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CHICANO LATINO AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
**BIENNIUM REPORT  
FOR FISCAL YEAR  
1997-98**

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1997/98

*Board Members*

RECEIVED

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1. *Juan Martinez -- At Large Member( District 4)*

*Term Expires 1-1999*

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2. *Debbie Ibarra-Luna -- At Large Member(District 4)*

*Term Expires 1-2000*

3. *Alma Garay-Lehn -- At Large Member( District 5)*

*Term Expires 1-2000*

4. *Maureen Acosta -- At Large Member (District 5)*

*Term Expires 1-2000*

5. *Vicki Olivo -- District 1*

*Term Expires 1-1999*

6. *Diana Olvedo-Muñoz -- District 2*

*Term Expires 1-2002*

7. *Juan Rivas -- District 3*

*Term Expires 1-2002*

8. *District 4-- open*

9. *District 5 -- open*

10. *Sam Hernandez -- District 6*

*Term Expires 1-1999*

11. *Ruben Memdez -- District 7*

*Term Expires 1-2002*

Chicano Latino Affairs Council  
Staff

Irene Gomez-Bethke  
Interim Executive Director

Pedro Bahamonde  
Greater MN Community Liaison

Rachel Ramirez  
Office Manager

Gladys Zelaya  
Office Assistant

Nydia De Alba De Johnson  
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This report shall summarize the activities of the State of Minnesota's Council on Chicano Latino Affairs (hereinafter CLAC) since its last report; list receipts and expenditures; identify the major problems and issues confronting Chicano Latinos in the state; and list the specific objectives which CLAC seeks to obtain during the next biennium.

## BACKGROUND

CLAC (formerly the Spanish - Speaking Affairs Council) was created by the state legislature in 1978. The primary mission of CLAC is to advise the governor and state legislature on issues of importance to Minnesota's Chicano Latino communities. In addition, CLAC serves as the liaison between the local, state, and federal governments and Minnesota's Chicano Latino communities. CLAC educates state legislators, agency heads, the media, and the general public about the accomplishments and contributions of Chicano Latinos; and raises general awareness about problems facing Chicano Latinos. CLAC also serves as an information and referral agency, ensuring that Chicano Latinos are connected to the appropriate government and community-based organizations to address concerns ranging from immigration and public assistance to discrimination and education. The AL DIA, a monthly newsletter published by CLAC, contains vital information on a wide variety of topics, and is distributed state-wide to Chicano Latino individuals, organizations, and government officials. Further, CLAC publishes the Bilingual Directory, a resource book, which contains a listing of organizations, businesses, churches, media, and networking groups which are either owned by and/or serve Minnesota's Chicano Latino communities. CLAC becomes involved with other projects from time to time, such as annual voter registration campaigns, the Latino Youth Conference, and media events.

CLAC consists of eleven board members (one representing each of the state's eight congressional districts, plus three at-large members) and four full-time staff members. Each board member is appointed by the governor of Minnesota. The CLAC staff and board provide a voice in all levels of government for an estimated 85,000 Chicano Latinos who reside in Minnesota. In addition, CLAC reaches out to 15,000-20,000 migrant agricultural workers who work in Minnesota each year during the months of April through November.

CLAC holds monthly board meetings throughout the state of Minnesota, providing a forum for community members to voice their opinions and concerns regarding Chicano Latino affairs and to provide recommendations on future CLAC actions.

CLAC's legislative mandate, Minnesota Statute Section 3.9223, states that CLAC shall:

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

## ***ACTIVITIES OF CLAC SINCE LAST REPORT***

### **I. CLAC at the Legislature**

CLAC has played a crucial role during the 1997 and 1998 legislative sessions on a wide variety of issues impacting Minnesota's Chicano Latino communities. CLAC was instrumental in ensuring that the needs of Chicano Latinos and immigrants were taken into account during the 1997 and 1998 welfare reform debates. CLAC met with numerous legislators; testified at countless hearings; coordinated the testimony of many individuals; and presented statistical and anecdotal evidence regarding the impact of welfare reform on Chicano Latinos, immigrants, and other non-English speaking persons. Thanks to CLAC's efforts, the Minnesota state legislature voted to provide benefits to legal immigrants which had been taken away by the federal government. One of CLAC's major victories was to convince legislators that a state-funded substitute for the federal food stamp program should be provided for legal immigrants, many of which are of Latino descent. In addition, CLAC provided evidence of the contributions of migrant agricultural workers, and effectively argued that migrant agricultural workers should be exempt from any residency requirement in order to apply for General Assistance (GA) and Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).

In addition, CLAC worked hard to ensure that funding for English as a second language programs was increased; and convinced state legislators that an appropriation was necessary in order to help immigrants become citizens. CLAC was instrumental in the creation of this citizenship promotion program, which provides funds to community-based organizations to train immigrants in the history, English, and civics necessary to pass the citizenship test.

Further, CLAC initiates and monitors bills dealing with employment; crime prevention and intervention; anti-discrimination; and education, among others. For example, during the 1998 legislative session, CLAC initiated a bill which would have required employers to provide crucial employment information in an employee's predominant language. The bill also included an appropriation for the Department of Labor to engage in an intensive outreach campaign directed at immigrant and non-English speaking workers. Although the bill was passed in the House and Senate, it was vetoed by the governor. Also in 1998, CLAC provided testimony on numerous occasions about education, such as the diversity rule; how to train, recruit, hire, and retain more teachers of color; how to establish culturally-competent curricula in the schools; and on other issues impacting Chicano Latino students.

In conclusion, CLAC has established itself as an invaluable resource for state legislators on any and all issues impacting Minnesota's ever-growing and very diverse Chicano Latino communities. During the months of January through June, CLAC staff and board members can be seen at the state Capitol at every hour monitoring legislation; testifying at hearings; meeting with individual legislators; collaborating with other community-based and government agencies; and generally ensuring that Chicano Latino issues are heard and given importance during each legislative session.

## II. CLAC as Liaison

### a. Meetings with Government Officials and Collaboration with other Organizations

CLAC serves as the liaison between Minnesota's Chicano Latino communities and local, state, and federal government agencies; Latino organizations; other non-profit agencies; and private organizations in a variety of ways. CLAC meets with government agency heads on a regular basis to ensure that the needs of Chicano Latinos are taken into consideration in the creation and implementation of government programs and projects. In addition, CLAC board and staff members sit on numerous task forces and committees which serve to advise government agencies about the needs of Chicano Latinos. Some of those include: Department of Corrections Community Preservation Board; Department of Children, Families, and Learning Desegregation and Integration Advisory Committee; Department of Children, Families, and Learning Migrant Services Consortium; Department of Health Office of Minority Health Advisory Committee; Department of Human Services Welfare Reform Liaison Committee; and many others.

