



**THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE HISPANIC LATINO COALITION OF LOUISVILLE.**

## Hispanic/Latino Health Fair: June 19th

## Support The Dream Act



What is the DREAM ACT? In short, if passed the DREAM Act gives individuals who meet the requirements a path to citizenship through military service or college that they currently have no hope for. "Supporters of the DREAM Act believe it is vital not only to the people who would benefit from it, but also the United States as a whole. It would give an opportunity to undocumented immigrant students who have been living in the U.S. since they were young, a chance to contribute back to the country that has given so much to them and a chance to utilize their hard earned education and talents." (From [www.dreamact.info](http://www.dreamact.info))

The Hispanic Latino Coalition of Louisville will host its annual Health Fair on, Saturday, June 19, 2010, and will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Americana Community Center. The theme is "The Circle of Health": focusing on the Physical, Mental, Spiritual, and Social holistic family.

Come and enjoy a full complement of health and wellness events, including: health screenings-glucose and cholesterol; blood pressure; vision screenings; bone density; pre-cancer screenings; pulmonary function screening; dental; and HIV. There will be four workshops and approximately 50 booth exhibits.

The Health Fair is free to all participants. Exhibitors may register via the HLC website: [hlcoulouisville.org](http://hlcoulouisville.org). We hope you will stop by to check out this exciting, valuable event.

For more information, contact Tom Gurucharri, Health Fair Chairperson, at (502) 499-0421 via email at [tgurucharri@centropastoral.com](mailto:tgurucharri@centropastoral.com) or by accessing the HLC website at <http://hlcoulouisville.org>.

What is the status of the bill? The DREAM Act was introduced 3/26/09 and is currently under review in the judiciary committees of both the House and the Senate. Current predictions indicate the DREAM Act (S. 729 in the Senate or H.R. 1751 in the House) is short 8 votes in the Senate to reach the necessary 60 votes to pass. Both Indiana senators support this bill, however we do not have information on how our representatives are planning to vote.

- What can we do? 3 easy things!
1. Educate yourself and others. Go to [www.dreamact.info](http://www.dreamact.info) to learn about this important legislation and sign up for the mailing list to be notified of upcoming events or legislative activity.
  2. Contact your House Representative asking them to support HR 1751. Thank your senator for supporting S 729! Ask your friends and family in unfriendly states to contact their representatives. Contact information is available at [www.dreamact.info](http://www.dreamact.info).
  3. Support the cause by signing a petition on [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) or making a donation at [www.dreamact.info](http://www.dreamact.info)

**MAY 2010**

**NO. 2**

Hispanic/ Latino Coalition Meetings at the Americana Community Center  
4801 Southside Drive,  
Louisville, KY 40214

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# Hispanic Latino Coalition Supports New Latino Scholarships Program at University of Louisville

During the Hispanic Latino Coalition's board meeting in April, the Executive Board voted to allocate a minimum of \$250 to U of L's new Scholarship Fund for Hispanic and Latino youth. As part of the vote, the HLC is also asking its members to match the \$250 or to exceed that match by year end 2010.

**MISSION** – To empower Hispanic/Latino(a)s to achieve Higher Education at the University of Louisville and create an environment in which they can enrich their lives and the community.

**BACKGROUND** – The University of Louisville Cultural Center in collaboration with the Vice Provost for Diversity and Equality, the Admissions Office, the Latin American and Latino Studies Program, other members of the University of Louisville community and the leaders of the Hispanic/Latino community in Metro Louisville are working to develop and create a scholarship program for Hispanic/Latino(a) students in order to help finance their Higher Education. Members of our community consistently say that financing higher education is the most significant deterrent to seeking a post-secondary degree. The scholarship is one part of a larger initiative to intentionally recruit, retain and graduate Hispanic/Latino(a) students from the University of Louisville.

## FACTS

- In Kentucky, the Hispanic population accounted for 2 percent of the population in 2006. Of the 85,900 Hispanics in Kentucky in 2006, 57,700 (67 percent) arrived since 1996.
- In 2007 Hispanic/Latino(a)s comprise about 2.6% of the Louisville community.
- Hispanic/Latino(a)s comprises less than 2% of the undergraduate population of the University of Louisville.
- Some of those who are on campus feel left out or disenfranchised due to low representation.
- There are very few Hispanic/Latino(a) mentors for students on campus.
- Hispanic/Latino(a)s are the fastest growing under-represented group in this and many other communities. We must provide support for these students and help facilitate a meaningful experience that culminates in their successful graduation.

The University of Louisville is in the process of creating a website for this initiative that will help you and our future students know what this program is doing and what resources are available to them. For more information please contact the U of L Cultural Center at the number below:

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# Hispanic Scholarship Fund provides opportunities, among others



According to the 2008-2009 Princeton Review on America's institutes of higher learning, the Latino community has a significant number of college students who have dropped out or were unable to begin attending because of financial obstacles, limited resources and a greater occurrence of their parents not able to assist in the cost of sending their children to college. Most of these potential students settle for minimum-waged jobs, or worse, work in some illegal operation. If you belong to the Hispanic sector, you surely know either first-hand or through a personal account how hard life can be for Latinos who failed to finish college or receive a degree.

