

LULACnews

FALL 2021

IN FOCUS

TIME FOR ACTION

Climate change is a reality facing the world

EDUCATION EQUITY AT A TIME OF CRISIS

EXCLUSIVE

DOMINGO GARCIA

OUR RIGHT TO VOTE ►



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ON THE COVER



14

TIME FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change is a reality facing the world. In order to secure a better future for future generations action needs to be taken, now!

20

EDUCATION EQUITY AT A TIME OF CRISIS

The COVID 19 pandemic has impacted many people, students among the most affected. In support of Hispanic students, LULAC and the Ford Fund have partnered to provide help for students and their families during the pandemic.

26

OUR RIGHT TO VOTE

President Garcia shares a message of strength and hope to those in the Latino community. He calls upon Latinos to help cultivate a “bigger and stronger LULAC.”



CONTENTS

FALL ISSUE

- 8 LET'S PASS THE BRANDON ACT**
In honor of the late Brandon Caserta, his family has launched an initiative for a bill that would change how members of the armed forces receive mental health care. The push to have the bill passes still continues.
- 10 LATINOS FACE DISPROPORTIONATE HEALTH ISSUES**
Latinos, one of the fastest growing populations, are facing a host of various health issues. There are many aspects to look at in regards to the sources of these issues, from insurance, to stigma and machismo. But one thing is very clear: the health of Latinos is a conversation that needs to be had.
- 12 MENTAL HEALTH EFFECTS RACISM HAS ON THE LATINX/HISPANIC COMMUNITY**
Racism is ever prevalent in the country, but what effects does it have on mental health within the Latino community? Latino representation is lacking in mass media.
- 17 THE FIGHT FOR CLEAN AIR**
The looming effects of climate change are coming to fruition, and have been greatly impacting the Latinx community.
- 22 EXEMPLIFYING THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE**
In support of tomorrow's leaders, Verizon has sponsored and hosted the YE2S program, a series of courses specializing in STEM fields. Verizon employees volunteered their time to teach, inspire and encourage young students to strive for excellence.
- 24 THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIPELINE**
A college education is often held as the key to success and prosperity. Change is greatly needed in order for students of color to ensure a better future, by means of improved funding and low-cost tuition.
- 27 TEXAS VOTING LEGISLATION**
The right to vote is under attack in the state of Texas. Voting legislation proposed would severely suppress many Texan voters. Texans can contact their local and state representatives to fight for their rights.
- 28 CAN AMERICA'S SHRINKING MATERNAL LABOR FORCE PERSEVERE?**
The "digital divide" limits the growth and incorporation of our community into the digital framework of our nation. LULAC and AT&T are committed to close this divide and achieve digital equality.
- 30 AIDING IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY**
Many Latinas have taken advantage of the business opportunities offered by changes due to the COVID 19 pandemic. In support of those Latina entrepreneurs, LULAC partnered with the Coca-Cola Foundation to provide resources for those women business owners and owners-to-be.
- 34 BORDER WALL**
LULAC is currently fighting against the border wall initiative. The wall is a costly and detrimental project, and it's resources are better utilized elsewhere. Not only does the wall pose an environmental threat, but the unstable cost could greatly impact taxpayers. While the debate may be over, discussion and action must take place for there to be justice.
- 36 ENVIRONMENTAL / CRIMINAL JUSTICE**
The border wall poses a great environmental threat not only to the United States but Mexico as well. It is a well known fact that the criminal justice system is conditioned against people of color. The language barrier between those incriminated and the legal resources they need is something that needs swift change.
- 40 COLORISM AND LACK OF INCLUSION**
Mass media often features white washing, favoring lighter skinned people of color as well as portraying Latinos in negative light. The time for inclusion is now!
- 42 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**
From leaders such as Jasmin Chavez to Norma Barles, LULAC is proud to see such accomplished Latina leaders. Events including the California Virtual Summit, exciting programs, vaccination clinics, Ford Driving Dreams, and food distribution to name a few have taken place as the pandemic continues.

a message from the LULAC NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Domingo Garcia



DEAR LULAC NEWS READER,

I want to extend my personal welcome and sincere appreciation for your interest in LULAC News. This is one of the premiere ways we highlight and share with you the important achievements being realized daily across the United States and Puerto Rico by our member volunteers.

This year LULAC marks an historic milestone, our 92nd Anniversary advocating for the civil rights of Latino men and women in our country. Yet, many of the same types of challenges and conditions faced by our LULAC members in generations past are being repeated again and we cannot relent in defending our community.

Our theme, “92 Years of Service” is a testament to the proud legacy LULAC has forged through perseverance, courage and integrity in ensuring that the principles enshrined within the Constitution of the United States embrace all Latino men, women, children, and non-binary members within our shores and borders.

I think back to those dark days following the Mexican Revolution when our ancestors living in South Texas were dispossessed of their homes and property, beaten and even lynched simply because they were Americans of Mexican descent. Children were shut out from an education, their parents denied decent work or pay and our community excluded from voting.

Rather than concede, in 1929 our forbearers united in the righteous call to rise up, speak out and hold America accountable. They were patriotic men and women who loved the promise of freedom, liberty and justice for all. So they dedicated themselves to bring about change through our legal system if possible, on the streets and at the centers of political power if necessary. They were emboldened by the spirit of action and service working as volunteers in their states, cities and neighborhoods.

In the decades since, LULAC has improved the lives for tens of millions of Latinos in our nation

including in education, housing, healthcare, employment, public safety and the military. Our victories are many. Among the most recent: polling sites accessible to Latino voters in Dodge City, Kansas, nearly \$1-billion in disaster relief for Puerto Rico, the return of deported U.S. Latino veterans, stopping voter suppression in Texas, waging protests on the border and calling for a Latin America Marshall Plan plus many, many more.

Yes, we have achieved a great deal and yet there is still much more to do. Now, we must endeavor more than ever to involve our millennials, Dreamers and even younger Latinx youths using new ways to inspire, mentor and develop the next generation of LULAC leaders who will continue to champion justice for our community being sure no one is excluded, including our LGBTQ brothers and sisters.

I am very optimistic about our future because we possess the greatest God-given power of all – *ganas*, the sheer will, a deep and unquenchable desire to realize our dreams even when we are told they are impossible or that we are undeserving, unworthy, unfit. The LULAC of today is and must continue to be about action, deeds and service on behalf of our families and our communities – 58,000,000 Latinos!

As we celebrate our 92nd Anniversary, let us remain focused. This work is up to each of us to do. Let's advance the promise of our brothers and sisters who served before us in declaring: "Almighty God, help us defend our liberties and brings us together as one united people, all those gathered from every land, culture and language."

Hasta La Victoria!



“...EMBOLDENED BY
THE SPIRIT OF ACTION
AND SERVICE WORKING
AS VOLUNTEERS IN
THEIR STATES, CITIES
AND NEIGHBORHOODS.”

a message from the CEO

Sindy Benavides



DEAR LULAC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

I am delighted to welcome you to this very special edition of LULAC News. Celebrating our 92nd edition is a great time to also share with you what makes LULAC such a vibrant and vital organization for Latinos in the United States. It is truly each and every member who is the face, the voice, the heart of LULAC. Your energy, compassion and dedication to serve in the community as well as to support the work of LULAC brothers and sisters everywhere is the power of our unity. Local issues and views may at times vary for that is a democracy. Yet, the pledge of every LULAC member to the overarching mission and vision of LULAC is indisputable.

LULAC continues strong through this day, 92 years later, because of the individual members and councils. Each contributes his or her own individual experience and background to create a beautiful tapestry of service. Recent examples include those who participated in the 2021 LULAC Virtual Summit to speak and learn about the great work our councils do across the country. Also, there were LULAC youth and young adults who virtually attended the LULAC Emerge Conference, earlier this year, and learned what it takes to campaign for an elected office. In addition, LULAC celebrated a wonderful Summit for The State of Latino America and coming up this November, our National Women's Conference in New York City, which empowers Latinas throughout the country to be exemplary leaders in their families, communities, and workplaces.

Of course, none of LULAC's work is possible without our Corporate Partners who underwrite many of the most significant programs such as "Ford Driving Dreams". LULAC will continue to lead by adapting to changing times, empowering our community into the future through accessible quality education and the latest technology while also sharing COVID-19 awareness and improving financial literacy. With this, we are engaging our community and growing a movement, one within which there is a place for everyone.

Our LULAC past provides us a proud legacy upon which to build for the next millennium. Let us celebrate that history and challenge ourselves to now set our sights on the future with the 2022 National Convention in Puerto Rico. Our goals are to grow and expand our mission to ensure that LULAC remains relevant to those we serve daily. This is a job neither you nor I can do alone which is why LULAC exists and must endure.

As we arrive at our 92nd National Convention, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, I invite you to join us, get to know your fellow LULAC members, their lives and their experiences. As importantly, we invite you to continue living out the LULAC spirit of service: "All for One, and One for All."

Together We Rise,

“...LEAD BY ADAPTING TO CHANGING TIMES,
EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY INTO
THE FUTURE THROUGH ACCESSIBLE QUALITY
EDUCATION AND THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY
WHILE ALSO SHARING COVID-19 AWARENESS &
IMPROVING FINANCIAL LITERACY.



Let's Pass *the* Brandon Act!

LULAC ADVOCATES FOR MENTAL HEALTH
ASSISTANCE FOR SERVICE MEMBERS

by Saul Leon Dubon

LULAC SUPPORTS THE BRANDON ACT, A

bill which will provide service members access to mental healthcare without having to make it public. The Brandon Act is an initiative from the Caserta family honoring their late son, Brandon. Brandon Caserta was bullied and hazed while he was serving in the United States navy. Brandon expressed his depression to the command but received no help. His friend Patrick, a retired Navy Senior Chief, tried to warn his command but no one listened. After working a long day, he decided to end his life on June 25, 2018 in front of his crewmates and captain. Brandon was not weak, unfit for service or different, Brandon simply needed assistance and support in a critical moment. Brandon had trained hard to join the navy, he was a sports enthusiast and a loving and caring family member.

The death of Brandon should not be in vain. His parents, Terri and Patrick Caserta want to create a long lasting legacy for future generations of armed service members. The Brandon Act H.R. 3942 will amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the process by which a member of the Armed Forces

may be referred for a mental health evaluation. Section 2 of H.R. 3942 establishes that by simply saying "Brandon Act" it would trigger a referral of the member to receive mental health evaluation.

The most important part of the Brandon Act is the anonymity feature. Brandon made his situation public and he did not receive a positive reaction. The Brandon Act carries no repercussions or adverse consequences for armed service members. The nature of the request remains confidential. For the Caserta family, LULAC and the legislators supporting this bill the most important aspect is to save lives. It is no secret that suicide is a problem within the United States armed forces, the purpose of the Brandon Act is to help safeguard armed force members integrity while they seek mental health assistance.

Up until now, the Brandon Act has 10 Co Sponsors, among them are Senator Mark Kelly from Arizona, Rep. Seth Moulton, a retired Marine Corps Veteran from Massachusetts and Rep. Debbie Lesko from Arizona.

Representative Seth Moulton, the bill's author, said: "Every American, especially our heroes in

uniform, deserves mental health support at work. Because of Teri's and Patrick's advocacy, the families of other service members will not have to share their experience. By passing this bill, Congress can empower service members to quickly get help in an emergency as soon as they confide in someone else that they need it. If this were the case for Brandon, he would still be alive today. I will do my part to make sure his legacy lives on through his parents' life-saving bill."

In the same order, Rep. Lesko said: "I am proud to once again be an original cosponsor of the Brandon Act to honor former 8th Congressional District resident, fallen U.S. Navy Petty Officer Third Class Brandon Caserta. It has been a privilege to get to know Brandon's parents, Patrick and Teri, who live in my district and work with them on this important legislation. We must ensure that our service members have access to mental health services without fear of persecution or retaliation."