CLAC is involved with numerous Latino organizations and serves as a liaison between those organizations and government. During the legislative session, CLAC ensures that Latino organizations participate in the legislative process by keeping them updated about bills which impact their constituents; inviting them to testify at the legislature; and engaging their support on initiatives which benefit Minnesota's Chicano Latino communities. CLAC's liaison function is exemplified through CLAC's involvement with the recently-formed Latino Leadership Association. CLAC's director serves as the vice-chair of this association, which is comprised of most, if not all, Latino organizations. CLAC has invited many government officials, including but not limited to, staff members from the Department of Human Services, Department of Natural Resources, City of St. Paul Human Rights Department, et. al. to speak at Latino Leadership Association meetings.

CLAC's Director serves as the chair of the Latino Leadership Association's public policy subcommittee. In that role, she is able to acquire information from the Latino agencies which make up the association regarding public policy issues; and brings that knowledge to each legislative session.

On the federal level, CLAC serves as a liaison between Minnesota's Chicano Latino communities and the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS); the Social Security Administration; the Minnesota Delegation of Congress; and national non-profit agencies, such as the National Council of La Raza (NCLR); the Hispanic Leadership Association; and the National Immigration Lawyers Association. Recently, CLAC has been involved in educating the INS about Latino concerns surrounding INS raids. Similarly, CLAC educates Latinos about changes in immigration policy which have lead to increased enforcement efforts on the part of the INS. CLAC's involvement with NCLR allows CLAC to bring information to Minnesota's communities from a federal/national perspective. In October of 1998, CLAC will be one of two organizations which will be hosting the NCLR Midwest affiliate caucus meeting. This will have been the first time that an event of this category will have taken place in Minnesota.

b. AL DIA

CLAC's monthly newsletter, AL DIA, is another manner by which CLAC exercises its liaison and information responsibilities. The AL DIA mailing list is extensive. It includes all state legislators; agency heads; federal and local government entities; churches; private organizations; schools; businesses; and individuals from the Chicano Latino community and all other Minnesota communities. The AL DIA serves the dual purpose of educating non-Latinos in every sector of our community about Latino issues; and educating Chicano Latinos about recently passed laws, policies, and procedures which impact them; government programs that benefit them; and many other topics of interest to them. Through the AL DIA, CLAC informs the public about its activities and encourages input from readers regarding the past and future goals of CLAC. Each month the AL DIA contains information about the date, time, and place of CLAC's board meetings; vacancies on state boards, commissions, and task forces; job openings; and other issues of interest. The AL DIA serves to educate key policymakers about the latest developments in Minnesota's Chicano Latino communities. Similarly, the AL DIA educates Chicano Latinos about the latest trends among politicians. The AL DIA then plays a crucial role in CLAC's fulfillment of its information and liaison duties.

c. Bilingual Directory

CLAC published the Bilingual Directory in 1997. The results were astounding. Ten-thousand directories have been distributed. CLAC has been bombarded with calls from schools; libraries; Latino employee networks; businesses of every imaginable type; non-profit agencies; and individuals requesting directories and praising the contents thereof. The Bilingual Directory is a comprehensive handbook containing the names, telephone numbers, addresses, and other pertinent information of Chicano Latino organizations throughout the state of Minnesota. The Directory also contains listings of: agencies providing bilingual services; agencies serving migrant agricultural workers; state agencies; embassies; consulates; Chicano Latino media; churches; and entertainment. In addition, the Directory contains a section named "Frequently Asked Questions", which addresses issues such as: How to Become a Citizen; Citizenship Exam Questions and Answers; Family-based Immigrant Visas; Making the Media More Responsible; Making Government More Responsible; and How a Bill Becomes a Law. Of course, all of the information in the Directory is in both English and Spanish. According to the feedback which CLAC has received, members of all sectors of Minnesota have benefited greatly from the information provided in the Bilingual Directory. CLAC has already updated the Directory and added even more listings and information. Fundraising efforts are underway and the 1999 Bilingual Directory will be published soon.

d. Greater Minnesota Liaison

CLAC has recently created a new staff position, Greater Minnesota Community Liaison, whose responsibility it is to travel throughout Minnesota, focusing on communities with large concentrations of Chicano Latinos, to document issues of concern to Chicano Latinos in Greater Minnesota communities. Migrant agricultural workers of Chicano Latino descent have a long history of coming to work in Minnesota since the early 1900s. Many of them have settled and have created permanent communities in Greater Minnesota. Albert Lea, St. Cloud, Moorhead, Crookston, and Mankato are just a few of the cities with large numbers of permanent Chicano Latino residents. In addition, each year 15,000 to 20,000 migrant agricultural workers travel to Minnesota during the months of April to November to work in the fields, canning companies, and meat packing industries. Further, cities such as Worthington, Willmar, and Madelia are seeing a growing number of immigrants of Latino descent move to those communities for available jobs. Many of these communities are having a difficult time absorbing their new neighbors.

CLAC hears complaints about disparate treatment in the workplace; police harassment based on national origin; discrimination against Latino children in the schools; and name calling by non-Latinos. For this reason, CLAC created the Greater Minnesota Community Liaison position. CLAC will bring information to the legislature about Greater Minnesota communities experiencing problems of the kind described above in an attempt to make life in those communities more pleasant for Latinos and non-Latinos alike.

### III. Publicizing the Accomplishments of Chicano Latinos

CLAC does an excellent job publicizing the achievements, accomplishments, and contributions of Chicano Latinos through a variety of means. CLAC has built an excellent relationship with newspapers, radio stations, and television stations throughout the metro area and in Greater Minnesota. In addition, CLAC staff and board are often invited to participate on panels or to speak publicly in front of a variety of audiences regarding Chicano Latino issues, contributions and accomplishments. Further, CLAC has recently acquired funding for a Spanish-language (with English subtitles) cable television program in order to educate Minnesotans about Chicano Latinos affairs.

