commitment to working closely with community organizations and being supportive of our organizations' work. The more aware they are of the various work and programs across the State, the stronger resource they can be to everyone.

We would like CLAC to be a strong, centralized source for key information, analysis, and leadership on issues that Latin@ communities are facing. There is no other organization in the State that does or can provide that role and leadership to the level we believe CLAC can provide.

phone
651.646.5553

main address
post office box 75177
saint paul, mn 55175

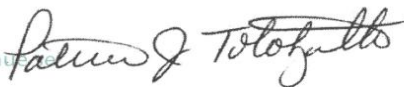
policy address
325 pennsylvania avenue
box 262
washington, dc 20003

research address
post office box 3428
decatur, ga 30031

web
www.casadeesperanza.org

 100% PCW

Sincerely,



Patti Tototzintle
CEO, Casa de Esperanza

Letters from our Partners



June 8, 2012

Dear Commissioner's Working Group on School Funding:

Thank you for your previous work as a member of the Commissioner's working group on funding education. Your work has provided a great foundation to advocate for an equitable formula that is accountable and transparent.

Recently, Minnesota was one of four states selected by the National Governors Association to participate in a policy academy. This will focus on the best way to efficiently allocate state education resources in support of increasing academic performance. The focus of the work will take place in a reconvention of our previous working group. I am asking for your continued participation in this endeavor. This is an opportunity to build off of our previous workgroup recommendations while allowing for more time, discussion and research while building to a comprehensive proposal.

We will continue to seek consensus in ways that will:

- Improve the adequacy, equity and stability of pre K-12 education funding;
- Simplify education funding;
- Preserve local control;
- Close the achievement gap;
- Promote high achievement for all students;
- Direct resources closest to students, teachers and the classroom.

Assistance will be provided by the National Governors Association in the form of research and developing best practices based on the direction of the working group.

I feel this is a great opportunity for us all to work in a collaborative manner in adopting recommendations for a formula that can make the best use of limited resources. If you are willing to continue on the working group, please notify Kevin McHenry at kevin.mchenry@state.mn.us or 651.582.8292 by Friday, June 15th. The first meeting will take place from 1-4 pm on June 25th in CC14 at MDE. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Brenda Cassellius".

Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Commissioner

Letters from our Partners



Minneapolis, MN November 2, 2012

Hon. Governor Mark Dayton, and MN state legislature

Dear Governor Dayton, State Senators and Representatives,

Latino Economic Development Center is pleased to write this letter of support to Chicano/Latino Affairs council (CLAC) who has supported our organization's work by facilitating meetings with elected and appointed officials that work on improving the economic welfare of the state of Minnesota and its residents, connecting our organization with potential partners that share similar vision and mission to ours, as well as conducting workshops that promote economic opportunities, and developing reports and other materials that create awareness about the positive contribution of Latinos to MN in their struggle to integrate into the American society and culture.

The Latino Economic Development Center's mission is to transform our community by creating economic opportunity for Latinos. LEDC provides the structure and tools to more fully engage Latinos in the social and economic mainstream of American life, contribute to the larger community, and build the assets of Latino families. LEDC uses the tools of small business development to enable Latino immigrants to gain acceptance and inclusion in the broader community so that immigrants are respected as a community and economic resource.

On behalf of LEDC, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for CLAC's continues work of behalf of Latino Minnesotans and our community as a whole. If you have any questions about my support of this project or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at ramon@ledc-mn.org or (612) 801-3718.

Sincerely,

Ramón León
Executive Director

CC. MN legislature

Letters from our Partners

443 Lafayette Road N.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
www.dli.state.mn.gov



(651) 284-5000
1-800-DIAL-DLI
TTY: (651) 297-4198

November 1, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Labor and Industry and the Chicano Latino Affairs Council have worked collaboratively in several projects designed to better serve Minnesota's increasingly diverse workforce. This partnership include a strategic meeting on Latino economic development that was convened by the Chicano Latino Affairs Council and the Latino Economic Development Corporation; another on how best to attract Latino workers to the construction industry; and on other initiatives promoting the development of Latino businesses in the construction industry. I have found that that each of Labor and Industry's interactions with the Council have been sources of solid information and wise judgments. The result is better service by Labor and Industry for Minnesota's Latinos.

The Department of Labor and Industry appreciates the input and expertise provided by the Chicano Latino Affairs Council and looks forward to continue our partnership to better serve Minnesota's growing Latino community.