Finally, in an interview with Arizona Republic Senator Kelly said: "Brandon Caserta killed himself after a sustained period of being bullied and hazed. As you know, we've got a high rate of suicide in the veteran community and active duty. This is a tragic situation. ... In some ways, it's to honor Brandon, but more importantly, legislation like this is intended to save lives in the United States Military."

THE BRANDON ACT FOR THE LATINOS IN THE ARMED FORCES

One of the last census of the armed forces conducted in 2017 by the Pew Research Center showed that the share of minority Armed Forces is 36% Latino members, which makes them the second largest group. LULAC supports the Brandon Act to make a difference with our community. In addition, the share of hispanics in the military is on the rise and hispanics are set to become the largest minority within the United States military.

In addition to explaining the issue of mental health in the armed forces, In a statement to Arizona Republic, Crystal Romero, from LULAC subcommittee chair for military and veteran affairs, said that the purpose is to provide education to the civilian population to understand the problems the military members face.

Crystal is a former platoon sergeant in the Army, retired after 17 years of service. Crystal was the platoon's substance abuse and drug coordinator for command in New Mexico. She had many soldiers asking her if they could be sent to rehab. However, the problem was ignored by her superiors. When she reported them, the military command made her life impossible.


"I was stripped of all of my duties and reassigned to a position that didn't exist," Romero said. "I mean, they locked me out of my office. It was harassment. It was like they wanted to teach me a lesson. That's exactly what they did to Brandon." Crystal told the Arizona Republic.

Crystal also added: "I am the living version of Brandon Caserta, I am a living testament to the retaliation and harassment he faced," Romero said. "I went through that. So, I know the occupational phenomenon that the command can absolutely burn you out, to make you quit. And I see the need for change. The Brandon Act is a step in the right direction."

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

LULAC wants the Brandon Act to pass. We ask you to call your representative and ask them to support the Brandon Act H.R. 3942. The Brandon Act will honor Brandon's life by providing an essential tool for armed service members to access mental health assistance in a moment of crisis.

If you know someone experiencing suicidal thoughts, ask them to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255.

To learn about the Caserta's advocacy visit www.thebrandonact.org 



Latinos Facing Disproportionate Health Issues

by *Elias Choclin*

Latinos across the United States face vastly different health proportions compared to non-hispanic whites over the recent years due to many factors like health insurance, food consumption, and drug use. Despite being the country's largest and fastest-growing minority population, a vast amount of Latinos are uninsured and these issues should be made aware to not only the Latino community, but also policy makers in order to solve these major issues. Health Care Researchers have been perplexed by a contradiction for decades: Despite socioeconomic disadvantages such as low wages and less access to health care coverage, Hispanics live longer and have lower mortality rates from heart disease, cancer, and many other main causes of death than non-Hispanic white inhabitants. There are a variety of explanations for this, including stronger social networks, healthier eating habits, and lower smoking rates among various Hispanic populations, notably newcomers. In spite of having lower rates of cancer and heart disease, 50% of hispanics are likely to develop diabetes over their lifetime and are 50% more likely to die from diabetes than Whites. A major key variable of analyzing health in Latinos is the fact that Latinos come from over 20 different countries so it is difficult to group all of them together since every Latin American country is different from one another.



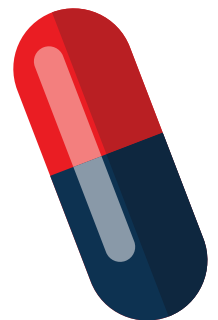
An example of this can be seen in the infant mortality rate in different countries of origin, like in Puerto Ricans that have an infant mortality rate of 7.2 per 1,000 live births compared to whites that is 4.9. However Cubans have a rate of 4.8 and Mexicans have an even lower mortality rate of 3.0 per 1,000.¹ An interesting statistic is that health and health behaviors are worse for Hispanics born in the U.S compared to foreign born Hispanics. A reason why we can see poor health and health behavior in Latinos can be a result of a high uninsured population that is three times more likely to be uninsured than Whites and twice as likely as Blacks. Due to the barriers of care and stigma around behavioral health issues, Hispanics are less likely than white patients to obtain treatment for depression, anxiety, and other behavioral problems. Stress connected to their immigrant status and/or painful events in their native countries are at the foundation of many Hispanic patients' behavioral issues.² According to one research, Hispanic babies born in Iowa in 2008, the year after the largest Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency raid to date, at an Iowa meatpacking factory, were 24% more likely to be born with low birth weight than babies born the year before. The rates increased in both U.S.-born and foreign-born Hispanic women's kids, but not in white women's babies.

Machismo can be defined as a strong sense of “manliness” that comes with the attributes of strength, courage, and even entitlement of dominance. Machismo has created a set standard of what males are supposed to be in a society that is generally patriarchal, which many Latin American countries tend to be. Males have also suffered with machismo with many being affected mentally due to the stigma that all males should be tough and not showing any emotion, including seeking out for mental help. There are clear issues surrounding the overall human health of all Latinos in the United States that have emerged not just from biological issues, but also from political challenges they may face. These issues must be discussed within the local, state, and federal government in order for the creation of change that will uplift the health of all Latinos living in this country. **LN**

If you or someone you know is uninsured, visit <https://www.healthcare.gov/> to apply for federal insurance and get the proper health coverage you need.

¹ Hostetter, Martha, and Sarah Klein. 2018. “In Focus: Identifying and Addressing Health Disparities Among Hispanics.” Advancing Health Equity.

² Hostetter, Martha, and Sarah Klein. 2018. “In Focus: Identifying and Addressing Health Disparities Among Hispanics.” Advancing Health Equity.



Mental Health

Mental Health Effects Racism has on the Latinx/Hispanic Community

by Daniela Aguilar

While racism is clearly an issue across the world and is not a new topic of discussion, the link between it and mental health is not talked about nearly as much or even at all. Racism is a key factor in increasing disparities in mental health among Latinx/Hispanic folks as well as other BIPOC communities. Stereotypes, prejudice, oppression, and microaggressions — everyday subtle comments and actions that can be intentional or unintentional that hold racist impact— all play a part in creating and/or worsening mental health conditions against those targeted by them. Racism, whether in the form of a direct interaction such as a hate crime or on a broader level such as an industry’s structural racism, can lead to several different mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse disorders.¹ These disorders can develop in several different ways. There does not always have to be active racism, just the fear of experiencing racism itself can cause stress and anxiety within an individual. Having a constant fear of racism is not in any way healthy and can lead to even worse consequences in the future. Stress and anxiety can also be created from direct racist interactions. This can take many forms such as in the form of direct insults and slur calling or it can be in the form of thrown microaggressions, such as being held within a stereo-

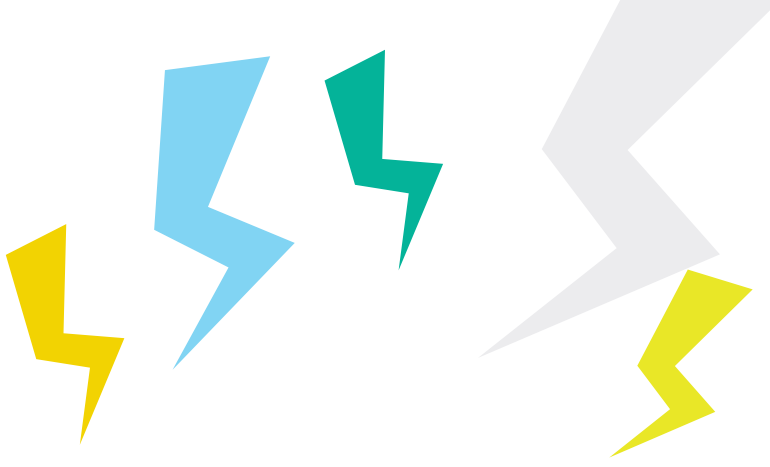
type by others or even racist jokes. These can make individuals uncomfortable, anxious, fearful, and unsafe. Constantly experiencing racism can even lead to self-hatred and internalized racism within individuals. This is extremely harmful and targeted individuals can form depression from constantly being put down by others and by themselves. Lastly, the lack of resources available to Latinx/Hispanics due to oppression they face from structural racism can also be harmful to their mental health. Latinx/Hispanic folks and other BIPOC are not given the same opportunities and treatment as their non-Hispanic white counterparts. This can put them at a disadvantage when looking for work, receiving help and guidance for their health, furthering their education, etc., which, again, contributes to higher stress and anxiety levels.²

In the past, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)³ has taken several actions to address mental health by speaking up about it directly, engaging in conversations around it, and linking resources available for others to learn more about it as well as get help if they need it. LULAC has also supported the expansion of funding for programs focused on mental health and mental disabilities. However, not much has been done to address the connection between racism and mental health until now. Moving forward we will continue advocating for the importance of mental health and against racism, but we will also begin to acknowledge the link between racism and mental health as well as start shining a light on it for the public to learn more about and become more aware. The negative effects racism has on the mental health of the Latinx/Hispanic community will also be addressed in an upcoming campaign LULAC is working on revolving around the microaggressions and hate crimes that the Latinx/Hispanic community faces regularly. **LN**

1 Joanne Lewsley, “The Effects of Racism on Health and Mental Health,” ed. Marney A. White, *Medical News Today*, July 28, 2020, <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/effects-of-racism>.

2 Cecilia Ayón, “Economic, Social, and Health Effects ... - MIGRATIONPOLICY.ORG,” *Migration Policy Institute*, accessed July 29, 2021, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/FCD-Ayon.pdf>.

3 “LULAC,” *LULAC*, accessed July 29, 2021, <https://lulac.org/>.



THE

Climate Change: Time for Climate Action

by Cintia Ortiz
LULAC Environmental Justice Fellow



Climate change is the greatest threat of the twenty-first century. Over the past 50 years, the average global temperature has increased at the fastest rate ever recorded and this rate is projected to accelerate. As climate change persists we will inevitably face its impacts, such as severe weather, extreme heat, air pollution, water pollution, environmental degradation, and forced migration. Climate change disproportionately harms the U.S. Latino population and as such it is critical we advocate for environmental justice solutions.

Latinos and other low-income communities are disproportionately vulnerable to the threat of climate change in comparison to their non-Hispanic white counterparts. According to a 2016 report done by the Natural Resources Defense Council and Voces Verdes, more than 60% of Hispanics live in states that experience the highest amounts of extreme weather, air pollution, flooding, and other climate-related threats such as California, Texas, Florida, and New York. Moreover, Latinos are more likely to experience climate-related impacts at work, they make up almost 50% of the U.S. crop and livestock production workers, jobs that are much more susceptible to extreme heat, air pollution, wildfires, and other environmental hazards. Climate change has also exacerbated the ongoing immigration crisis all over the world, including in the Americas. People from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala are being driven out of their homes as severe weather, droughts, fluctuating temperatures, air pollution, and disasters create havoc in their communities and ecosystems.

Extreme Weather

As mentioned, the impacts of climate change are not evenly distributed in our communities and

economy. Hurricanes have displaced millions in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria, fieldworkers face job and food insecurity due to historic droughts and extreme heat, Latino families have been displaced due to wildfires and flooding. In February, the Texas winter storm left millions without power and clean water. This devastating winter storm unfortunately also took the lives of 210 people due to the widespread power outages.

Equitable Access

Access to clean and safe drinking water continues to be crucial for the Latino community. Millions of people still do not have access to safe, clean, and affordable water, many of which are located in Latino and other vulnerable communities. For example, counties where Latinos make up 25% of the population, water systems violate drinking water contaminations rules are two times the rest of the U.S. Communities living near oil and gas facilities are experiencing disproportionately health effects due to lack of access to clean air as well as additional health risks from toxins in the air. Despite the proximity to power plants, the bottom 20% of wage earners spend 5x as much of their disposable income for heating and cooling their homes. Rising temperatures mean increased energy bills.

