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Special Edition of La Prensa for Lazo Cultural

La Fiesta del 'South of the Border'

Por Claudia Annoni, La Prensa



El Festival South of the Border se llevó a cabo el 10 y 11 de agosto del 2012, en la localidad de Perrysburg Heights, en Ohio. Aunque el clima lluvioso del viernes pudo hacer un impacto en la asistencia, no hizo un impacto en la calidad. El evento se largó con lluvia pero con mucha energía y espíritu.

La Sra. Anita Serda, una de las organizadoras de este evento, declaró que "Es excitante saber que nuestro evento atrae personas de todo Estados Unidos. Este año tuvimos gente que vino desde Colorado, Florida, New Jersey, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Texas y de todas partes de Ohio!

El propósito es reunir fondos para apoyar los programas que se ofrecen y los costos que acarrear. El los últimos años fue un verdadero reto por la economía y por el clima. Esperamos que podamos revertir las cosas de manera que no tengamos que comenzar a cobrar por los servicios que se ofrecen.

Pero este evento muestra un compromiso con la cultura, la comunidad y el fortalecimiento cuando se ofrece un poquito de

todo para todos. Al tener música en vivo desde el comienzo hasta el final, puestos de ventas y comidas y representantes de agencias locales que exponen los servicios disponibles a través de colaboraciones establecidas con la Asociación de la Comunidad de Perrysburg Heights para servir a nuestros miembros.

"Los juegos para niños, los inflables, los concursos, arte y manualidades, permiten que toda la familia se reúna y pasen tiempo juntos en el parque o jugando juegos, disfrutando de la comida que preparan los restaurantes locales y los vendedores."

Entre otras personalidades de la comunidad que asistieron a este acontecimiento anual, se encontraba el Sr. Mike Bell, el alcalde del Toledo, demostrando la diversidad y popularidad de este evento.

"PHCA continuará trayendo este evento y quiere agradecer a todos sus miembros. The past few years have been challenging due to economy and weather. We hope that we can turn things around so we don't have to start charging a few for people to participate in programs we offer.

A Caravan for Peace, sponsored by Mexico's Movement for Peace and Justice with Dignity, will travel 6,000 miles across the country, from San Diego to Washington, D.C., beginning on August 12, with a stop in Toledo on Sept. 5, 2012, then on to Cleveland and New York.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 5, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Welcoming the Caravan at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2770 West Central, followed by an event at the University of Toledo.

WHAT: Speak Out! The International Legacy of the Failed War on Drugs with Caravan stories and "truth out" on the incarceration crisis and drug policy in the United States.

The MPJD and dozens of organizations from Mexico and the United States are joining forces to draw attention to the misguided drug-war policies, which have led to increased violence, failed to reduce drug abuse or drug-related crime, and fueled the incarceration crisis.

According to Drug Policy Alliance, "The U.S. ranks first in the world in incarcerating its own citizens, with less than 5 percent of the world's population but nearly 25 percent of the world's prison population. Roughly 500,000 people are behind bars for a drug law violation today. Blacks and Latinos are vastly overrepresented among those arrested and incarcerated for drug offenses, even though drug use rates are similar across racial and ethnic lines.

"Thousands of people in the U.S. have died because of prohibition-related violence. And thousands more have died because the criminalization of people who use drugs makes them too afraid to seek treatment or to call 911 in the event of an overdose. Instead of keeping communities safe, the war on drugs has become the longest, deadliest and most costly war in U.S. history."

Follow the Caravan as it crosses the country! <http://www.caravanforpeace.org/caravan/>

US Census seeks changes in how it measures race, ethnicity

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON, DC, August 8, 2012 (AP): To keep pace with rapidly changing notions of race, the US Census Bureau wants to make broad changes to its surveys that would treat *Hispanic* as a distinct category regardless of race, end use of the term *Negro* and offer new ways to identify Middle Easterners.

The recommendations released Wednesday stem from new government research on the best ways to count the nation's demographic groups. Still it could face stiff resistance from some racial and ethnic groups who worry that any kind of wording change in the high-stakes government count could yield a lower tally for them.