Sincerely,

Ken B. Peterson, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
443 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
PH: 651-284-5010
FAX: 651-284-5721
EMAIL: ken.peterson@state.mn.us

Letters from our Partners



November 8, 2012

Honorable Mark Dayton
Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Honorable Members of the
Minnesota State Legislature
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Letter of Support for the Minnesota Chicano Latino Affairs Council

Dear Governor Dayton and Members of the State Legislature:

At the invitation of Hector Garcia, Executive Director of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, the Minnesota Humanities Center offers this letter in support of the Council's annual report due in November 2012.

The Humanities Center has worked collaboratively with the Council since Arts and Cultural Heritage [Legacy] funds were first appropriated for collaborative work in 2009. This collaboration has led to many successful programs, including the two full-length documentaries – *Latino Arts: A Community Vision* in partnership with Twin Cities Public Television and *Latinos, Business, and the Arts*, in partnership with Saint Paul Neighborhood Network.

Currently, the collaborative programming addresses the education challenges and opportunities specific to Latino students. The central theme and core value of the project is "culture and language matter," that Latino culture and multiple languages are an asset and not a liability. This research project focuses on identifying specific strengths in Latino culture that improve education engagement.

The Humanities Center's partnership with the Chicano Latino Affairs Council enables each organization to offer its strengths: the Humanities Center helps plan and often provides administrative capacity while the Council ensures the programming is culturally relevant and that the community itself benefits directly from the work. The Humanities Center then works closely with the Council to bring knowledge and successful practices to schools and communities across the state. Working together, we are able to accomplish much more than could be done individually.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David O'Fallon".

David O'Fallon
President and CEO

:mbk

Letters from our Partners

Carla Nelson

Senator District 30
111 State Capitol Building
75 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
Office Phone: 651-296-4848



SENATE
State of Minnesota

November 13, 2012

Honorable Mark Dayton
Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton,

At the request of Hector Garcia, Executive Director of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, I offer this letter in support of the council and the meritorious work it is performing for our state.

I have worked with Mr. Garcia and the council on numerous occasions. This collaboration has helped to inform how the policies we create will affect the Chicano Latino population in the greater Rochester area, and across our state. I have been impressed by the knowledge and passion that Mr. Garcia has for the work of the council. Mr. Garcia's advocacy for a close examination of educational opportunities for Chicano Latinos, as well as a focus on closing the achievement gap in Minnesota, is an outstanding example of the positive work the council is doing.

In addition to its broad state level policy advocacy, the council supports the work of local organizations across Minnesota. One of these organizations, the Alliance of Chicanos, Hispano, Latino Americans (ACHLA) is located in Rochester, and works tirelessly to address the needs of Chicanos, Hispano, and Latino Americans within our community. ACHLA offers a wide variety of services, including educational programs for adults, and tutoring, enrichment, mentoring, and recreational activities for children and young adults. The excellent work that an organization like ACHLA is performing for our Latino community is another fine example of the positive advocacy and support that Chicano Latino Affairs Council has offered to organizations like this across our state.

Economic development is another key issue that the council has focused on. The council and I have endeavored to ensure that our workforce is highly educated and ready to help cities like Rochester, the fastest growing in the state, to be an economic powerhouse. This focus will continue to keep Minnesota as an ideal location for businesses.

Please accept my full heartened support for Executive Director Garcia and the Chicano Latino Affairs Council. I believe that this council is an excellent example for our state and I look forward to continuing to work with the council in the future.

In your service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carla".

Senator Carla Nelson

Committees: Education, Vice Chair • Agriculture • Capital Investment •
Jobs & Economic Growth • Local Government & Elections
E-Mail: sen.carla.nelson@senate.mn

Letters from our Partners



Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-1899

November 9, 2012

The Honorable Mark Dayton
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

I would like to express my appreciation for Chicano Latino Affairs Council, as collaborators and partners with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, for how they assist us in serving the Minnesota Chicano-Latino community and how they are vital to MnDOT's overall success in achieving its vision and mission.

As MnDOT works to build sustainable communities and address environmental justice in our programs, policies and activities, CLAC has been important in our engagement efforts and addressing /mitigating issues affecting their respective community. Through fostering beneficial connections and relationships CLAC has assisted MnDOT to enhance public trust by:

- Building relationships within their community and encouraging public involvement in developing transportation solutions.
- Promoting collaboration and innovation.
- Ensuring future investments are well-planned and transparent to all stakeholders.
- Maintaining a workforce that reflects the communities we serve.

CLAC has worked with us to provide meaningful opportunities in a number of MnDOT's programs and activities, including:

- Participating in the **DBE & Workforce Collaborative** to ensure contractor and workforce participation within Minnesota's transportation industry reflects state demographics.
- Assisting with identifying successful candidates for the **Graduate Engineer/Land Surveyor Trainee programs** that graduates with practical work experience through formal job rotations within various engineering and land surveying sections at MnDOT.
- Co-partnering the **2010 Highway Construction Employment Information Day** on presentations on workforce opportunities for Metro/Greater Minnesota Latino Community Organizations, their clients, high school, and post-college students, Hennepin Technical College counselors/job placement staff, and Minnesota Workforce Center at Hennepin Technical College.
- Assisting with identifying successful candidates for the **Seeds Program** that provides paid college-level student-worker positions for minority or economically disadvantaged college students.