Progress under the Biden Administration

Since taking office, the Biden-Harris Administration has made historic efforts to address climate change and environmental justice communities. President Biden has issued several executive orders that declare the climate crisis a national security priority, set a goal to conserve 30% of lands and waters by 2030, commit the U.S. to achieve a carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035, and the Justice 40 Initiative that aims to secure environmental justice communities. After rejoining the Climate Paris Agreement, the U.S. convened world leaders for a climate summit on Earth Day to increase the pace of climate action. LULAC has applauded President Biden's

proposal of the American Jobs Plan that aims to invest in our nation's failing infrastructure, clean energy, water infrastructure, broadband, and the electric grid. The administration has also taken great strides to reinstate over 100 environmental rules that govern clean water, clean air, animals, and toxic chemicals.

LULAC's Commitment

LULAC is committed to fighting climate change and the negative impacts that it inflicts on the U.S. Latino population and other vulnerable communities. Earlier this year, LULAC's national office sent the Biden-Harris Transition Team a set of environmental priorities such as calling for addressing climate migration, investments in renewable energy, green energy jobs for underrepresented communities, and protections for farmworkers. As a part of the State of Latino Summit, LULAC held the panel The Time for Environmental Justice is Now that provided an update on opportunities for community leaders to engage in advocacy efforts. In March, LULAC and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) jointly organized the town hall "21st Century Latino Agenda Prioritizes Climate Action" to explore the policies and strategies that address climate change's disproportionate impact on the Latino community. The town hall has received 29.9K views on Facebook, you can watch it http://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=494783768181252&ref=watch_permalink.

LULAC's past resolutions to address climate change include:

- LULAC and GreenLatinos Stand in Solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
- Resolution to Support the Green New Deal
- Resolution for Indigenous People of America to Protect the Environment and Climate Change
- Resolution Against Carbon & Methane Pollution
- Resolution to Combat Climate Change and Protect Workers
- Resolution to Protect Clean Water
- Resolution in Support of U.S. EPA Clean Power Plan
- Resolution in Support of Clean Water Rule
- In Support of Enforcing the PIT Rule by protecting our NM Environment
- Resolution Protecting the Health of our Communities through the Clean Air Act
- Resolution - Call for Government Mass Production of Hybrid or Environmentally Safe Vehicles and Stop the Effects of Global Warming
- Resolution - Declaration of the Principles of Environmental Justice and Environmental Bill of Rights in Latino Communities in the United States

LULAC will remain committed to advance policies and legislation that address climate change impacts and ensure protections and opportunities for the Latino community. **LN**



Call to Action

Find and contact your elected officials and urge them to protect and pass legislation that addresses climate change.

Engage in state and local efforts that aim to reduce greenhouse gasses, increase access to clean safe drinking water, talk about how climate change affects your community with your friends and family.

Apply for an EPA Environmental Justice Grant with your council to kick off your environmental justice project.

The Fight for Clean Air:

The Latino Community at the Forefront

by Cintia Ortiz

LULAC Environmental Justice Fellow

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown just how damaging air pollution can be to Latinos' health. Air pollution increases our susceptibility to getting the virus and complications due to our high exposure to pollution, underlying health conditions, and lack of access to adequate health care coverage. For example, a 2020 study from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry found that an increase in exposure to hazardous air pollutants was linked to a 9% increase in death among COVID-19 patients. As of April 2021, Latinos are 2 times more likely to contract COVID-19, 3 times more likely to be hospitalized from COVID-19, and 2.3 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than our non-Hispanic white counterparts. The pandemic has made it crystal clear that communities of color bear the burdens of the 21st century. Climate change exacerbated by air pollution is slowly killing our black and brown communities.

The Leading Air Pollutants & Effects

Air pollutants come in distinct shapes and sizes and harm human health and the environment in

different ways. The major air pollutants of today are ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, toxic air pollutants, and greenhouse gases.

Ozone can be found in the upper atmosphere (stratosphere) where it functions as a protective layer against harmful ultraviolet rays. However, ozone at the ground level (troposphere) poses serious health problems such as pneumonia, asthma attacks, and decreased lung function. Latinos and children are more vulnerable to these risks. Ozone pollution is created when nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, and sunlight mix. Nitrogen oxides are released with the burning of gasoline, coal, and other fossil fuels.

Particulate Matter pollution (PM) is made up of extremely small particles and liquid droplets including acids such as nitrates and sulfates, organic chemicals, metals, and soil or dust particles. PM poses serious health threats to the heart and lungs as it can cause asthma attacks, respiratory problems, and even death.

Carbon Monoxide and Nitrogen Dioxide are released from the burning of fossil fuels. Carbon Monoxides are mostly released by vehicle en-

gines burning fossil fuels. Exposure to this pollutant can cause dizziness, tiredness, and even death. High levels of exposure to nitrogen dioxide can increase an individual's receptiveness to respiratory infections, shortness of breath, and coughs.

Sulfur Dioxide comes from the burning of coal, oil power plants, and factories. This pollutant can complicate breathing for individuals with asthma, irritate the human body such as the nose, eyes, and throat.

Toxic Air Pollutants such as arsenic, asbestos, and benzene come from different sources but can be linked to causing cancer, birth defects, and breathing complications. Many of the toxic air pollutants come from fossil fuels and chemical plants or building materials.

Greenhouse Gasses such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide trap heat in the atmosphere causing the planet to get warmer. Climate change will increasingly cause severe weather, extreme heat, air pollution, water pollution, environmental degradation, and forced migration. This will increase heat-related illnesses, asthma, malnutrition, fatalities, and mental health impacts.

Geography of Latinos & Pollution

Latinos are more vulnerable to the health impacts of air pollution given the geographical risk of where they live, work, go to school, and play. Communities living near oil and gas facilities are experiencing disproportionate health effects due to lack of clean air, as well as, additional health risks from toxins in the air. Latino communities are more likely to bear the burden of serious health risks caused by air pollution from coal plants or oil

and gas facilities. More than 1.78 million Latinos, live in areas where toxic air pollution from oil and gas facilities is so high that the cancer risk due to this industry alone exceeds EPA's level of concern. Occupations such as agriculture, construction, and landscaping, where Latinos are over-represented, are vulnerable to increased risk of exposure to contaminated air and increasing temperatures associated with uncontrolled carbon pollution. Latinos have higher rates of commuting in high-density areas, living near energy plants, and working with hazardous chemicals all of which raise an individual's susceptibility to air pollution

and COVID-19. Latinos are also 165% more likely to live in counties with unhealthy levels of particulate matter pollution. Additionally, 1.81 million Latino individuals live within a half-mile of an oil or gas facility, with increased exposure to pollutants at a cost to their health from oil and gas air pollution. These factors

contribute to Latinos' relatively high asthma rates. For example, over 3.6 million Latinos in the U.S. suffer from asthma, Latinos are also twice as likely to visit an emergency room for asthma, and Latino children are twice as likely to die from asthma compared to their white counterparts.

Health Care

Latino populations in the U.S lack equal access to health resources and care. Greater risk of exposure to pollutants and lack of equal access compounds the burden on historically underserved Latino communities. This health disparity, a difference in health that is closely linked with social or economic dis-

Climate change is a reality facing the entirety of the world. In order to secure a better future for not only the world, but the Latino community, action needs to be taken.

advantages, impacts the overall health and quality of life for Latino families. Economic disparities combined with lower access to health care coverage poses a challenge to the survival and resilience of these communities by increasing these health threats from air pollution into an increased health burden on Latino communities.

Key Statistics

Latinos are less likely to receive proper asthma medication, have access to an asthma specialist, and are far less likely to receive follow-up care after an asthma emergency.

More than 40% of Americans, over 135 million people are living in places with unhealthy levels of ozone or particulate pollution.

People of color are over three times more likely to be breathing the most polluted air than white people.

Hispanics have the highest uninsured rates of any racial or ethnic group. In 2019, 50.1 % of Hispanics had private insurance coverage compared to 74.7% non-Hispanic whites.

Latinos Care

Given the impacts, it is no wonder that Latinos support immediate action on climate and air pollution. Young people in particular are committed and energized to ensure elected officials address the climate crisis, create a racially just economy, and build a clean energy future.

A March 2020 poll found that 78% of Latino voters expressed that they have personally experienced the impacts of climate change.

Additionally, 86% of respondents said they are more likely to support a candidate who invests in clean energy than a candidate who wants to expand oil drilling.

In a 2015 poll, 59% of Latinos believed that the U.S would improve economic growth and create new jobs if stronger environmental laws were enacted.

85% of Latinos also believed it was extremely important or very important to reduce smog and air pollution.

The Clean Air Act

In 2011, LULAC passed the Resolution Protecting the Health of our Communities through the Clean Air Act. The Clean Air Act is a fundamental federal law protecting those who live in the U.S. from interstate and intrastate air pollution. This legislation has led to environmental and public health benefits across the U.S. Since 1990, there has been approximately a 50% decline in emissions of key air pollutants, translating to a reduction in air pollution and preventing hundreds of thousands of cases of serious health effects each year. Given the attacks of the previous administration on the Clean Air Act, it is important to continue to protect the Clean Air Act to reduce emissions that are harmful to Latinos of all ages and opposes any effort to loosen its regulations placed on coal, oil, or gas facilities in the United States. **LN**



Call to Action

Find and contact your elected officials and urge them to protect the Clean Air Act to reduce emissions that are harmful to Latinos of all ages and oppose any effort to loosen regulations placed on coal, oil, or gas facilities in the United States.

Demand the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reinforce and enhance the Clean Air Act's regulations, efforts, and programs.

Engage in state and local efforts that aim to reduce air pollution and or push back on any efforts that attack the health and longevity of your community.



EDUCATION EQUITY AT A TIME OF CRISIS

by Melissa Cossio,
Community & Workforce Development Program Manager

Education has commonly been deemed the key to success and the pathway to a better future. However, communities of color have historically faced increased barriers to accessing quality education. Some of the most common barriers faced include high levels of poverty as well as low funding for schools resulting in lack of qualified teachers, extracurricular activities, and STEAM enrichment programs, resulting in, overcrowded classrooms. The fight for education equity has never been more critical as we address the long-term impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and develop a plan for recovery.

Students have been among the most impacted by the pandemic through the disruption in their education, increased stresses around them, and uncertainties from a situation they may not fully understand. School closures and a transition

to online learning has brought to the forefront many of the challenges to accessing education that were already present in Hispanic communities. Globally, over 1.2 billion students in over 186 countries were affected by school closures. Across the country students dealt with a lack of access to the technology and broadband necessary to participate in virtual classes as well as losses in family income which led to some older students dropping out of school to support their families financially.

LULAC and Ford Motor Company Fund's shared commitment to advancing the educational attainment and opportunities for the Hispanic community is exemplified through their efforts to increase their support for students during the challenging times brought on by the pandemic. For more than 10 years, the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program has provided academic support



▲ *Left page: Ford Driving Dreams Grants program students learn about environmental sustainability while volunteering to clean up the ocean coast. Top Left: Ford Driving Dreams Grants program students come together to participate in virtual programming. Top Right: Ford Driving Dreams Grants program students celebrate their high school graduation.*

and STEM-enrichment activities to keep students engaged in learning, increase high school graduation rates, and promote higher education.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, LULAC and Ford Fund pivoted their efforts to assist students and families in the ways they needed most. The Ford Driving Dreams COVID-19 Response Grants awarded 40 grants to LULAC councils in 13 states to provide direct COVID-19 relief. Initiatives aimed to provide relief efforts focused on educational support, access to technology, hunger relief, general and mental health coaching. Through these initiatives, councils helped families meet their basic needs and reached over 28,651 beneficiaries.

Throughout the COVID-19 health crisis, the mental health of students has become a top concern for educators, who oftentimes don't have the adequate resources to meet their needs. In response, the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program is increasing support for the mental health and wellbeing of students.

The Ford Driving Dreams Mental Health & Well-being Grants seek to bridge the gap in access to mental health resources for high school students and their families to support their educational

efforts and promote overall well-being. Nine LULAC councils in the Ford Driving Dreams Network are each hosting three professional-led mental health sessions tailored to different recipients; one parent session, one student session, and one family session. Sessions are intended to address the mental health challenges faced by students and their loved ones and provide guidance for developing coping strategies and a support system.