#### a. Media

CLAC has successfully utilized the media to publicize the achievements, accomplishments, and contributions of Chicano Latinos, as well as to educate the public at large about problems facing Minnesota's Chicano Latino communities. CLAC maintains close ties with the media by providing them with new story ideas and up-to-date information on current stories, through frequent phone calls and press releases. CLAC also coordinates press conferences either alone or in collaboration with other organizations if an issue arises which merits immediate media attention. An example of this arose when immigrants were having a difficult time understanding and using the then-recently created Minnesota Grown food supplement program. CLAC worked in collaboration with the Urban Coalition and the Asian Council to coordinate a press release to clear up misunderstanding about the food program. Similarly, in April of 1998, problems arose between the INS and Minnesota's Chicano Latino communities. Recent changes in immigration law led to increased enforcement efforts by the INS. CLAC took the initiative and coordinated an Immigration Educational Rally, with the purpose of educating the public at large, the Chicano Latino communities, and the media about the changes in immigration law and the impact Chicano Latino families.

A perfect example of how CLAC utilizes the media to educate the public about Latino accomplishments occurred in the summer of 1998 during CLAC's Latino Youth Conference. Over one-hundred Latino students from all over the state participated in this weekend-long conference which educated youth about becoming involved in the political process. CLAC worked hard to ensure that these young leaders were featured in newspapers, and radio and television stations. The Pioneer Press, Star Tribune, KFAI Radio, KTCA T.V., SPNN and others interviewed youth, giving them an opportunity to understand the key role that the media plays in our everyday lives. In addition, this publicity serves to educate the general public about Latino youth and their involvement in leadership activities. Please see attached articles.

b. Public Speaking

Public speaking engagements present CLAC with the opportunity to promote and enhance the overall image of Chicano Latino individuals and communities, as well as to dispel myths and stereotypes and present a more realistic picture of Chicano Latinos' histories and lives. CLAC staff and board members are invited to speak on a wide variety of panels and to address audiences throughout the state of Minnesota. For example, in November of 1997, CLAC's Executive Director was the keynote speaker at the Mankato State University Diversity dinner; in March of 1998, she addressed a group of students at Southwest State University about the accomplishments and contributions of Chicano Latino women; in July of 1998, she participated on a panel regarding citizenship participation issues. In addition, CLAC staff and board speak to the public about issues impacting Minnesota's diverse Chicano Latino communities on a day-to-day basis during legislative hearings, meetings, and community events. CLAC covers issues such as: the impact of immigration reform on Latinos; the contributions of migrant agricultural workers to Minnesota's economy; the need for laws which educate non-English speaking persons about their rights as employees; ways in which discrimination in the workplace can be addressed and prevented; how to become involved in the political process; how to address legislators and other top government officials; how to diversify the workforce; how to recruit more Chicano Latinos into the private sector; how social service agencies can better serve Chicano Latinos; and many other issues.

c. AL GRANO Spanish-language (with English subtitles) Cable Program

One of CLAC's most recent projects is "AL GRANO", meaning "to the point," a Spanish-language cable television program coordinated, produced, and hosted by CLAC staff. After much research, CLAC found a void in educational Spanish television programming in Minnesota.

At the time, during which CLAC was considering the project, there was only national Spanish programming available to Spanish-speaking Minnesotans. Univision and Telemundo are the two national networks which serve Spanish speakers throughout the United States. The programs on these two networks are mostly entertainment-oriented, with very little educational programming, outside of general news programs. Minnesota had no programs on any channels in Spanish. CLAC spoke to numerous stakeholders regarding this void; and decided to apply for funding for a Spanish-language pilot program, which would air in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Willmar, Madelia, Marshall, Worthington, and Moorhead. The first two segments, which cover immigration reform and its impact on Chicano Latinos aired in June. The next two segments, which focus on education and Latino students will air sometime in late November or early December. CLAC was flooded with phone calls after the immigration shows aired. Callers voiced their gratitude that this vital information was being made available to Spanish speakers. Community leaders from every sector have expressed their delight with the project and their desire that funding be continued beyond the pilot programs.

#### IV. The Latino Youth Conference

The Latino Youth Conference (LYC) has been one of CLAC's most successful projects since it was held for the first time in the summer of 1997. The LYC fulfills many purposes: it prepares Chicano Latino youth to become productive members of society; it instructs students in leadership skills; it brings together Latino youth and Latino adults from educational institutions, and the private, and public and non-profit sector; and it unites Chicano Latino kids from all over the state. The 1997 conference was a huge success, bringing over 100 students from St. Paul, Minneapolis, Willmar, Moorhead, and other communities to St. Thomas University, where participants attended workshops on how to build a resume and interview successfully; how to transition from high school to college and from college into the workforce; and how to become involved in the political process, among others. Students also heard from successful national and local Chicano Latino community leaders regarding leadership issues. During the 1998 LYC, CLAC changed the focus of the conference and focused on training youth about the political process. Over 100 students were involved in role playing, acting as members of the Governor's office, legislators, media people, and members of advocacy groups.

Each group, with the help of facilitators, discussed issues of concern to Chicano Latinos, such as immigration and welfare reform; English as a second language; bilingual education; discrimination in the schools; and arrived at one issue which would be taken to the mock legislative session on the last day of the conference.

During meals, the students had the opportunity to meet and network with real life government officials, and members of the private and non-profit sector. Students were interviewed by real life media, and their opinions regarding a wide variety of issues were made public in newspapers and radio stations, such as the Star Tribune and Minnesota Public Radio. The 1998 conference was an even bigger success than the 1997 conference. Other states are looking at CLAC's LYC as a national model. CLAC plans to continue coordinating the LYC on an annual basis. See attached comments on LYC.

## ***MAJOR PROBLEMS AND ISSUES CONFRONTING CHICANO LATINOS AND OBJECTIVES WHICH THE COUNCIL SEEKS TO ATTAIN DURING THE NEXT BIENNIUM***

The major problems confronting Chicano Latinos are:

- \* immigration reform - raids; targeting Latinos; retroactive criminal provisions.
- \* education - high drop out rate; lack of teachers of color; need for culturally-competent curriculum.
- \* housing - lack of affordable housing for Latinos and more specifically migrant agricultural workers; discrimination in housing; lack of education regarding home buying.
- \* employment - discrimination in the workplace; lack of information regarding employee rights in Spanish and other languages; lack of access to the Department of Labor.
- \* political empowerment - lack of voter participation; lack of education regarding candidates in general and in other languages; lack of familiarity with the political process; lack of access to and/or information about state agencies.
- \* funding and resources - the need for increased funding and more staff members at the Chicano Latino Affairs Council.

In order to address the above-mentioned problems, the Council has the following objectives:

- \* initiate and/or monitor legislation in the areas of (1) immigration (2) education (3) housing and (4) employment which would address the above-mentioned problems.