"This is a hot-button issue," said *Angelo Falcon*, president of the *National Institute for Latino Policy* in New York City and a community adviser to the census. "The burden will be on the Census Bureau to come up with evidence that wording changes will not undermine the Latino numbers."

Arab-Americans said they strongly support the Census Bureau's efforts. "The Census Bureau's current method for determining Arab ancestry yields a significant undercount of the actual size of the community, and we're optimistic that the new form should be significantly better at capturing ancestry data," the Arab American Institute said in a statement.

The research is based on an experiment conducted during the 2010 census in which nearly 500,000 households were given forms with the race and ethnicity questions worded differently. The findings show that many people who filled out the traditional form did not feel they fit within the five government-defined categories of race: white, black, Asian, Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native; when questions were altered to address this concern, response rates and accuracy improved notably.

For instance, because Hispanic is currently defined as an ethnicity and not a race, some 18 million Latinos _ or roughly 37 percent _ used the "some other race" category on their census forms to establish a Hispanic racial identity. Under one proposed change to the census forms, a new question would simply ask a person's race or origin, allowing them to check a single box next to choices including black, white, or Hispanic.

The other changes would drop use of "Negro," leaving a choice of "black" or African-American, as well as add write-in categories that would allow Middle Easterners and Arabs to specifically identify themselves.

Census director Robert Groves, who leaves his position Friday to become provost at Georgetown University, described the research findings as an important first step toward making changes in future censuses.

"As new immigrant groups came to this country decade after decade, how we measure ethnicity changed to reflect the changing composition of the country," Groves said. "Since that change is never ending and America gets more and more diverse, how we understand and tabulate the information has to be continually open to change."

"It's critical that race and ethnicity reflect how people identify themselves," he said.

The issue isn't just semantic. Some African-Americans in 2010, for instance, criticized a question asking if a person was "black, African-American or Negro," saying the government's continued use of the term "Negro" was demeaning and offensive.

"We believe the proposed changes are consistent with the way most people do choose to self-identify and will enable census to more accurately capture the growing racial/ethnic diversity in the U.S.," the National Urban League said Wednesday in a statement.

The wording in census surveys can also be highly political: census data are used to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal aid and draw political districts and thus can elicit concern if a change were to yield a lower response.

While individual Latinos have expressed dissatisfaction with census forms that don't count Latino as a race, Latino political groups have been reticent about pushing for a change. The main reason: Past research has sometimes shown that treating

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Latinos as a mutually exclusive group on survey forms leads to a lower Latino count.

“Why would Latinos want to give up their own question on the census form that specifically asks if they are of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin?” asks Falcon of the National Institute for Latino Policy. He notes that the current wording, which first asks people if they are of Latino origin and then prompts them to fill in their race, fostered a strong count in 2010 that yielded a new census milestone for Latinos of 50 million, or 1 in 6 Americans.

Nicholas Jones, chief of the racial statistics branch at the Census Bureau, said the government’s more recent research found that Latino response rates were similar under both the current and the new proposed format. Across all race and ethnic groups, the non-response rates dropped notably to 1 percent under the proposed change, compared with non-response rates of roughly 4 to 5 percent with the traditional form.

Jones said the research identified ways to improve responses that will be used to discuss any survey changes with members of the Latino, black, Asian and other communities leading up to the 2020 census.

The government definitions of race groups are set by the White House Office of Management and Budget. Currently, Latinos are an ethnic group, which means although they share a common language, culture and heritage, they do not share a common race. They can be black, white, Asian, American Indian or descended from original peoples of a place colonized by Spain.

Changes to questions on census forms also must be approved by Congress.

Other research findings:

- Removing the term “Negro” from the census form did not hurt the response rates of African-Americans. While some people in 2000 indicated that the term still had relevance to them, this number has steadily declined since then.
- Under the proposed changes, the number of people who reported multiple races increased significantly. The multiracial population is currently one of the nation’s fastest growing demographic groups.
- When provided write-in lines, as much as 50 percent of people who checked their race as “white” wrote in an ethnicity such as Italian, Polish, Arab, Iranian or Middle Eastern. More than 76 percent of black respondents also wrote in an ethnicity, such as Jamaican, Haitian or Ethiopian.
- Based on focus groups, many people supported creating a separate racial category for those who identify as Middle Eastern or North African.