As LULAC and Ford Fund prepare to kick off the next Ford Driving Dreams Grants program cycle in 2022, they will continue to address the greatest needs among students and their families. The incoming cycle will feature a program model with a stronger focus on STEAM enrichment, college readiness, non-traditional paths to higher education, workforce preparedness, entrepreneurship, and mental health. The Ford Driving Dreams Grants program will continue to create localized strategies to best support student's education as well as incorporate efforts aimed at long-term recovery for communities most impacted by the pandemic. **LN**

Learn more at LULAC.org/ford.

Exemplifying the Spirit of Service

by **Melissa Cossio**,
*Community & Workforce Development
Program Manager*

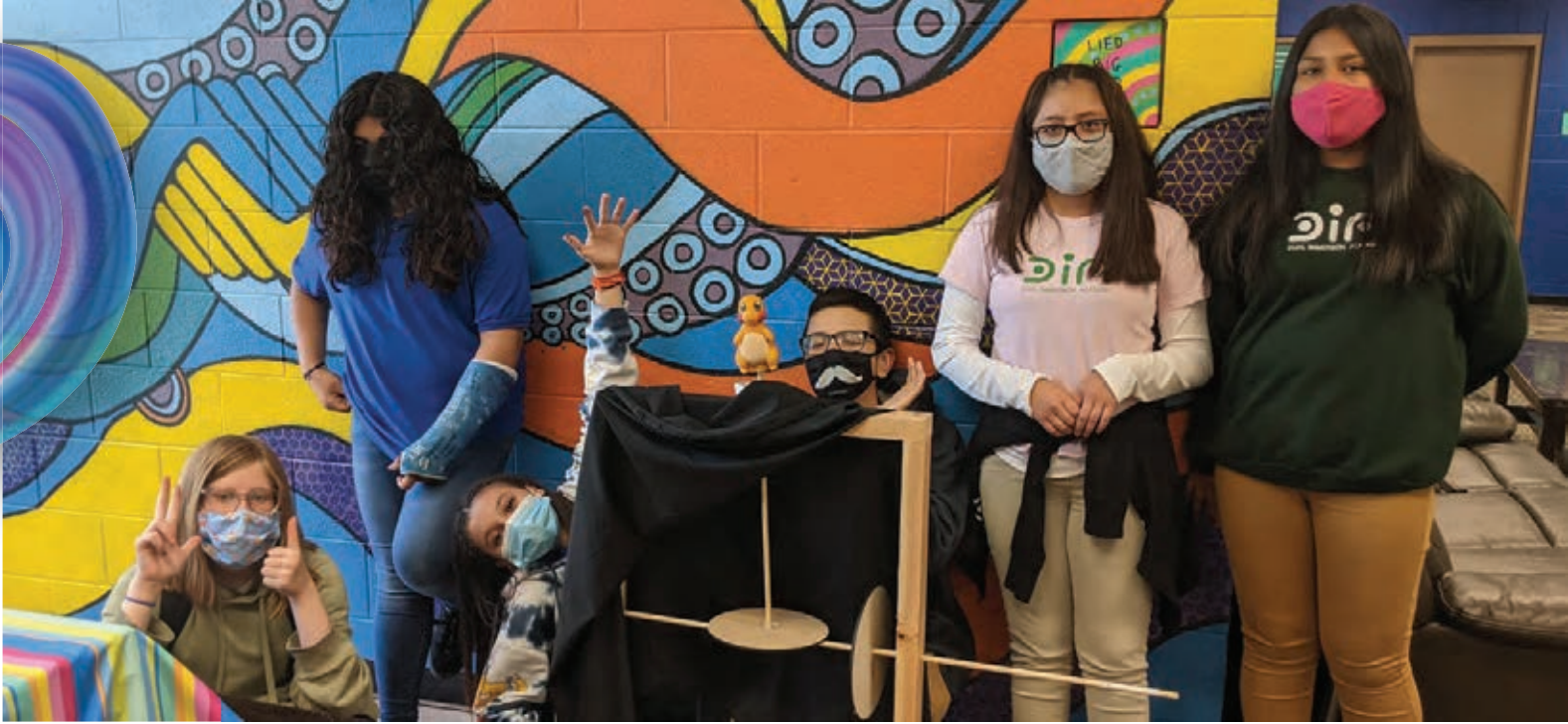


LULAC & VERIZON ARE WORKING TO EMPOWER

the next generation of leaders and elevate the representation of the Latino community in STEAM careers. Through Verizon's support of the Youth Educational Enrichment Series (YE²S) program, Verizon's network of employees is serving as volunteers with LULAC to lead the way and serve as role models for youth across the country.

The YE²S program is an online webinar series for middle and high school students. The program's curriculum features STEAM-focused workshops, mentorship, academic and career guidance, social innovation, and leadership development. The 2020–2021 YE²S program pilot cycle featured seven (7) LULAC councils and partner organizations from California, Indiana, Puerto Rico, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin. Over 90 students were engaged for more than 240 contact hours which were administered through the various program activities.

Thanks to the generous time donated by Verizon Volunteers, students were able to participate in monthly webinars designed by Verizon leaders who shared



▲ *Both Photos: Youth Educational Enrichment Series program students participate in a STEM workshop to build cardboard moving sculptures (automatas)*

their expertise in the areas of college readiness, leadership development, social innovation and creative thinking, and career planning. Additionally, Verizon Volunteers served as mentors for students in the program, a much needed effort at a time of great uncertainty and social isolation due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The mentorship sessions helped students increase their self-confidence, develop their professional skills, and build a system of support.

“Thanks to the Youth Educational Enrichment Series program, I have met a community who is going through the same experiences as me. The program has allowed me to gain more leadership experience and learn how I can help my community,” states Paola, a student participant.


Throughout the mentoring sessions, mentors helped students explore different career paths, polish their resumes, and prepare through mock interviews.

“One of the most successful achievements of the program was self-realization. One of the students became more open-minded to careers like those in the medical field after watching a webinar and talking to a mentor about it,” shares Amanda, YE²S Program

Coordinator, “the biggest way students were impacted by the program is probably the exposure to different career fields, and learning how to self-reflect and talk about themselves in professional, positive ways.”

Verizon employees also volunteered to advance the professional development of students by creating short videos in which they shared their professional journeys as well as advice to succeed in the workforce. Students in the YE²S program as well as college-aged students were able to learn from volunteers’ lived experiences and became empowered to follow their own dreams.

“I was inspired to volunteer with LULAC because I wanted to inspire young Latinos and Latinas to strive to be their best self,” shares one volunteer.

As we approach Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the incredible stories of Verizon employees who exemplify the spirit of service. To continue to inspire our youth, LULAC is working closely with volunteers to collect professional profiles that will be shared with students with the aim of inspiring them to follow their dreams. 

To learn more about the Youth Educational Enrichment Series program, visit LULAC.org/yees.

THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIPELINE:

Latinos in Community College Need Funding Now



by *Juliana Oliveira*

In April 2021, President Biden proposed a federal free community college plan as part of his \$1.8 trillion American Families Plan. For some, this is a triumph in the higher education arena because of how underfunded and under-resourced community college campuses have become over the last couple of decades. However, critics worry that coming out of a recession that has negatively impacted enrollment is not an appropriate time for community colleges to receive funding. According to EdSource, Latinx students comprise 45% of the California Community College system. In conclusion, LULAC should

consider providing their full support in ensuring higher education equity, particularly because of how many Latinx students utilize the community college route.


Firstly, there have been divisive claims instilled by diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) advocates. Some DEI supporters claim that a large number of students of color drop out of community college. Hence, four-year universities should be better funded, especially minority serving institutions (MSIs.) MSIs should receive recognition for supporting BIPOC students, but not at the expense of defunding community colleges. Community colleges are critical to empowering students who were shut out by K-12 systems by providing flexible program offerings, diverse campuses, and opportunities to return to school (Foundation for California Community Colleges). These are some of the many ways working class people can be reskilled to fit the ever changing needs of the job markets and find oppor-



tunities to gain human capital. According to the New York Times, there is also \$39 billion in spending for MSIs, which means that discourse that detracts from the improvement of community colleges should be avoided. There are a lot of reasons why Americans should be proud of the community college system, which is why failing to fund them adequately perpetuates tokenization among our communities.

There is also data to demonstrate the persistence spending gaps between community colleges and other state universities. At one point, California Community Colleges received \$5,000 per student, whereas other systems of higher education received almost \$23,000 per student (Public Policy Institute of California). Although data indicates that community college systems do receive more funding because of Proposition 98, other branches of higher education have the flexibility to raise tuition to meet their financial needs. After funding cuts, UC and CSU tuition tripled, which negatively impacts first-generation and low-income students who can not afford higher education (Public Policy Institute of California). Without federal funding, it means that there are few funding sources left for community colleges to support students through basic needs efforts, hiring more professional staff, and more. For example, California community colleges failed to increase the full-time

faculty ratio because of growing higher education costs which prevents students from accessing one-on-one support (CalMatters). Biden's American Families Plan acknowledges the systemic underfunding that the community college systems across the nation have faced, which impacts student success.

While the American Families Plan has already been signed into law, there are always other key pieces of legislation to track so that the funding from this plan adequately supports students. For example, in California alone, AB 417 – a bill to establish a pathways program for formerly incarcerated students in the community college system – is currently being read in the assembly (California Teachers Association). This bill would be one of the most flexible ways for California to achieve social justice by helping formerly incarcerated students access low-cost and high quality education. Outside of the policy arena, now more than ever, professionals should consider mentoring and empowering former community college students. Members should critically examine how Latinx advocacy and non-profit organizations support community college students, specifically when it comes to scholarships. Are only graduating seniors being awarded scholarships? Are you ensuring that community college students are receiving comparable networking, financial aid, and other opportunities? Lastly, it is important to correct community college bias and stigma which has perpetuated the disinvestment throughout the system. Stereotyping community college students to be academically inferior, dropouts, and lazy contribute to how these systems are supported in our communities. Furthermore, it also intersects into other stereotypes of marginalized communities who are more often than not attending a community college. 

Our Right to Vote

by Domingo Garcia,
LULAC National President



DEAR LULAC FAMILIA,

This year, LULAC has found many challenges and opportunities. We must continue the fight for social justice and equality that began in 1929. This year, we have seen a record number of laws passed to restrict and limit Latinos and African Americans' right to vote.

The U.S. Census Bureau released data that shows that Latinos in the United States and Puerto Rico are now over 62 million. The Latino population makes up a dramatic component of national population growth such that one out of every four Americans under the age of 18 is a Latino.

La Familia se cuida, we must take care of our Latino-American family. Porque la familia se cuida, LULAC has filed suits against voter suppression laws in Texas, Florida, Georgia, and Iowa.

In September of this year, LULAC won a great victory in Franklin County, Washington, requiring single-member districts to create Latino opportunities, commission districts. LULAC asks all of our members to get involved in the redistricting process at your local state and national level. Political empowerment leads to economic empowerment. We need to help Jose and Maria at the barrio street level. We need to help these familias with their children's education, the ability to buy a home, start a business, and run and win political offices. Con ganas todo se puede!

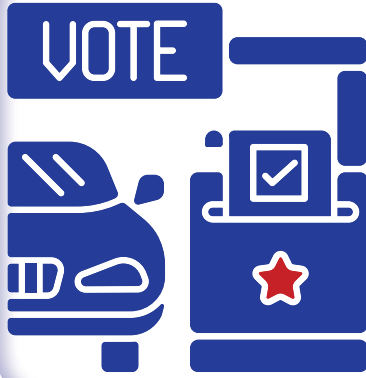
So as I finish my third year in office, I ask to help build a bigger and stronger LULAC. We will and are

the spearhead of the most significant movement in social justice and equality in America. However, we must grow our membership, the number of councils, and mentor our youth.