- \* provide information to Chicano Latinos regarding voter registration; provide candidate information (in a totally non-partisan, objective manner); facilitate the involvement of Chicano Latinos in the political process by continuing to serve as liaison between the community and government, and by continuing to invite participation in legislative meetings and hearings regarding issues of concern to Chicano Latinos.
- \* educate and train Chicano Latino youth about the political process through the annual Latino Youth Conference.
- \* educate Chicano Latinos about issues impacting them, such as immigration, housing, employment, education, political empowerment through the media, in particular through the AL GRANO Spanish-language program.
- \* provide crucial information about non-profit and government agencies serving Chicano Latinos through the publishing of the Bilingual Directory.
- \* in order to achieve said objectives, request increased funding and staff.

#### **V. 1998-1999 BIENNIUM BUDGET REQUEST**

*The Chicano Latino community will be the largest ethnic minority in the United States within the next two to five years. National Council de La Raza, 1992. The Latino population is growing at the rate of 900,000 a year, including net immigration of 350,000. The Seattle times, March 14, 1996. Although the biggest expansion of the Chicano Latino populations will take place in states such as Florida and California, there is also a spillover effect, with Chicano Latino Communities growing rapidly in states such as Washington and Minnesota. The Seattle Times, March 14, 1996. According to the State Demographer's Office there will be 169,100 Chicano Latinos in Minnesota by the year 2005. Minnesota's Chicano Latino communities are growing faster than ever. For example, Willmar public schools currently has a 30% Chicano Latino enrollment. Further, Minnesota's agricultural industry is currently employing a huge number of Chicano Latinos. For example, 40% of the workforce in West Central Turkeys in Pelican Rapids, Minnesota is Chicano Latino.*

*The CLAC office currently consist of a mere four staff Members. These four people are responsible for reaching Chicano Latinos throughout the entire state of Minnesota. Further, the responsibilities of the Council which are enumerated in statute are quite elaborate. Please see Budget Narrative Agency Description in appendix. Because the number of Chicano Latinos growing at such a fast rate, the demands on the Council are ever increasing. In addition, the Council has taken on quite a few project of major significance for the Chicano Latino and general community which consume much staff time.*

*The Al Dia newsletter, Latino Youth Conference and the AL GRANO television program have a wide-reaching impact and merit much of the Council's time and energy.*

*For this reason, CLAC would like to hire a full-time information officer staff person to work on public relations, referrals and information. Coordinate or prepare and disseminate informational materials. Write or edit the Al Dia newsletter, promotional brochures, speeches, audio and video scripts, and press releases. Design web sites and the e-mail exchanges. Help coordinate research of demographic information and collaborate with other research agencies. Help coordinate the AL GRANO television program and in developing the youth program component. This person would also assist in the Latino Youth Conference on a partnership with community based organization basis.*

*In addition, CLAC would like to hire a full time staff person to serve as the Legislative Liaison between state legislature and the Chicano Latino Affairs Council. This person would undergo an extensive training regarding the legislative process. This person would educate him/herself by meeting with staff members from the various divisions of the state legislature, and becoming familiar with the statutes and rules process created by each state entity.*

*This person would then educate Minnesota's Chicano Latino communities about the role and the process of the state legislature. This person would also be responsible for coordinating the Latina Women's Conference, the Chicano Latino youth Day at the Capitol and other events which would teach Chicano Latino youth about government and the political process. Further, during the legislative process, this person would work with youth and make recommendations to the legislature regarding issues which impact Chicano Latino and other youth.*

*Lastly, CLAC would like to hire an additional full-time office specialist intermediate to help with general office work, such as assistance to administration, payroll, filing, photocopying, responding to telephone inquires, updating mailing list, research and analysis.*

*If the two mentioned positions are approved, these two additional staff members would generate additional work and would require additional support services from a clerical-type staff person. The current office assistant is working over time hours in order to meet current demands.*

*The following are amounts that are requested as part of the 1998-1999 Biennium request:*

*\$ 100,000.00 for three new staff members*

*\$ 35,000.00 for new office space to house these staff members*

*Three complete computer systems at \$ 2,500.00 each.*

*Office furniture at \$ 2,000.00 total.*

*Three new office telephones at \$500.00*

*New telephone system with additional line capacity at \$2,500.00*

*Larger copier machine at \$3,000.00*

***Appendix 2, presents the spread sheet which shows the total budget detail.***

## ***VI. Specific Council Objectives for the next Biennium***

### *I. Internal: organizational and Technical Objectives*

*a) Develop Board and Department Manuals and implement for orientation and training.*

*b) Implement performance measure for assessing Council's effectiveness in performance of its Statutory duties.*

*c) Develop electronic technical systems to assemble and maintain data on Bilingual Directory, Community Resources, data research, mailing list, media and data bases.*

### *II. External: Information, Communication and Referral Objectives*

- a) *Achieve budget levels sufficient to support excellent and successful Council performance in its activities.*
- b) *Develop comprehensive public information through its newsletter, brochures, and Bilingual Directory to give Chicanos, Hispanic, Latinos, policy makers and the general public culturally accurate and timely information on the Council events, issues and projects.*
- c) *Create and establish partnership and information networks with groups on particular mutually relevant issues such as : the upcoming Census 2000.*
- d) *Keep the Hispanic Community informed of legislative developments.*
- e) *Create effective alliances and communication with other communities of color, disabilities and low income, on issues of mutual concern.*
- f) *Develop the Council's unique role as a resource in communication with South and Central America.*

### *III. Council Objectives in Greater Minnesota*

- a) *Strengthen the Council's work in Greater Minnesota.*
- b) *Develop the ability of Chicanos, Latinos and Hispanics to participate fully in the political, economic, social and cultural activities in their communities.*
- c) *Ensure the needs and the interest of Chicanos, Latinos and Hispanic of Minnesota are included in policy making activities of the State and Local levels.*
- d) *Network and develop collaborations and partnerships to improve safe and healthy communities by initiatives that create tolerance and respect for diversity throughout greater Minnesota.*

## VI. Legislative and Policy Objectives

- a) *Strive for excellence to improve the Council's effectiveness in advising the Governor and the legislature on the issues and disabilities confronting the Chicano, Hispanic and the Latino people in Minnesota.*
- b) *Work with the legislature to identify the two representatives each from the House and Senate who will be on the Chicano Latino Council's Board of Directors. The four selected will represent the rural and urban areas As well as the two or three political parties.*
- c) *Work with the legislature, Governor and State agencies to develop sound policy approaches to issues and problems confronting the Chicano, Latino and Hispanics in Minnesota.*
- d) *Develop activities for Chicanos, Hispanics and Latinos that will help them to understand the legislative process and an awareness of how to create their own policy goals.*
- e) *Improve the Council's capacity to address the needs and interest of Minnesota's Chicanos, Latinos and Hispanic immigrant and migrant communities, through analysis and research.*