But the Hispanic Scholarship Fund is trying to change all that by giving college education opportunities to people who deserve to be in college. It is not new that there are many students of Hispanic origin who excel academically and possess natural aptitude for business and leadership. But these qualities go to waste because they lack the chance to really hone themselves in college.

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund aims to change all that. One of their well known programs is their partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Together, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund offers the Gates Millennium Scholar program to outstanding Hispanic students who have shown academic flair as well as leadership potential and who have come from low-income families.

Aside from the Gates Millennium Scholars program, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund has joined forces with other private institutions in order to provide more scholarships to students of the Hispanic community. Among the known initiatives include the ExxonMobil Scholarship, the Atrisco Heritage Foundation Scholarship, and the Wells Fargo Scholarship.

If you think you qualify, then do not be afraid to give college scholarships a try. College education is something you should strive for and achieve if you want to have a better life and future ahead. Other resources of scholarships include the popular scholarship search engine, Fastweb.com, local Rotary clubs and community-based minority organizations.



## Resources to Assist in Advocacy Efforts for the Office of Immigration

### Who We Are

The Office of Immigration Issues, located in the Office of the General Assembly, was created upon a resolution passed at the 216th General Assembly (2004) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Julia A. Thorne was hired in July 2005 as Manager of Immigration Issues/ Immigration Counsel. She communicates with middle governing bodies, PC (USA) entities and ecumenical agencies on immigration issues and policies. She also provides regular updates, reliable advice and counsel to presbyteries and pastors whose members have immigration questions or issues.

### The Office of Immigration Issues will:

- Develop legal materials that help our middle governing bodies and sessions receive and welcome into our faith communities people from other cultures and ethnicities.
- Make available on the PC (USA) Web site appropriate linkages and information on reliable immigration services so that congregations, middle governing bodies and individuals have the latest information regarding these issues.
- Identify resources for pastoral care with immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, detainees, and others in our communities with immigration issues.
- Chair an Immigration Staff Team (IMTAB). The team is a point of coordination for all ministry work and immigration advocacy related to racial ethnic and immigrant church growth and evangelism so that work that now crosses divisional lines can be better coordinated and focused in support of the Racial Ethnic/Immigrant Evangelism and Church Growth Strategy approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998).
- Resource national staff regarding immigration issues.
- Network and refer Middle Governing Bodies and PC (USA) Churches to agencies, organizations and legal counsel that can deal effectively with immigration issues.
- Consult with the members of the Advisory Committee on Litigation (ACL) in the areas of immigration and asylum federal law.
- Advocate for the reform of current immigration law, policies and procedures as outlined in the Resolution passed at the 216th General Assembly (2004).

## Report shows low confidence, high exposure among Hispanics in the criminal justice system

The Pew center recently conducted two nationwide surveys, revealing that Latino's confidence in the criminal justice system is on the low end, closer to the views of the black population than the high confidence exposed by many whites. The April 7th report found out that 61% of Hispanics show confidence in the criminal justice system, compared to 78% of whites and 55% of blacks. However, under half of all Hispanics believe that police officers will treat their minority group fairly.

Coincidentally, the study revealed that in recent times more Hispanics have found themselves in jail. Over half of all Hispanics say they or an immediate family member have had contact with the criminal justice system within the last five years. This includes reporting a crime to the police, serving on a jury, serving as a sworn witness in court, attending court on a criminal matter, being questioned by the police, being arrested, being on probation or parole, or serving time in jail or prison.

These high involvement findings somewhat interfere with the lower confidence levels implied by the surveys. The study also found that 78% of Hispanics say that if they were a victim of a violent crime, they would definitely report to the police.

Though this makes confidence in the system blurred, the facts are clear: a higher percentage of the Hispanic population is winding up in prison and much can be said about the unfairness and discrimination among the criminal justice system that is hindering the confidence of the very people that should be able to depend on its protection.

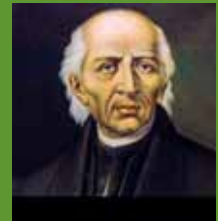
For more information online at [www.pcusa.org/immigration](http://www.pcusa.org/immigration) or you may Call toll-free at 1-888-728-7228

# MEXICO HAS TWO 2010 CELEBRATIONS:

## *Celebrating 200 Years of Mexican Independence (1810 – 2010)*

Mexico's Independence Day celebrates the events and people that eventually resulted in Mexico's Independence from Spain.

Respected Mexican Catholic Priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla made a monumental decision that revolutionized the course of Mexican History! He organized the poor indigenous Indians and mixed Mestizo groups to take up arms against the privileged classes of Spanish descent. In the early hours of September 16, 1810, Hidalgo rang the church bell to call them into a violent and bloody battle for freedom from Spain.



## *Honoring 100 Years Since the Mexican Revolution (1910 – 2010)*

In 1910, a new generation of young leaders arose who deserved the right to participate in the political life of their Country. However, they were denied by the officials, including then-President Porfirio Diaz, who were already entrenched in power.

Francisco I. Madero, a firm supporter of Democracy, was imprisoned in San Luis Potosi by the Government. Eventually, he was forced to flee into exile in the United States. Madero, the self-proclaimed "President Pro-Temp" of Mexico, instigated an uprising, led by Francisco "Pancho" Villa, Emiliano Zapata and Pascual Orozco, marking the beginning of the Mexican Revolution!