I was proud to march as the only Latino with Martin Luther King III and other civil rights leaders to pass a new national voting rights act. I have visited and marched with dreamers and immigrants for immigration reform. I established an education committee to move and improve the quality of education for our students. LULAC started "Head Start," and we can do more in the years ahead. I am proud to have pushed the campaign to elect former Raiders Coach Tom Flores to the NFL Hall of Fame, the first Latinos there. We made a campaign to name the next Lunar rocket after former NASA engineer Arturo Campos, who saved the Apollo 13 crew.

We are fighting hard to rename Fort Hood after Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, America's first four-star Mexican American general. We are fighting hard to rename Fort Bragg in honor of Sergeant Roy Benavidez, who was awarded the Medal of Honor.

As President John F. Kennedy did in 1960, I challenge you not to ask what LULAC can do for you, but what you can do for LULAC, your community, your family, and our country. So, raza pónganse las pillias! Let's unite and get to work to make the pledge of allegiance an actual reality, a country with liberty and justice for ALL. Hasta la Victoria! **LN**




Texas Voting Legislation

by *Elias Choclin*

Texas is currently under the microscope and it looks that a voting bill will be passed that will result in voter suppression for many Texans. It is important for Texans and people around the United States to realize that this is a major issue that will need to be fixed by reaching out to local organizations and elected officials.

Well what policy does this bill actually incorporate? The center of all the comotion surrounds Harris County, Texas largest populated county in the State of nearly 5 million people. Harris county offered a variety of voting methods last year, including drive-thru voting, mail-in voting and ample amount of time for in person voting. With Harris county having its largest voter turnout in decades and trending more democrat, Texas republicans looked into changing voting laws that would severely impact the county. The new voting legislation would ban all drive-thru voting in the county, which was a method used by thousands of Harris county residents. The legislation also would ban 24 hour voting centers, which would impact many voters who are not able to vote during regular voting hours that are usually open when many people are working. This ban would severely restrict voter turnout with many voters not being able to pick and choose their hours or not able to take off from work. Many citizens in the county are negatively impacted by this law due to needing to work in order to provide for themselves

and their family. Texas republicans are using their majority power in the House to pass restrictive voting laws in order to prevent the county from leaning towards democrats in elections. Governor of Texas, Gregg Abbott, has stated that the house democrats that fled the state would be arrested once they set foot back in Texas. The governor has been outspoken on this issue, stating that whether the house democrats return or not, he will call a special session either way until this voting legislation is passed. Not only are house democrats upset about this legislation, but so are the people of Harris county who rely on these voting methods that are in danger of being banned. Each day, more people are in favor of house democrats breaking quorum so that Harris county voting rights would be protected. At the same time, republican support is decreasing as moderate voters are leaning more towards the support of Texas democrats due to the same reasoning of voter suppression.

The following weeks will be pivotal for Texas voting rights as we will see what will happen in the fight for voting protection that is currently at risk from being passed into law. It is crucial that what is going on in Texas is being displayed to the rest of the United States so it can be shown that voter suppression is a real threat to our constitutional right to vote. In order to fight for voting rights, it is important to reach out to local and state officials, which can be found at <https://www.texastribune.org/directory/>. There are also many organizations fighting against this bill like the ACLU, where you can support at <https://www.aclutx.org/en/issues/voting-rights>. 



Can America's Shrinking Maternal Labor Force Persevere?

by Juliana Oliveira

According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, only 19% of workers in the United States have access to paid family leave. The Trump Administration attempted to address the lack of available paid family leave opportunities by implementing unpaid family leave for federal employees. For many Americans, it is limited for who was able to access this opportunity; many federal employees could not afford to maximize unpaid leave. In a growing number of other in-

dustrialized countries around the world, paid family leave is required of employees, regardless of gender, sector, or job. As communities call for the Biden Administration to combat growing socioeconomic inequality, many wonder why paid family leave has not already been at the forefront of the policy arena. LULAC should support paid family leave because it decreases poverty among working mothers, shrinks the gender pay gap, and improves health outcomes for young children.

Paid family leave has been a policy mechanism championed by western European countries, which have resulted in numerous positive impacts. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, mothers who take paid time off are better able to recuperate, are at less risk of quitting their job, and

have more time to care for their baby's health. For example, by providing mothers with an adequate leave, studies have found that women are more likely to breastfeed their children, which boosts protection against infectious diseases (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities). From a public health perspective, paid maternity leave decreases the United States' high infant mortality rate by about 20%, which would positively impact mothers of color (Moms Rising). While Latinx households do not have the highest infant mortality rate, they have stayed on par with the national average, which concerns public health officials (Petersen Center on Healthcare). Without paid family leave, this issue may continue to persist in Latinx communities.

Paid family leave is also expected to remedy the large pay gaps that women of color face, who oftentimes work in low-paying jobs that provide more flexibility for raising a family (Bipartisan Policy Center). Oftentimes these were jobs in the human service sector without college degrees and economic stability, which include retail, farmworkers, and factory operators. Coupled with the notable exodus of women of color from the labor force during the COVID-19 crisis, policymakers have faced pressure to fix the fallout. According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, Latina women experienced the largest job losses with the smallest return. In addition to working in unstable jobs, many child-care centers and schools closed suddenly, which forced working mothers to quit or reduce their hours to support their children through their education. Hence, the lack of federal coordination to ensure mothers were supported during the pandemic further aggravated persistent inequalities.

Women of color have not been traditionally considered for promotions and some even feel pressured to turn them down after beginning their families (Bipartisan Policy Center). Paid family leave would prevent some of these consequences from occurring by creating a safe manner to return to work. In Sweden, providing family leave for their employees has

particularly boosted morale among fathers, who feel more inclined to take time off and encourage their wives to return to work (NPR). Furthermore, paid family leave provides an easier way to juggle childcare by ensuring their partners are active in the process and saving on external childcare costs. Finally, because paid family leave would hold both genders accountable for child-rearing, women in high-risk and high-earning careers such as STEM and business would feel less pressured to exit (Bipartisan Policy Center). As a result, this policy mechanism could boost diversity in the labor force, which would then improve wage disparities commonly seen among women of color. It is necessary to note that without providing both parents with paid family leave opportunities, LGBTQIA+ identifying parents and cis-males are neglected. Essentially, empowering women through this policy does not mean solely focusing on improving their experiences as a mother.

In the past, LULAC has pushed federal entities to consider paid family leave, such as the FAMILY Act of 2017. Now more than ever should LULAC continue to recognize the disparities that Latinx workers faced, particularly among women of color. One of the new bills advocating for paid family leave is called the FAMILY Act of 2021, which was authored by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro [D-CT-3] and Senator Kristen Gillibrand [D-NY]. LULAC members must pressure their representatives to pass this bill, which currently sits on the desks of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance. Members can also follow other campaigns such as Moms Rising, Paid Leave for the United States, and Paid Leave for All, which aim to achieve paid family and medical leave for workers. In conclusion, the Biden Administration promised to guarantee 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave during his campaign. Therefore, it is pertinent that LULAC members push the administration to adhere to their campaign promises, especially since paid family leave is vital to the advancement of our communities. **LN**

Aiding in Economic Recovery: Establishing Latina Entrepreneurs in America

by Priscilla Garcia,
Economic Empowerment Program Coordinator



Throughout 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic affected industries throughout the U.S. economy and many jobs were eliminated due to businesses downsizing or closing altogether. Many Americans found themselves newly unemployed or underemployed and needed to find alternate ways to provide for their families. Many people found themselves creating small businesses out of necessity. According to Forbes, Latinos saw a 43% decrease in household income in 2020.

According to the National Women's Business Council, there has been an 87% increase in the amount of Latina owned businesses in America since 2007. As of 2019, there are almost 13 million women-owned businesses in the U.S; but Latina women only make up 2.3 million (18%) of those es-

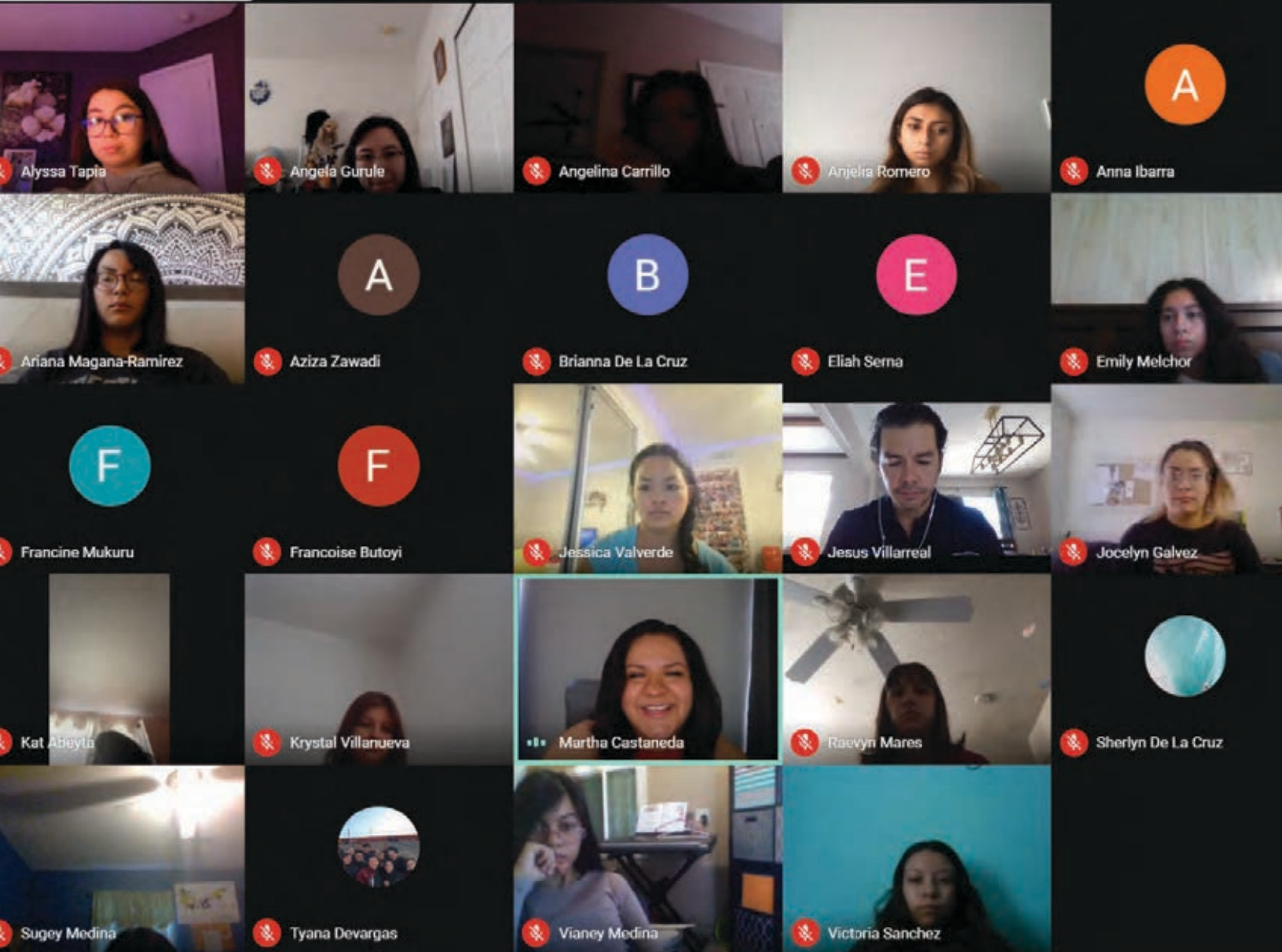
tablished businesses. In order to help Latina entrepreneurs become successful in their fields, they need the tools necessary on how to run successful and sustainable businesses. As LULAC aids in propelling Latinos across the country to recover from the pandemic, we also aim to help those who are seizing the opportunity to establish businesses and aid in stimulating the economy by jumpstarting growth through inclusive financing and mentoring.