## OFFICE EXPENSE BUDGET [GENERAL FUND] ORG 1000

OBJ	DESCRIPTION	ORIG BUDGET	CURRENT BUDGET	ENCUM	CURRENT MO EXPND	TOTAL EXPEND	BALANCE
1A0	PERSONAL SERV - FT	132,100	132,100	0	0	133,960	(1,860)
1B0	PERSONAL SERV -PT	0	0		0	0	0
1C0	PERSONAL SERV -OT	1,000	1,000	0	0	823	177
1E0	PERSONAL SERV -OTHR	10,000	10,000		0	6,865	3,135
2A0	RENT	24,200	24,200	0	0	22,587	1,613
2B0	REPAIRS/MAINT	4,000	4,000	0	0	707	3,293
2C0	PRINTING & ADVERT	25,000	25,000	0	0	48,127	(23,127)
2D0	PROF/TECH SERV	6,000	6,000	0	0	560	5,440
2E0	COMPUTER SERV	5,000	5,000	0	0	580	4,420
2F0	COMMUNICATIONS	14,000	14,000	0	0	14,188	(188)
2G0	TRAVEL , IN-STATE	6,000	6,000	0	0	5,417	583
2H0	TRAVEL, OUT-STATE	10,000	10,000	0	0	10,317	(317)
2J0	SUPPLIES	13,000	13,000	0	0	16,842	(3,842)
2K0	EQUIPMENT	13,420	13,420	0	0	14,089	(669)
2L0	EMPLOYEE DEVELOP	5,000	5,000	0	0	5,308	(308)
2M0	OTHER OPER COSTS	44,498	44,498	0	0	6,218	38,280
2R0	STATE AGY REIMB	0	0	0	0	(2,125)	2,125
	TOTAL	<u>313,218</u>	<u>313,218</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>284,463</u>	<u>28,755</u>

APPENDIX 1 b. CHICANO LATINO AFFAIRS COUNCIL

FISCAL YEAR 1998 AS OF 12-16-98

OFFICE EXPENSE BUDGET [GENERAL FUND] ORG 1000

OBJ	DESCRIPTION	ORIG BUDGET	CURRENT BUDGET	ENCUM	CURRENT MO EXPND	TOTAL EXPEND	BALANCE
1A0	PERSONAL SERV - FT	167,026	164,741	0	0	150,659	14,082
1B0	PERSONAL SERV -PT	0	0		0	0	0
1C0	PERSONAL SERV -OT	1,000	3,342	0	0	3,293	49
1E0	PERSONAL SERV -OTHR	10,000	4,594		0	1,369	3,225
2A0	RENT	24,200	24,200	0	0	18,792	5,408
2B0	REPAIRS/MAINT	2,000	2,000	0	0	1,802	198
2C0	PRINTING & ADVERT	27,774	23,174	0	0	14,098	9,076
2D0	PROF/TECH SERV	1,000	5,750	0	0	4,750	1,000
2E0	COMPUTER SERV	1,000	1,000	0	0	546	454
2F0	COMMUNICATIONS	14,000	14,000	0	0	18,839	(4,839)
2G0	TRAVEL, IN-STATE	5,000	5,000	0	0	10,562	(5,562)
2H0	TRAVEL, OUT-STATE	4,000	4,200	0	0	2,588	1,612
2J0	SUPPLIES	10,000	10,000	112	0	8,471	1,417
2K0	EQUIPMENT	5,000	5,000	0	0	5,467	(467)
2L0	EMPLOYEE DEVELOP	5,000	5,000	0	0	2,080	2,920
2M0	OTHER OPER COSTS	0	0	0	0	786	(786)
2R0	STATE AGY REIMB	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>272,000</u>	<u>272,000</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>244,102</u>	<u>27,787</u>

BOARD EXPENSE BUDGET [GENERAL FUND] ORG 1001

OBJ	DESCRIPTION	ORIG BUDGET	CURRENT BUDGET	ENCUM	CURRENT MO EXPND	TOTAL EXPEND	BALANCE
1E0	PERSONAL SERV -OTHR	11,000	11,000		0	4,290	6,710
2A0	RENT	0	1,000		0	150	850
2C0	PRINT				0	224	(224)
2F0	POSTAL, MAILING	0	0		0	3	(3)
2G0	TRAVEL, IN-STATE	7,000	6,000		0	4,192	1,808
2H0	TRAVEL, OUT-STATE	5,000	3,900	0	0	4,932	(1,032)
2K0	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	0	100		0	189	(89)
2L0	TUITION/REGISTRATION	0	0	0	0	3,100	(3,100)
2M0	OTHER PURCH SERV	0	1,000	0	0	1,028	(28)
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>23,000</u>	<u>23,000</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>18,108</u>	<u>4,892</u>

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE [GENERAL FUND] ORG 1002

OBJ	DESCRIPTION	ORIG BUDGET	CURRENT BUDGET	ENCUM	CURRENT MO EXPND	TOTAL EXPEND	BALANCE
2J0	SUPPLIES	0	5,000		0	0	5,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,000</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,000</u>

file: chicy98.xls

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OFFICE EXPENSE BUDGET [GENERAL FUND] ORG 1000

OBJ	DESCRIPTION	ORIG BUDGET	CURRENT BUDGET	ENCUM	CURRENT MO EXPND	TOTAL EXPEND	BALANCE
1A0	PERSONAL SERV - FT	163,000	162,314	101,866	6,208	60,448	0
1B0	PERSONAL SERV -PT	0	26,384	22,211	697	4,172	1
1C0	PERSONAL SERV -OT	1,000	1,000	631	0	369	0
1E0	PERSONAL SERV -OTHR	3,000	3,000		12	3,450	(450)
2A0	RENT	27,000	27,000	9,453	1,567	9,084	8,463
2B0	REPAIRS/MAINT	1,000	1,000	343	205	1,566	(909)
2C0	PRINTING & ADVERT	20,000	20,000	2,446	0	1,212	16,342
2D0	PROF/TECH SERV	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
2E0	COMPUTER SERV	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	1,000
2F0	COMMUNICATIONS	20,000	20,000	1,631	435	8,415	9,954
2G0	TRAVEL, IN-STATE	12,000	12,000	0	0	678	11,322
2H0	TRAVEL, OUT-STATE	4,000	4,000	124	0	754	3,122
2J0	SUPPLIES	10,000	10,000	2,330	892	2,382	5,288
2K0	EQUIPMENT	5,000	5,000	2,594	0	601	1,805
2L0	EMPLOYEE DEVELOP	5,000	5,000	1,629	308	1,067	2,304
2M0	OTHER OPER COSTS	0	2,088	53	84	1,022	1,013
2R0	STATE AGY REIMB	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		277,000	304,786	145,311	10,408	95,220	64,255