Many demographers predict a wider range of responses on census forms and blurring of racial categories over the next 50 years as the minority population grows and interracial marriage becomes more common. In the case of Latinos, the nation’s largest minority group, the label as an ethnicity to date has created particular confusion.

For instance, the Census Bureau describes Asian-Americans as the nation’s fastest-growing race group from 2000 to 2010; their rate of growth is actually equal to that of Latinos, an ethnic group. On the other hand, Latinos are typically treated as a race for purposes of counting “interracial” marriages in the U.S.

Terry Minnis, director of census and voting programs at the Asian American Justice Center, said more tests are needed to ensure that Asian-Americans are fully counted under a new question format. Recent tests by the Census Bureau show some decreases in responses when there were fewer check boxes available for the various Asian-American groups, which include among others Asian Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, and Vietnamese.

“As the Census Bureau looks to develop new strategies that maximize measurement and reporting on race and ethnicity, it must ensure that nothing compromises the quality and detail of data on Asian Americans,” Minnis said.

Online: www.census.gov



Student from Amelia Earhart Elementary-Middle School

Detroit Public Schools celebrates diversity during 1st Annual Taste of DPS Multicultural Expo

Students, parents and residents from across the district are invited to attend the first annual “Taste of DPS” Multicultural Expo where attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the various cultures of DPS including Hispanic, Bangladeshi, Hmong, African, African-American and Middle Eastern.

The expo will be held at four DPS school sites on Tuesday, August 21, 2012 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. The ethnicities that will be represented at each school site include:

Amelia Earhart Elementary-Middle School, 1000 Scotten, the Latino culture will be explored with food, artwork, gifts and more.

Davison Elementary-Middle School, 2800 E. Davison, students and parents will experience *Bangladeshi* and *Hmong* cultures. *Marcus Garvey Academy*, 2301 Van Dyke Garvey, attendees can enjoy the sights and sounds of *African* and *African-American* cultures.

Gardner Elementary School, 6528

Mansfield Drive, students and parents will learn about the *Middle Eastern* culture.

During the expo, students and parents will experience international cultures, taste cultural food, receive exciting gifts from community partners, and have the opportunity to buy Michigan grown vegetables from the Eastern Market Corp. “Mini Farmers Market” set up at each location.

This event will take place during *Detroit Public Schools Week*, August 19-25, 2012 where dozens of school-based events showcasing DPS programs and community partners will be held as part of the Detroit Public Schools Summer Enrollment Campaign efforts to prepare students and parents for the first day of Teaching and Learning, September 4th.

For more information on DPS Week, visit www.detroitk12.org/dpsweek. For enrollment information, call 313-240-4DPS, 313-240-4377 or visit www.detroitk12.org/enroll.

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Promise Kept: Community celebrates historic victory for undocumented Youth

DETROIT: On August 15, 2012, three young immigrants were joined by US Congressman *John Conyers* and other community leaders in front of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office in Detroit on the first day of applications for the Obama Administration's DREAM Relief program. The new policy will allow eligible young people to obtain protection from deportation for two years and a work permit.

After years of organizing, the DREAM Relief program offers the first glimpse of hope to the undocumented in decades. The pro-immigrant movement cautiously hailed the new reform two months ago, and urged the Obama Administration to keep their word to implement the program by today's deadline, August 15th. Today, with the reform fully in place, organizers congratulated USCIS and the Administration on keeping an important promise.

"For years, I was frustrated. Despite my hard work, my good grades, my leadership, and my deep roots in this community, my dreams sometimes seemed out of reach," said *Adonis Flores*, a Wayne State University Business student who was his high school's valedictorian. "Now, there is some hope. I may be able to work and study freely, and fulfill my whole potential. Now we need to keep fighting so the whole community can have the same chance." [See photo of *Adonis Flores* with *Conyers*.]