In 2021, The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), in partnership with The Coca-Cola Foundation awarded 6 new sites in the first phase of the Latina Entrepreneur Academy (LEA). LEA provides disadvantaged women the skills and resources necessary to be successful entrepreneurs. Studies show that since 2013, one out



◀ *LEA 2018 participant completion graduation ceremony.*





▲ *Top: In 2020, Program Coordinator Jesus Villareal, hosts the LEA participants for a virtual entrepreneurial workshop.*

of every ten women-owned businesses are Latina-owned. The academy will provide a series of informational sessions on various topics related to establishing and sustaining a small business: how to build a business plan, budgeting, marketing, networking, enhancing investor strategies, etc, that will better prepare women entering the business arena. Through this initiative, LULAC hopes to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit and provide support to driven Latinas who seek to launch and/or expand business endeavors.

LEA is currently in its third year of programming. Since its inception, LEA has grown tremendously.

With so many young Latina entrepreneurs wanting to participate, the program has had to introduce a second phase to meet the needs of so many willing contenders that will take new applications in the Spring of 2022.

A total of 655 Latina entrepreneurs have participated in its 14 academies. At the end of the academy the participants are given the opportunity to compete in a competition amongst their peers for a chance to win some seed money to establish their small businesses. Since the first competition in 2018, the following businesses have been awarded a total of \$6,000 to help them succeed as a small business.

This year our first cohort will consist of 6 sites in Phoenix, AZ, Stockton, CA, Houston, TX, Odessa, TX, Columbia, MD and Vancouver, WA.

2021 LEA AWARDEES

Chicanos Por la Causa, Inc. - Phoenix, AZ

CPLC Prestamos is dedicated to the increase of women entrepreneurs and their ability to access entrepreneurship programs and access to capital. Their vision is to empower 45 Latinas through their participation in LULAC Latino Leadership Academy, to help them gain equitable access to leadership development and business skills training, networking and knowledge of available resources that will motivate and inspire them to start their own business or scale up their existing business operations.

The Catholic Council for the Spanish Speaking of the Diocese of Stockton (dba El Concilio) - Stockton, CA

Founded in 1968 and an affiliate of UnidosUS, El Concilio is the largest Latinx-led, non-profit, community-based agency in California's Central Valley. Its mission is "to uplift and advocate for the diverse low-income, minority, and marginalized communities of California by providing and creating access to crucial social services and resources." Financial literacy classes are a focus for the agency, which are primarily attended by women. El Concilio has been a part of three past LEA academies in 2017, 2018 and 2020.

LULAC Council 2123 and Focus on You Inc. - Houston, TX

LULAC Council #2123 focus is to support Latinos in the areas of civil rights, economic empowerment, women's equity, LGBTQ advocacy. They provide citizenship clinics, education and civil rights advocacy via Radio, and monthly Women's educational and empowerment programs in collaboration with Focus On You, Inc.

ALAS, Always Learn and Survive - Odessa, TX


ALAS aims to empower youth and women by giving them leadership skills that will enable them to

make a difference in their communities and overcome obstacles through personal growth. LEA will provide the resources necessary for women's growth personally and professionally. Their goals are to provide support, education, and resources to empower women of all walks of life to a better version of themselves through conferences, workshops, community partnerships, coaching, mentoring, and one-one case evaluation. This program will provide access to organization leaders, tools, resources, and partnerships that would improve their potential to succeed.

El Poder de Ser Mujer - Columbia, MD

For more than seven years El Poder De Ser Mujer has created spaces where Latina women learn skills, get inspiration to improve their capabilities and learn about community resources available to them. The LULAC initiative will allow us to build on this experience, continue to refine our model, and inspire and guide more Latina entrepreneurs. The LULAC Women's Empowerment Initiative will help to continue providing comprehensive training for aspiring Latina entrepreneurs and to equip them with the tools they need to develop their skills as entrepreneurs.

SWWA LULAC Council 47013 - Vancouver, WA

Council 47013's mission is the achievement of their communities' access to education, health and wellness, income equity and financial success in whatever form that needs to be in. Women owned businesses are the least likely to be recognized in SW Washington and for that SWWA LULAC plans to make their voices more powerful. To do so is to increase their support systems in ways this program is designed for. 

To learn more visit www.lulac.org/academy.



BORDER WALL

by Jackie Martinez

A border wall is not only very costly, but it is also bound to affect lots of surrounding cities and communities as well as the surrounding ecosystems that live along the border. The border wall in Texas will especially be detrimental since the border communities and wildlife depend on the Rio Grande river for their water source. The border wall will also endanger the ties between the United States and Mexico. With varying issues, there is bound to be a lot of backlash and threats of lawsuits due to the border wall impeding on people's homes and on the environment and wildlife. Another issue to consider is on how the wall is going to be paid for, which Governor Abbott had mentioned that he will use \$250 million as a down payment from

state money and crowdsourced financing for the barriers. While it has been reported that building the wall in Texas in portions will cost \$26.5 million per mile, the Biden Administration had stated that the building of the wall cost taxpayers \$46 million per mile in some areas. It is not clear where the rest of the money will come from, but the wall is bound to run into other obstacles as well, like going to court challenged by the federal government.

The border wall controversy is far from over. Governor Abbott is pushing for the construction of the wall to continue on the U.S.-Mexico border, which will be paid for with taxpayer money rather than that money being spent on other pressing issues in the state of Texas, such as improving the electric grid that failed

many people during the winter storm back in February. Meanwhile, other plans Abbott has are for migrants to be arrested and detained upon arrival at the border even if seeking asylum legally or refugees who are escaping their home countries from violence, corruption, and/or death and wanting to make a better life for themselves. Governor Abbott had even ordered a prison unit to be emptied out for all immigrants to be arrested. Along with state police from Texas monitoring the borders under orders by Abbott, there are other red-state governors from South Dakota, Florida, Arkansas, Ohio, Iowa, and Nebraska who have sent reinforcements, including the national guard, in achieving the border security that they believe Biden is failing to address the border crisis.

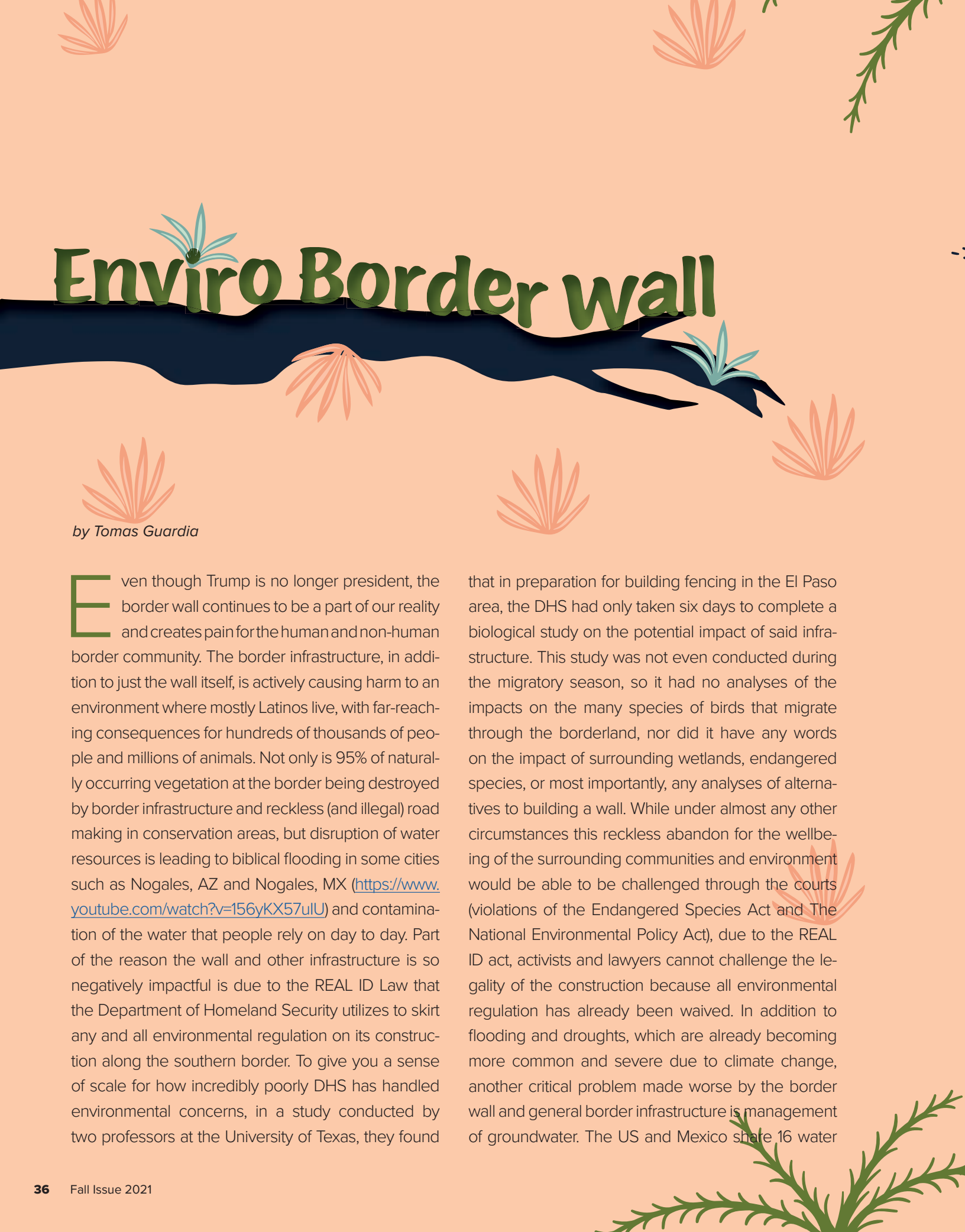
**...THERE NEEDS TO
BE *continuous*
action & awareness
on the issue UNTIL
the border wall is
FULLY PUT TO REST.**

LULAC's counter attacks to Governor Abbott's proposals and orders on creating a border wall in the U.S.-Mexico border and the arresting of immigrants led to public statements condemning Abbott's ideas where LULAC planned to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on arresting and detaining families and children that are seeking asylum or refuge in the U.S. in a prison unit by a state governor and state police. LULAC

also plans on asking President Biden to help Hispanic citizens that are being illegally profiled on the border by sending federal troops to address the issue. A letter has been sent to the White House by LULAC demanding for governors to stop from sending reinforcements or assistance in securing the Texas border; in which, it also mentions in the letter that states policing borders on their own accord is an act of rebellion and must be stopped. On another note, a public statement was made by LULAC to address the Texas Governor's actions as a waste of taxpayer dollars and are likely illegal. Lastly, "LULAC is considering filing an injunction against Governor Abbott for his abuse of power, and using refugee children as political piñatas to cynically launch his run for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination."