BOARD EXPENSE BUDGET [GENERAL FUND] ORG 1001

OBJ	DESCRIPTION	ORIG BUDGET	CURRENT BUDGET	ENCUM	CURRENT MO EXPND	TOTAL EXPEND	BALANCE
1E0	PERSONAL SERV -OTHR	11,000	11,000		220	1,485	9,515
2A0	RENT	1,000	1,000		0	0	1,000
2C0	PRINT				0	0	0
2F0	POSTAL, MAILING	0	0		0	0	0
2G0	TRAVEL, IN-STATE	6,000	6,000		420	2,087	3,913
2H0	TRAVEL, OUT-STATE	3,900	3,900	124	0	1,243	2,533
2J0	SUPPLIES				0	92	(92)
2K0	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	100	100		0	200	(100)
2L0	TUITION/REGISTRATION	0	0	0	0	0	0
2M0	OTHER PURCH SERV	1,000	5,893	454	259	373	5,066
TOTAL		23,000	27,893	578	899	5,480	21,835

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE [GENERAL FUND] ORG 1002

OBJ	DESCRIPTION	ORIG BUDGET	CURRENT BUDGET	ENCUM	CURRENT MO EXPND	TOTAL EXPEND	BALANCE
2J0	SUPPLIES	5,000	5,000		0	0	5,000
2M0	OTHER PURCH SERV	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
TOTAL		5,000	10,000	0	0	0	10,000

CHICANO LATINO GRANT [GENERAL FUND] ORG 1003

OBJ	DESCRIPTION	ORIG BUDGET	CURRENT BUDGET	ENCUM	CURRENT MO EXPND	TOTAL EXPEND	BALANCE
1D0	PERSONAL SERV -PT	35,000	35,000	35,000	0	0	0
2C0	PRINTING & ADVERT	10,000	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
2J0	SUPPLIES	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
2M0	OTHER OPER COSTS	10,000	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
TOTAL		60,000	60,000	35,000	0	0	25,000

ESTIMATED SALARIES AND BENEFITS FOR 3 ADDITIONAL POSITIONS AT CLAC				
POSITION	YEARLY SALARY	BENEFITS	TOTAL	
Information Officer	\$27,000 to \$39,000	\$6,750	\$33,750	
Legislative Aide	\$27,000 to \$39,000	\$6,750	\$33,750	
Office Assistant II	\$24,000	\$6,000	\$30,000	
<b>These 3 positions would total approximately \$97,500.</b>				
<b>Additional expenses which will be incurred if staff budget is approved.</b>				
1300 additional square footage @ \$16.66 per square foot = \$2165.80				
Additional expense for possible remodeling if adjacent areas are used: \$9010.40				
<b>Total expenses needed for additional space: \$35,000.00</b>				
<b>Equipment which will be needed is as follows:</b>				
3 new computer systems @ \$2500.00 a piece = \$7500.00 (this includes monitor, hard drive, keyboard and mouse)				
2 laser printers @ \$1000.00 a piece = \$2000.00				
Office furniture ( desks, cubicles, shelves, etc.) = \$2500.00				
3 additional phone lines @ approximately \$100.00 per line = \$500.00				
New phone system with additional line capability = \$2500.00 (includes 6 office phones and new front desk phone)				
Larger copier for additional and current staff additional \$3000.00 added to our current lease.				
The total in additional funding for equipment would be approximately \$18,000.00				
<b>Budget reflects salaries of approximately \$100,000.00 and Office space of \$35,000.00 with an additional amount for equipment of \$18,000.00</b>				
<b>Total amount being asked for is \$153,000.00</b>				

**ATTACHMENTS**  
**SECTION IV - LATINO YOUTH CONFERENCE**

- I. Letter from Asian Council - Ann Webb
- II. Letter from the City of St. Paul - Ytmar Santiago
- III. Article in the Star Tribune
- IV. Article in the Pioneer Press
- V. Article in La Prensa
- VI. Comments from Latino Youth Conference participants who were surveyed at random

6-30-98

Maggie,

What a successful event!  
Thank you for inviting me as a  
facilitator for the second annual  
Chicano/Latino Youth Conference.  
It was a blast to be a part of an  
important occasion in young  
people's lives.

It was so great to get  
reconnected with the Latino  
community too!

I also want to congratulate  
all your volunteers and staff  
on a job well done.

I look forward to working w/you  
more on youth events.

Let's talk soon!

Dravid!

Ann Webb



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
*Norm Coleman, Mayor*

900 City Hall Telephone: 612-266-8966  
15 W. Kellogg Boulevard Facsimile: 612-266-8962  
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1681 TDD: 612-266-8977

June 29, 1998

Margarita Zalamea  
Executive Director  
Chicano Latino Affairs Council  
555 Park Street, Suite 408  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103

Dear Margarita:

Saludos cordiales. Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to participate as a facilitator during this year's Latino Youth Conference. From what I could witness the kids were having a blast and, to be honest, so were we the adults. As you know, I was scheduled to facilitate the Senate Group but I ended up facilitating the Latino Minority group. I was impressed with the ability of the students to comprehend complex legislative terms and procedures. My own group of children surprised me when they suggested a coalition with the Non-minority group to muster more power before the House of Representatives!.

The success of this Conference proves one more time that sometimes adults underestimate the capacity of our youth. I am glad that our community has exceptional people like you to bring forth these activities that so much enrich our children.

Please keep me in mind when you plan next year's Conference. And, again, thank you for a wonderful opportunity. Hasta luego.

Con un abrazo de amistad,

Ytmar Santiago  
Human Rights Investigator

# Chicano and Latino youths turn their eyes to future at conference

By Maria Elena Baca  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

This year's gubernatorial candidates should learn from Liz Gerena. In her successful campaign for Minnesota governor, she didn't take a dime from special-interest groups, didn't make any promises she didn't intend to keep and promised to abide by a term limit that restricts her to serving only one week-end. How did she do it? She signed up.

"I feel nervous and maybe a little bit confident that I can make it. I've got a big title," said Gerena, who recently graduated from Humboldt High School in St. Paul.