Letters from our Partners

- Participating in the **2011 Minnesota GO** public involvement process to better align the transportation system with what Minnesotans expect for their quality of life, economy and natural environment.
- Participating in the **MNCARRS Recruitment Program** for recruiting and retaining qualified candidates from a variety of backgrounds, including minorities, women, veterans and people with disabilities.
- Assisting with identifying successful candidates for the **Phoenix Program** that provides paid internships for high school students enrolled in pre-engineering courses through a partnership between MnDOT and Project Lead the Way.
- Co-partnering the **2013 Policy and Enforcement Training Public Meetings for Latino Commercial Vehicle Operators**.
- Assisting with identifying successful candidates for the **2010 Temporary Transportation Associate Pilot Program** that recruits, selects and mentors a diverse group of candidates for MnDOT Metro snow plow operator positions.
- Assisting with identifying successful candidates for the **2013 Transportation Specialist Series Pilot**.

CLAC continues to invite MnDOT to board meetings for presentations on our various initiatives and is a valuable sounding board for us as we continue to seek ways to connect and build credible relationships with the Chicano-Latino community. Through partnerships with councils such as CLAC, MnDOT continues to create a diverse workforce to provide a safe, efficient and sustainable transportation system for the future.

Thank you for considering this letter of support for the Chicano Latino Affairs Council.

Respectfully,



Thomas K. Sorel
Minnesota Department of Transportation Commissioner

cc: Minnesota State Legislators

Letters from our Partners

Dear Governor Dayton and Minnesota State Legislators;

Nov.12, 2012

ASAMBLEA DE DERECHOS CIVILES is a non-profit faith based organization dedicated to educate, empower and act on the values of the Latino community with thoughtful strategies in partnership with strong allies.

We have found in C.L.A.C. a useful and committed partner to help us in transforming our Latino community to build a better future for Minnesota.

March 2012.- ASAMBLEA DE DERECHOS CIVILES celebrated Cesar Chavez birthday anniversary by joining C.L.A.C. in a Latino Day at the Capitol. We brought nearly 100 Latinos that came from different cities of the state of Minnesota and visited different legislators of the two major parties to talk about the issues that affect our community. This happened at the capitol.

April-October The Secretary of the state of Minnesota office and C.L.A.C. partner with ASAMBLEA DE DERECHOS CIVILES to do Latino voter registration and education that turn out many new young Voters on November 6 election day.

September 2012- C.L.A.C. was instrumental in connecting the office of civil rights from the U.S. Department of Justice, so the Latino community was able to listen and understand many questions we had about our civil rights through a workshop acting as panelists Hector Garcia (Executive director of C.L.A.C.), Petrona Melgarejo Minnesota labor department ,Justin Lock Community Relations officer of D.O.J.and the officer of the U.S. Department of Justice Alfred Baca. This happened in Incarnation Catholic Church in South Minneapolis.

C.L.A.C. is a network to connect our community with different agencies to assist us in critical times like the case of one of our community members that has a chronic illness and no resources, with the help of Hector Garcia (Executive director of C.L.A.C.) she has received the medical attention needed in order for her to find an adequate medical treatment.

C.L.A.C. is not only a tremendous ally of ASAMBLEA DE DERECHOS CIVILES but it is also a very important agency for the Latino community. We strongly support C.L.A.C. We have found this office doing excellent work to improve the life of Latinos in Minnesota. Not to mention the fact that C.L.A.C. serves the community without bureaucracy and is always open to work or offer their help with all their capacity.

Thanks for your attention.

Co-Founder & organizer

Antonia Alvarez

Alvarez_antonia_2005@yahoo.com



Letters from our Partners

Minnesota Department of
Education

November 8, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter of support on behalf of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC), who is a partner to MDE (Minnesota Department of Education) in several projects designed to better serve Latino students in their education.

This partnership includes strategic meetings on the achievement gap of Latino students, looking at data and best practices for student success, and holding Listening Sessions with other Minority Councils and the Indian Affairs Council regarding ways we can provide education equity for all students in our communities. The Department of Education is currently partnering with the Chicano Latino Affairs Council on ways we can provide community and parental engagement to Minnesota minority parents.

MDE appreciates the input provided by CLAC, and it is our hope that we, all Minnesotans, work as partners in order to address the achievement gap crisis, to make sure that our future community leaders—all our students—have a strong education pathway system.