In the event of lowering the amount of immigrants that cross-over illegally to the United States, there are other options as to where to distribute the money to, such as immigration reform and programs while opening up the conversation to immigrants that have gone through or are going through the process of legally claiming asylum. On the other hand, a LULAC statement on executive orders on border wall and sanctuary cities states that investing the taxpayer dollars from the border wall to be used for "cost-effective law enforcement

methods and collaborating on enforcement with the Mexican government." Even though the border wall is not official yet, there are options and plans in place in case it does go through where LULAC has "threatened to sue the state of Texas as soon as Abbott finalizes his plan for the border wall." As the border wall is an ongoing issue, there needs to be continuous action and awareness on the issue until the border wall is fully put to rest. **LN**



Enviro Border wall

by Tomas Guardia

Even though Trump is no longer president, the border wall continues to be a part of our reality and creates pain for the human and non-human border community. The border infrastructure, in addition to just the wall itself, is actively causing harm to an environment where mostly Latinos live, with far-reaching consequences for hundreds of thousands of people and millions of animals. Not only is 95% of naturally occurring vegetation at the border being destroyed by border infrastructure and reckless (and illegal) road making in conservation areas, but disruption of water resources is leading to biblical flooding in some cities such as Nogales, AZ and Nogales, MX (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=156yKX57ulU>) and contamination of the water that people rely on day to day. Part of the reason the wall and other infrastructure is so negatively impactful is due to the REAL ID Law that the Department of Homeland Security utilizes to skirt any and all environmental regulation on its construction along the southern border. To give you a sense of scale for how incredibly poorly DHS has handled environmental concerns, in a study conducted by two professors at the University of Texas, they found

that in preparation for building fencing in the El Paso area, the DHS had only taken six days to complete a biological study on the potential impact of said infrastructure. This study was not even conducted during the migratory season, so it had no analyses of the impacts on the many species of birds that migrate through the borderland, nor did it have any words on the impact of surrounding wetlands, endangered species, or most importantly, any analyses of alternatives to building a wall. While under almost any other circumstances this reckless abandon for the wellbeing of the surrounding communities and environment would be able to be challenged through the courts (violations of the Endangered Species Act and The National Environmental Policy Act), due to the REAL ID act, activists and lawyers cannot challenge the legality of the construction because all environmental regulation has already been waived. In addition to flooding and droughts, which are already becoming more common and severe due to climate change, another critical problem made worse by the border wall and general border infrastructure is management of groundwater. The US and Mexico share 16 water



basins and without proper management, these crucial resources could be depleted and contaminated. Due to the lack of any environmental regulation, it is hard to say what the exact effect on groundwater the wall is having, but even a skeptic could guess that it is unlikely that the wall is having a positive or neutral effect on water resources. In addition, the expansion of the border is outpacing environmental infrastructure, for example, while millions of dollars are poured into the wall project, more than 1 in 10 residents of border communities do not have access to safe drinking water and more than half lack access to a water treatment plant. While the border wall has been shown to not be a deterrent for illegal crossings, but instead just pushed undocumented migrants to progressively more dangerous points of entry, this money being wasted could be put to better use providing essential services for these Latino communities who bear the heavy burden of this recklessness. Call on your representatives today to see what they are doing about ensuring basic access to water and protection of the environment for the border communities. **LN**

Criminal Justice



by Tomas Guardia

Many people know that the criminal justice system is broken and particularly disproportionately affects the Black community. While this is true, it is also true that Hispanic people in the US also receive harsher punishments than non-hispanic whites and are disproportionately incarcerated compared to national averages. In addition to general inequality, there are problems that are specifically harmful to the Latino community, one in particular being the problems faced by those who speak limited or no English. In Lupe Salinas' book, *U.S. Latinos and Criminal Injustice*, she states that appellate courts have described trials involving people who speak little to no English as "incomprehensible rituals, guaranteed



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**ANSWERS ARE
IN ALL OF US**




Juana





confusion, and a babble of voices.” While there is no explicit right to an interpreter in any US law, every American, regardless of citizenship status, has the constitutional right to understand what is going on in their trial. However, this right is frequently ignored and denied by judges and juries, and Spanish speakers end up confused, which can lead to a number of critical misunderstandings in a courtroom. Similarly, many lawyers do not speak Spanish and this can deprive a Spanish speaker of their rights to legal counsel, because if they cannot be understood by their counsel, there is very little that the lawyer can do for them. Even when lawyers are bilingual, this, quite counterintuitively, can be a hindrance to a Spanish speaker’s defense because when a lawyer is bilingual judges and juries often expect the lawyer to translate word for word what is going on to their client and do not see the need for an interpreter. When this is the case, the lawyer has a much more difficult time objecting to the prosecution because they are trying to translate especially complicated legal words, phrases, and frameworks, for their client at the same time. Personally, I also work in the Dutchess County Public Defender’s office in New York where this language barrier is very apparent. As an intern, I am one of the two people who speak Spanish in the entire office (the only

other being another intern) so when lawyers need help communicating to a client they frequently come to me. Oftentimes there is no one in the office that speaks Spanish which means that an interpreter program must be used, and in another court I worked in there were only a few specific days when a court interpreter was available. One example of the importance of interpretation was when the other Spanish-speaking intern at the court found an error in translation that led to a man, who was otherwise going to jail, walking free. These minute details can be the difference between months or years of prison, which can have long-lasting traumatic effects and lead to further criminal behavior, and a life of freedom and positive impact on the community. In addition to Criminal court, these services are similarly vital in Family court. It’s incredibly important to be able to understand precisely what is going on in a household and where there are problems when bringing a family case to court, and oftentimes Spanish-speaking resources that are already spread thin are just as lacking in Family court. Get to know your local courts and see if they have interpreters and Spanish-speaking staff available for clients who need them, and if they don’t, get in contact with your local government representatives and see why there aren’t. 



Colorism & Lack of Inclusion

WITHIN THE LATINX/HISPANIC COMMUNITY

by Daniela Aguilar

Racism. Colorism. Prejudice. Bias. All are quite commonly used when speaking about the struggles minorities and marginalized communities face. While there is no doubt that there is a definite connection there, the racism, colorism, prejudice, and bias that exists within these communities is often left out of the conversation. While it is definitely not a new, unearthing revelation, the recently released American film, *In the Heights*, caused a lot of controversy over its contribution to the exclusion of Afro-Latinx folks, the blatant display of colorism in the film, and its distinct misrepresentation. The film is based on Washington Heights, a neighborhood in New York City, New York which is predominately made up of an Afro-Latinx population. The backlash the film faced came from the fact that the cast was mostly made up of white-passing and lighter-skinned Latinx, which did not represent the actual neighborhood and its inhabitants at all.¹ While *In the Heights* did have a lot of great themes and addressed important topics, there is no denying that it really shined a light on the prevalent colorism within the Latinx/Hispanic community.

1 Jasmine Haywood, "In the Heights Exemplified the Ugly Colorism I've Experienced in Latinx Communities," Vox, June 18, 2021, <https://www.vox.com/first-person/2021/6/18/22537351/in-the-heights-lin-manuel-miranda-colorism>.



Colorism and lack of inclusion within the Latinx community have been going on for a long time. There is a clear bias towards lighter-skinned folks. The media is a great example of this. Colorism is evident in telenovelas, for example, as lead roles are often given to lighter, “white-passing” actors and actresses, while those who identify as Afro-Latinx, Indigenous Latinx or those who are not necessarily Afro-Latinx but still noticeably darker tend to get minor roles or those of “the help.”² This oppressive habit of the media is extremely harmful and creates a false representation of these groups. It creates a negative association between darker Latinx and inferiority while it gives lighter Latinx an association with superiority. This all feeds back into the communities prejudices and biases that dominate its culture and ideologies.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)³ has not addressed the bias and racism that is rampant within the Latinx/Hispanic community until now. This is a clear issue that needs to be spoken about and advocated for. Moving forward, there are several actions that can be taken to address a call for change. First and foremost, the fact that there is colorism and racism within our community needs to be acknowledged and addressed by the community in order to begin to advocate for change. Then colorist behavior needs to be called out and brought to attention. Ignoring the problem and denying it will not make it go away. There needs to be a collective acceptance that this is an issue in order to actively work to fix it. More Afro-Latinx voices, content, and accomplishments need to be celebrated, supported, and elevated. They are the ones most affected by this and they need to be a part of the conversation. Having these conversations and acknowledging this problem is long overdue, but it is time to take action now.

2 Abatistaschool, “Colorism and the ‘Patriarchal Patterns of Desire’ in Telenovelas,” RTF Gender and Media Culture, July 1, 2019, <https://rtfgenderandmediaculture.wordpress.com/2019/06/29/colorism-and-the-patriarchal-patterns-of-desire-in-telenovelas/>.


3 “LULAC,” LULAC, accessed July 29, 2021, <https://lulac.org/>.

California LULAC Virtual Summit

by Council CA

California LULAC held its first Virtual Summit of the West in partnership with the LULAC Veterans of Southern California. This four-day series of events consisted of Youth/Young Adult issues, Veterans Issues, and Women's Empowerment. This event was live-streamed on our California LULAC Facebook page. An analysis of the event demonstrated that we held a Facebook Reach of 5100 individuals and had 600+ engagements. The summit served as an opportunity to educate the Latinx community on critical public policy issues, including education, diversity, criminal justice reform legislation, health, and other subjects.

SAVING OUR VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS - YA BASTA! ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

THE DEATH OF VANESSA GUILLEN, the Investigation of Fort Hood, the failure of Military leadership to engage and take timely action, preventing suicide in the Military, and I am Vanessa Guillen Act are the subjects of major focus and purpose of the discussions during the 2021 LULAC Summit Veterans Recognition Day Program. The event will be presented on Friday 14 May 2021 BETWEEN 10:00 am to 3:10 pm. The Veterans committee has gathered expert speakers, such as Congresswoman Julia Brownley; Col (R) Lisa Carrington Firmin, Military Advisor University of Texas at San Antonio; Stephanie Stone, Chief Deputy Director Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, USN Retired and others with skills, knowledge, background and experience in addressing sexual violence, harassment, and suicide in the military. Join them, as they discuss options for holding military leadership accountable and for taking actions against military members that violate women and men in the service. 





▲ Top: Immigration Workshop Bottom: CTA President Toby Boyd Introduces our Youth and Young Adult Program



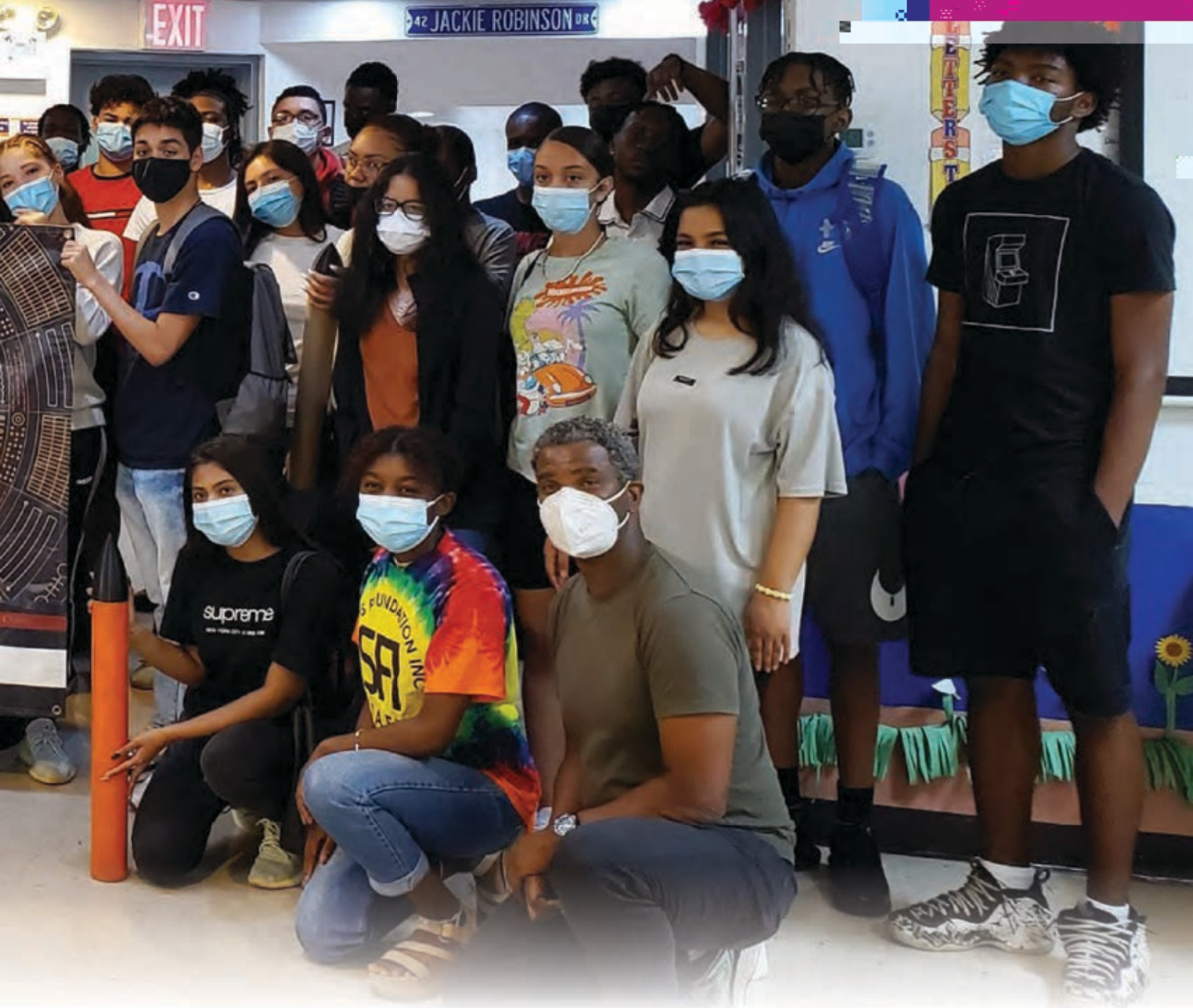
FORD DRIVING DREAMS

by Juan Carlos Lizardi,
Council 23101, Bronx NY

Council 23101 in the Bronx has seen its share of sadness during the pandemic, as many have in the Latino community, but the smiles and possibilities of the children we have supported and mentored have made the work that we do in the community all worthwhile.