*"I want the kids to understand their power. . . . Inside, they have voices that have been silenced for a long time."*

— Margarita Zalamea,  
executive director

Turn to TEENS on B9

## TEENS from B1

As you read this, Gerena, 17, and 101 other Latino youths from all over the state are gathering momentum in a weekend seminar on how to become movers and shakers in their communities as part of the second annual Chicano/Latino Youth Conference at Hamline University in St. Paul. The conference, sponsored by the state Chicano/Latino Affairs Council, includes seminars on building productive relationships, understanding the political process and setting agendas. At the same time, they will be discussing issues, trading ideas and glad-handing as they play the roles of politicians, lobbyists and members of the news media.

In recent years, Hispanics have been one of the state's fastest-growing ethnic groups. From 1990 to 1996, the number of Hispanics in Minnesota grew 40 percent, to 76,044, according to numbers from the state demographer's office. The number of Hispanic youths, ages 15 to 19, grew 36.4 percent, to 7,046. In 1996, Hispanics made up 1.6 percent of the population of a state that was

93.6 percent white, 2.8 percent black, 1.2 percent American Indian and 2.4 percent Asian.

Margarita Zalamea, executive director of the Chicano/Latino Affairs Council, said she hopes the students will take something with them when they go home on Sunday. "I want the kids to understand their power," she said. "I want the kids to find their voices."

Friday afternoon, the teens were given their group assignments: governor's office, House of Representatives, Senate, private constituency, Latino and non-Latino constituencies, legislative advocates and the media. They were led in ice-breaking exercises by Jimmy Cabrera, a motivational speaker from Houston.

The wheeling and dealing started quietly enough. At their supper table, Yolanda Valle, a junior at Humboldt, and Harrel Perez, a senior at St. Paul Academy, were talking about education. As members of the non-Latino constituency, they discussed universal access to financial aid, which would be evenly divvied among institutions of higher learning according to pop-

ulation, but without regard to ethnic heritage. "Your education is your future, so that's our topic and that's what our focus is. Is that it?" Perez said, rushing away to make an appointment with the governor's staff.

He met with Lt. Gov. Gustavo Pacheco, a ninth-grader at West Central Academy in Minneapolis, and the governor's chief of staff, Carlos Casian, a junior at Worthington High School, in a crowded aisle.

"Everybody should have the same chance, no matter what nationality you are," Perez said.

The governor's staff asked a few questions, and Perez left to talk to a member of the House of Representatives.

Casian explained the issue to Gerena, who expressed approval. When asked if she really was advocating an end to race-based affirmative action, Gerena nodded. When she applied for her scholarships to attend Hamline this fall, her friends who are not minority members expressed surprise and indignation. "They could have gotten a scholarship, but just because of their place as a minority or not a minority, they

can't apply for those scholarships," Gerena said. "I felt bad, because what if they go to college because of [issues]?"

Other issues included:  
► Pay for migrant workers would like to see a raise for migrants, because it's hard and it should be said Jesus Hernandez, ninth-grader at a night migrant workers' child care center in Olmito, Minn., the summers

► Stereotyping kids by their heritage. Spanish students often will be in elementary English class if you can speak English Mireya Treviño, a recent of Willmar High School.

► Multicultural education talk about what happened to Europeans, and they talk about what happened to cultures in history," said alda Diaz, a junior at Hamline

Today, students will talk about the issues in preparation for a session of their lecture convening Sunday afternoon

# PIONEER PRESS

THURSDAY

VOLUME 150 NUMBER 61

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7 SECTIONS, 58 PAGES

**St. Paul:** *Chicano and Latino youth to seek unity at forum* LOCAL, 1C

## Hispanic youths to gather, work to amplify their voices

Conference in St. Paul seeks to 'make a difference'

PAT BURSON STAFF WRITER

Mireya Trevino never understood why some people at her high school in Willmar, Minn., bristled at the idea of organizing an event to celebrate Mexican-American heritage. It could help educate some students, she thought, including the classmate who told her, "Mexicans don't belong in the United States."

Neither could she explain why so many Latino students, who spoke Spanish and English fluently, still were placed in English as a Second Language classes. Nor, with so many Mexican-Americans living along the state's western edge, why she never saw any working as teachers in the public schools.

"When I lived in Chicago and Texas, I had that," explained Trevino, an 18-year-old Mexican-American who graduated from Willmar Senior High School this spring. "When I moved up here, it was totally different. I didn't feel like I could turn to anybody" in the school district.

Trevino will discuss education and

other topical issues this weekend as she meets with other Chicano and Latino youth at a conference at Hamline University in St. Paul. It is the second annual Latino Youth Conference, sponsored by the state Chicano Latino Arts Council. It begins Friday and continues through Sunday.

"I was just hoping that it would help me — especially now that I'm going to college — learn about the government system and what we as citizens can do," said Trevino, who is planning to enroll in a community college in the fall.

Conference participants will discuss issues they are most concerned about across a broad range of topics. Judging from essays they wrote to apply to the program, issues topping the list include agriculture, bilingual education, business immigration, cultural and ethnic identity, housing discrimination, the plight of migrant workers, politics and the minimum wage.

This year's conference will focus on

# YOUTHS

▼ CONTINUED FROM 1C

teaching youngsters about the role of advocacy, policy and legislation — an idea that grew out of intense interest that last year's group showed during a small workshop on the political process.

Last year, we had a bunch of speakers and different panels of people talking about careers, how you go from high school to college," said Margarita Zalamea, executive director of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council. "This one is about the legislative process and how to become politically involved now. It's the kids coming up with issues among themselves, issues that are important to them."

That mirrors the council's overall mission to promote the social, economic and political development of Chicanos and Latinos living in Minnesota and to serve as a liaison among them, state government, media and the general public, she said.

## IF YOU GO

Although limited, space is still available for those who want to participate in the second annual Latino Youth Conference. Walk-in registration begins at 1 p.m. Friday at Hamline University, 1536 Hewitt Ave., in Sorin Hall, and will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. Youth must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

During a series of role-playing exercises, the youth will learn about consensus-building, majority rule, networking and the art of persuasion. Each will be assigned a role for the weekend. For example, one will be governor; another, lieutenant governor. Another, a member of the media. Others will be legislators, employees of non-profit and for-profit agencies, migrant workers, members of advocacy groups, and constituents representing different communities and interests.

Each group will attempt to introduce mock legislative initiatives regarding different issues. They will present their proposals during a mock legislative hearing on the final day. They also will be coached on how to lobby outside formal settings, typically during meals, free time, sporting events and evening outings.