The *United Auto Workers Local 600* in Dearborn will be the site of a workshop for those seeking information on the new reforms. Officials from the UAW were on hand as well as *Lidia Reyes*, Executive Director of *Latino Family Services* and *Hassan Jaber*, Executive Director of the *Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)*. Leaders also committed to keep watch over the new process, and fight for strong and fair implementation.

"We're so glad that the Administration kept their promise, and young people are now able to apply for DREAM Relief," said *Lidia Reyes* of *Latino Family Services*



in Southwest Detroit, "The community won this reform by getting active and making our voices heard. We're going to stay active and ensure that DREAM Relief is implemented properly, fairly, and that our young people get the opportunities they deserve. This is a first step towards justice, and we still need many more."

Editor's Note: More information can be found at the event page within the *Alliance for Immigrant Rights and Reform's* Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ReformImmigrationForAmericaMI.

Immigrant-friendly Chicago announces \$275,000 for immigrant scholarships

August 16, 2012 (AP): Chicago officials say they've raised \$275,000 so far in private donations for an immigrant scholarship fund.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced the money Wednesday on the same day thousands of young immigrants lined up to get help with a new federal immigration program that'll help them avoid deportation.

A news release from Emanuel says the private donations include \$100,000 from Univision's chairman Haim Saban and \$150,000 from unused and privately raised NATO funds. Chicago hosted the NATO summit in May.

The total also includes a previously announced gift of \$25,000 from Western Union.

The *Illinois DREAM Act* was signed into law last year. It created a privately funded scholarship program for high school graduates from immigrant families.

Editor's Note: *California has also passed its version of the DREAM Act. States that are hostile to immigrants include: Arizona, Alabama, Indiana, and South Carolina.*

Jóvenes inmigrantes analizan su futuro

Agosto 15 del 2012 (AP): Miles de jóvenes que viven en EEUU sin autorización se preparan para presentar su solicitud por el derecho a trabajar legalmente sin arriesgarse a ser deportados como parte de un programa federal recientemente promulgado.

El programa podría ayudar a más de un millón de jóvenes en calidad migratoria irregular al otorgarles permisos laborales, pese a que no obtendrían tarjetas de residencia permanente ni un camino para obtener la ciudadanía estadounidense. Para ser elegible, los inmigrantes deberán demostrar que ingresaron a EEUU antes de haber cumplido los 16 años, que tienen 30 años o menos, que han vivido en el país al menos durante cinco años y que actualmente estudian o concluyeron

estudios, o se enlistaron en las fuerzas militares. No deberán tener antecedentes penales por determinados delitos ni representar una amenaza a la seguridad.

El programa, que inició el miércoles, es considerado por defensores de inmigrantes como una solución esperada por mucho tiempo pero temporal para jóvenes inmigrantes no autorizados, muchos de los cuales llegaron a Estados Unidos siendo niños y se criaron en territorio estadounidense. Pero los opositores republicanos acusan al presidente Barack Obama de redactar el plan para impulsar su posición política con los hispanos antes de las elecciones presidenciales de noviembre y afirman que el programa favorece a inmigrantes no autorizados sobre ciudadanos estadounidenses desempleados.

This year's theme is:

"Leading through Strength & Unity"

The Commission publishes a Hispanic Heritage Month Statewide Schedule of Events Calendar, which is distributed to individuals/agencies/organizations/legislators all around the state. We would like to include your organization's event(s) that will be held between September 15 and October 15, 2012.

If you are aware of any other organization planning Hispanic Heritage Month events, please share the enclosed form with them. An electronic form is also available on our website at www.michigan.gov/hlcom. Information must reach our office **on or before August 29, 2012**, to be included in the calendar. The calendars will be e-mailed the second week of September and will also be available on our website.

Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at (517)373-8339 or by e-mailing: hlcom@michigan.gov.

Reply to:

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RETURN BY AUGUST 29, 2012



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Community Organizations, Student Organizations & Interested Parties

FROM: Marylou Mason, Executive Director
Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan

DATE: August 8, 2012

SUBJECT: 2012 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH STATEWIDE EVENTS

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan (formerly the Michigan Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs) is encouraging all organizations and individuals to join in the festivities by sponsoring cultural, educational, and social events within your city, town, university, college and/or school.