Thanks to Ford, Joe Avila and the Ford Driving Dreams summer program we are able to teach 110 children from the ages of 7-21 STEM.

Our children explore mechanics by creating models that show how structures are made and interact with the natural world. Students research structures, design and build structures and tested theories. Participants also write reports after each section.



These interactions:

- Increase their understanding in math and science classes
- Exposes them to Engineers and College engineering students
- Develops their critical thinking based on the Scientific Method
- Increases their awareness and interest in STEM-related careers

Our students also gain skills in Problem-Solving, Leadership and Teamwork, Statistics, Creativity,

Argumentation/Critical Analysis, Intellectual Curiosity, Data-Driven Decision-Making and Flexibility.

We teach our students all of this in a Drug Free environment emphasizing in Prevention and Strengthening Families.

“During this time of uncertainty we need safe spaces for our children to learn, explore and feel loved. I am proud of LULAC and the commitment we have to our community, they need us now more than ever,” Juan Carlos Lizardi Deputy Director LULAC NY & President of Council 23101. **LN**



by Council 19 AZ

Joe Campos






◀ *Isidro Garza, Jr. and Martha, Johnny Mata LULAC Council #19, Johnnie Torres (nephew), Gracie Saenz and Al Castillo, LULAC Council 60, Janie Torres (sister), Rafael Pantoja (Captain HPD), Richard Molina (nephew).*

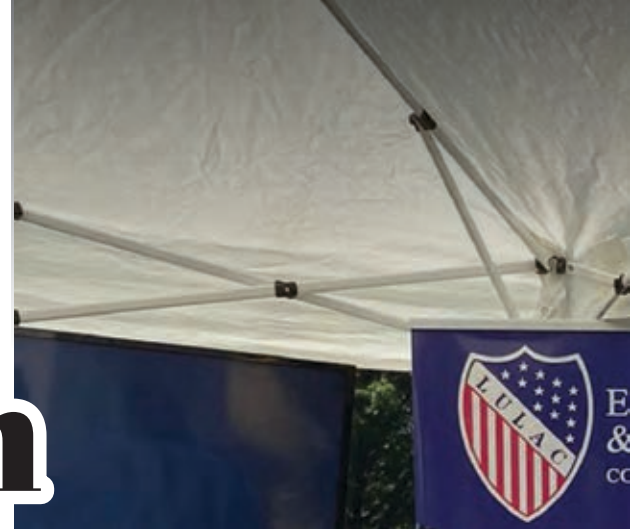
ON MAY 5TH 1977, VETERAN JOSE “JOE” Campos Torres was murdered by 6 Houston Policemen. Upon responding to a disturbance at a local bar in the barrio, police arrested Joe. On route to the jail, they stop, get him out of the car and give him a whipping. Later, while walking him to jail they continue to inflict bodily harm to the point that the jailer would not accept him into the jail for how badly he had been beaten. The officers took him out, handcuffed, and threw him into Buffalo Bayou just outside of the jail where his skull was cracked and, days later, was found dead.

When the officers were tried, the sentence for their atrocity was one dollar fine and 30 day

probation. On Cinco de Mayo 1978, LULAC, under the direction of President Ruben Bonilla, Johnny Mata, Mamie Garcia and others, a 60,000 people march took place closing downtown Houston wearing a dollar bill signifying the value of a Mexican American Veteran in our American judicial system.

After 44 years of persistent, relentless, dedication by family, on Memorial Day 2021 Mayor Sylvester Turner and Police Chief Troy Finner finally issued an informal apology at the gravesite, and later a formal apology by Chief Finner to Margaret Torres (mother) and family. These events were facilitated by Council 60 and Johnny Mata LULAC Council #19. 

NY Food Distribution



by Council 23055

LULAC NY and Councils 23055, 23195, 231916, and 23198 led successful grassroots campaigns to register Latino voters alongside various local organizations and city representatives in Brooklyn, Queens, Westchester. We also worked with SUN Sustainable United neighborhood, Bushwick Generator and local elected officials to feed half of million households (around 1'500,000 New Yorkers) from North Brooklyn.

In response to COVID-19 vaccination efforts, LULAC Council 23055, had partnering with Dominican Consulate in New York, Brooklyn College Graduate Center for Education and Dominican USA Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with one Community Associate from the Mayor's Office of Immigrants Affairs in New York, reaching out community members through door-to-door, pharmacies and local stores flyer and posters distribution with the collaboration of the Consulate General of the Dominican Republic in New York, and during the Dominican Taste Festival tabling posters and flyers provided from LULAC National regarding health awareness and vaccine registration and walk-in vaccine with a health Department van located at E 175 Street to, E Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY, Walter Gladwin Park (Tremont Park.) 



▲ *Top: Jay Solly from Sustainable United Neighborhood (SUN), LULAC Council Members, NYC Senator Julia Salazar, and community organizers. Bottom: (L to R) Congresswoman Nidia Velasquez, Carlos Torres from LULAC Council 23195, Anny Cordero from LULAC Council 12198, Sylvia Mata from LULAC Council 23055, Council member Anrtonio Reynoso, and two community organizers.*

Vaccination Event

by Mari Alvarado,
Education Chair & Deputy State Director for the Elderly

On June 22nd, LULAC of Arizona was a community partner with Walgreens and Arvizu Promotions in association with ONE COMMUNITY to offer COVID-19 vaccinations. The vaccinations were free to anyone 12 years and older with no pre-registration or ID requirements. The CLINIC was from 2 to 8 p.m. and the location was inside the PHOENIX CHRISTOWN/SPECTRUM MALL This mall was selected due to low percentages of adult vaccinations. After checking in, the persons were guided to the bus in the parking lot next to Harkins Theaters. As a partner, LULAC of Arizona was asked to disseminate information in English and Spanish on our distribution lists and all social media platforms as well as Spanish language media.

Also, we were provided a LULAC table inside near the entrance of the sign-in area and next to the Starbucks table. We distributed the prestigious “Hola Tucson” magazines, LULAC Question and Answer Flyers, first aid kits, pens, and treats. We entered all LULAC applicants into a \$50.00 visa drawing. Other tables who provided information and give-a-ways were the Village Medical Clinics, Walgreens, AZ Department of Health Services, and the Maricopa County Department of Public

Services. Music was provided by DJ Stixx. LULAC North Phoenix Council #1083 President Bonnie Alvarado was on hand to welcome participants and spoke with other sponsors at their tables. Food was provided by one of the partners. It was a wonderful experience!

Our amazing volunteers who worked 2-hr shifts were Bonnie, Martha, Jose, Maria, Johnny, Rosa, Cindy and Ray Martinez and Alexia who made prior phone calls to council presidents.

We had a surprise visit from the Mayor, the Honorable Kate Gallego, and our Director of Publicity, Johnny, was on hand to capture the images. Over 34 images were later posted on Super Events Shows and District 1 Facebook.

For more information:

email Supereventsshows@yahoo.com or call 623-377-2001 or me at 623-872-9327.

MUCHISIMAS GRACIAS Dr. Arnold for collaborating with National LULAC to make this one of the most exciting events that I have been honored to coordinate.

When is the next one? 📺

▼ **Bottom Left:** (L to R) Mari Alvarado, Sandra Caraveo and Rosa MacAfee at LULAC table wearing “Remember El Paso” and “One Million Latinas Strong” T-shirts. **Bottom Right:** (L to R) Jose and Maria Chavez, members of Council #1088 and Bonnie Alvarado (Council 1083 President & Mari Alvarado (1083) – Coordinator of the Walgreens, LULAC Mobile Unit COVID-19 Vaccination event in Phoenix at the Christown/Spectrum Mall.



LULAC LEADERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Jasmine Chavez

by Jasmin Chavez,
Virginia LULAC State Director

My mother loves recalling the moment when we almost missed our flight to come to the United States. I was two at the time and was excited to embark on my first plane ride. There was a point when my father grabbed my hand and told me to run with him while my mother carried my sister behind us in her arms. We were halfway there when my father let go of my hand and told me to run toward the plane. From a distance, my parents were overcome by what they were witnessing: their daughter running toward a new life. Even though none of us truly knew what lay ahead, in that fleeting moment my parents felt an immense amount of hope.

Thanks to my supportive parents, I have been able to run toward so much more since our plane landed in the United States. I came to this country 22 years ago with my parents from El Salvador. We fled our country to be free of gang violence. My identity as an immigrant from El Salvador has defined the woman that I have become and the work that I currently do and hope to continue doing in the community.

I grew up in a low-income, predominantly immigrant community. I constantly saw fear in my community due to immigration statuses. It was around this time in my life that I decided that I wanted to be an advocate for immigrant's rights. At the age of 16, I began lobbying with the Virginia Coalition Of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO) and have not stopped since. When I reflect on my lobbying experiences, I realize that I probably didn't change the minds of my elected officials, but I did change some hearts. I also joined LULAC around this time and was able to go to the nation's capital to talk to my elected officials about issues that matter to my community. This is where my journey with LULAC began. I went from lobbying to creating my own collegiate council at McDaniel College, to serving as president for three years, then serving as the Deputy Director for Virginia LULAC. Fast forward to December 2020, one of my dreams came true. I was appointed the State Director for Virginia LULAC. With my state board, we built Virginia LULAC's infrastructure and most recently, hosted our very first Viva Cultura! A Celebration of Latinx Arts & Culture event at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. I am incredibly thankful for my Virginia LULAC familia and I can't wait to see what more Virginia



▲ *Jasmin Chavez, VA LULAC State Director, at Virginia LULAC's first Viva Cultura! A Celebration of Latinx Arts & Culture event at the Kennedy Center, July 15-17, 2021*

LULAC accomplishes in the coming years. I am also excited to continue chasing my dreams at the University of Virginia's Frank Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy to pursue my Master's of Public Policy starting fall 2022. I continue running towards my goals because I want to make this world a better place for our community and I am thankful that I can do that with my family at LULAC. **LN**



President of Riverside

by Council 3190

Norma Barles, Council 3190 and a copy of her presentation delivered to the Riverside City council on 30 July defending Riverside City Council members that were attacked for speaking out against the America First Rally. The state director, Jose Barrera, wrote a letter to each city requesting that they reconsider hosting the event at their venue. Norma Barles did a lot of behind the scenes work to alerting and rallying LULAC members and the community to fight the America First rally. She and other community leaders were already making plans to protest the event before it was announced that the America First rally was cancelled. Norma was just elected in February 2021 as the president of Riverside council 3274. In the short period since her election to the president's positions, she has shown the courage and determination to stand up, represent and defend the latino community. She is reflective of the type of role models that LULAC needs promote to attract the younger generations of LULACers. **LN**



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05/2021

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