Sincerely,



Elia Dimayuga-Bruggeman
Assistant Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Education
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113

V. APPENDICES

Star Tribune

<http://www.startribune.com/opinion/commentaries/164080846.html>

There's strength in these numbers

Minorities can make Minnesota a better place – but only if disparities are addressed

Article by: HECTOR GARCIA

July 30, 2012

Disparities between the majority and minority communities in Minnesota are among the worst in the United States -- in education, employment, business creation, health, housing and incarceration. In addition to the damage these disparities inflict on the members of minority communities, they also detract from Minnesota's overall image for socioeconomic excellence. They obstruct efforts such as Greater MSP (see www.greatersp.org) to promote the metro area among investors, businesses, talent, and tourists from other states and nations.

The disparities create a drag on the state's economy, and they will become increasingly burdensome, since minorities have a higher rate of demographic growth than the majority population. Minnesota's Latino population grew by 74.5 percent between 2000 and 2010.

The disparities have remained intractable over decades, despite public, private and philanthropic efforts. One of the main reasons for the failure is the absence of a partnership spirit between the leadership of the majority and minority communities. This situation is reminiscent, in a smaller scale, of the multibillion-dollar campaigns to reduce global poverty. Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics, wrote that those efforts were failing because teams of experts who were sent to address poverty throughout the world did not take into account that much of the solution lay with those who were the victims of poverty; thus, they did not engage them but tried to fix them.

The world has been changing dramatically over recent years, revealing a new scenario with new potential. This new reality -- or "New Normal," as presentations by the state's economist Tom Stinson and former demographer Tom Gillaspay were entitled -- has made visible the great potential resource available in minority communities. For instance, the median age of the growing minority populations, much lower than that of the quickly aging majority, can help address the challenges of funding Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, the increasing costs of education, and other responsibilities that seemed unmanageable under the old scenario.

This potential, though, will not be realized if the minorities continue to be disempowered by disparities. According to a Georgetown University study, Minnesota, by 2018, will be the No. 2 state in terms of demand for workers with postsecondary education -- and No. 48 in jobs for high school dropouts. The high school graduation rate of Latinos in 2010 was 49.2 percent; that of "whites" was 82.8 percent. The dropout rate of Latinos was three times that of whites, and the number of Latinos age 25 or older with associate or bachelor's degrees was about half that of whites in 2008.

None of this is for lack of ambition. In 2010, Latinos had the highest rate of work participation in Minnesota -- 80.5 percent, compared with 71.7 percent for whites.

APPENDICES: Star Tribune Article continued

The new reality is one of global interdependence, which confers high added value to diversity in language and culture. Minnesota stands to gain in these areas from its minority populations. Return on investment is highest when untapped resources are leveraged to produce tangible results. Suddenly, what was perceived as troublesome in a monocultural state paradigm -- foreign languages and divergent cultures -- becomes, in a global paradigm, a resource for improved competitiveness in the world economy.

These and other untapped minority resources could help bring about the missing spirit of partnership. We partner with those who have something to contribute to the achievement of our goals. Since minority communities can make Minnesota more competitive, they can be seen as valuable economic partners.

In this context, the Chicano Latino Affairs Council and the other minority state councils also can contribute to Minnesota. The state councils are bridges of communication and cooperation between state government and minority communities. The councils are trusted in those communities and are competent in their cultures and languages; they have the capacity to convene and counsel. The councils also have ties with local and federal government, and with private and nonprofit organizations. These strengths allow the councils to facilitate the creation of a spirit of partnership, which will address the disparities while enhancing Minnesota's economy and the future of all Minnesotans.

Hector Garcia is executive director of the Minnesota Chicano Latino Affairs Council and is former vice president for emerging markets for Wells Fargo Bank.

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APPENDICES: Reports and Recommendations

The following list identifies reference information to a few of the dozens of documents published by the Chicano Latino Affairs Council this year. The reports and recommendations listed here are referred to in the preceding report in order to provide further information on the activities discussed in this report.

Interested parties may contact CLAC to obtain a copy of these documents, which are also available in pdf form at our website: www.clac.state.mn.us.

- CLAC Small Agency Profile 2012.
- CLAC Recommendation for Education System Reform, September 2012.
- Minnesota Department of Education, “Engaging Families for Student Success: Report from Family Engagement Forum, May 19, 2012.”
- Minnesota Department of Education, “State Councils Spring Retreat: April 19, 2012.”
- Latino Corporate Advisory Committee Recommendations to Greater MSP.



**Chicano Latino
Affairs Council**
State of Minnesota

Engaging the Latino community through public service since 1978

**60 Empire Drive, Suite 203
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
www.clac.state.mn.us**