"A lot of the persuading and lobbying and educating happens outside of the Capitol," Zalamea said. "Even when they're playing sports, they'll be trying to persuade on an informal level, which is the way a lot of it happens anyway."

# Hamline University to Host CLAC's 1998 Latino Youth Conference

LA FRENZA  
JUNE 25, 1998  
CLAC

The primary mission of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council (hereinafter CLAC) is to promote the social, economic and political development of Minnesota's Chicano/Latino communities. Therefore, CLAC serves as the liaison between state government, media, the general public and Minnesota's Chicano/Latino community.

CLAC also empowers the Chicano/Latino community through special projects such as the annual Latino Youth Conference, Voter Registration Drivers and publication of the AL DIA and CLAC Bilingual Directory. In accordance with its mission, the 1998 Latino Youth Conference (hereinafter LYC) will closely reflect CLAC's legislative mandate and daily activities.

The CLAC's 1998 Latino Youth Conference will be held from June 26 to June 28, 1998. This year's conference will teach youth the importance of becoming involved in the political process. Students will learn how the legislative process works through role playing. One-hundred students will be divided into groups of ten. Each group will represent a certain constituency: state senators and representatives; members of the Governor's office; newspaper, radio, and television reporters; and members of several advocacy groups.

High School students from Minneapolis, St. Paul, Willmar,



*Margarita Zalamea, CLAC Executive Director welcomed the audience during 97 Conference celebrated at St. Thomas University*

Crookston, and other areas will become intimately involved with the political process through role playing. Some will assume the role of legislators. Others will act as members of advocacy groups. Youth will learn about building relationships, reaching consensus, and the concept of majority rules. Students will discuss issues such as racism, bilingual education, and immigration. Students will then pick an issue to take to the mock legislative session on Sunday, the final day of the conference. In the evenings students will have an opportunity to dine with state legislators, and other community leaders. Confirmed attendees for the Saturday dinner include Senator John Hottinger and Judge Salvador Rojas.

## Conference Highlights

- **Setting the Political Stage** - Overwhelmed by government? In search of answers? This session will inspire you to get involved and be a voice for your community. Learn the ins and outs of the government and the legislative process.
- **Build Productive Relationships** - Learn and experience the basics of networking skills. This session will provide you with the necessary skills to interact with individuals who will help you obtain what you desire, lead you where you are going.
- **Kick-Off with Jimmy Cabrera** - Jimmy Cabrera is a dynamic and energetic speaker

*Continued from page 1*

who will captivate you with his own experiences and his down earth style. Jimmy Cabrera will become a role model and will guide you to your full potential.

- **Issues Without Boundaries** - Share ideas with a panel of youth from a variety of backgrounds, discuss and address issues which affect Chicano/Latino youth as well as youth in the Asian, African American, Native American, Caucasian, Gay/Lesbian, and disabled communities.

- **Legislative Mock Session** - You will become intimately involved with the legislative process during a simulation of a legislative session. Your experience will include every step of the legislative process.

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council thanks all of the sponsors who donated generously of their time and resources to make this conference a huge success. Without their help, this would not be possible.

For more information call (612) 296-9587.



## Youth Conference Comments !!!!

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council did a phone survey on some of the 1998 Latino Youth Conference participants. This is what our youth had to say!

"I met Gladys and Rachel at a sign-up booth at Johnson High School, they explained the LYC, I thought it would be great fun. During the LYC I was in the Media group, this taught me if I voice my opinion, I will be heard. I plan to get people together and go to the government to voice our opinions. I think the LYC should be longer next year, it went by so quickly."

Teresa Vasquez  
Age: 15

"I attended the conference last year and wanted to return. I enjoyed the variety this year, which was good. I was in the Non-Latino Constituent group, this taught me to look at other perspectives when it comes to other cultures not just focus on my own. I am really thinking of going into classes for politics, I could use this to spread the word and be a good Latina role model. I think it would be great to have other cultures attend next year and make it longer."

Alicia Lucio  
Age: 14

"I found out about the conference through my mom's friend. I think it was great, I have never seen so many people come together at a conference and I have never seen so many adults care, this was a great experience. I was part of the Media group, I learned the Media plays a big role in our lives. If I come up with ideas I will voice them and try to take it to the legislature. Margarita really inspired me by telling us we can accomplish anything. Next year we should have more dances."

Janaya Allen  
Age: 13

"I learned about the conference from Carmen Guzman. This conference was interesting and fun. I was part of the Governor's group. I learned you can get to where you want to be if you don't give up."

Mayte Rios  
Age: 15

"I learned about the conference from Gladys and Pedro they were signing up youth at my school. I learned about the problems in rural MN. I was part of the Senator's group. I would like to run for public office in the future. Next year I would like to see more kids from the inner city."

Peter Villafañe  
Age: 15

"I learned about the conference through my counselor at school. I enjoyed hearing how we should put goals in our lives and believe in ourselves. I was part

of the Non-Latino group. I learned we should stick together and work hard for what we want and need. Everything was great.

Yolanda Valle  
Age: 16

" I attended the conference last year and wanted to return. I got to meet a lot of people and make new friends. I was in the House of Representatives group this taught me to not lose hope and work hard for our community. I believe I can help my community by educating them on the problems like stereotyping, racism and violence.

Claudio Sarmiento  
Age: 17

" I learned about the conference from Juan Valencia. I enjoyed myself even though we were constantly supervised by adults. I was part of the Non-Profit group and learned alot. I would like to see the conference next year be longer and go into more details within our community. I give the conference an "A".

Richard Magaña  
Age: 13

" I learned at the LYC how to speak out my ideas and that there are alot of issues going on that need to be paid attention to so we can help our community. Maggie inspired me by showing me our opinion counts. When Jimmy spoke I had tears in my eyes.

Cinthia Martinez-Delgadillo  
Age: 15

" I learned about the youth conference from Rachel and Gladys during a sign-up at our school. It was fun to learn about politics and all the people we met from MN. I was part of the Media group. I plan to go into law enforcement and I believe this will help me alot. I plan to attend the Youth day in March at the Capitol. I liked meeting new people and even though we didn't know each other we all got along."

Crystal Blanco  
Age: 15

" I attended the conference last year and I wanted to go back this year. I was part of the Governor's group. I learned how people would deal with this group in real life which is sometimes not to good. Jimmy inspired me the most during the ice breaking session."

Roberto DeSantiago  
Age: 17

" I found the conference to be very lively and motivated the youth always had something to do. I was the Governor in the Governor's group this taught me that politics is very hard and you must speak out if you want something done in life. I would like to run for public office in the future. I enjoyed speaking to all the real life representative and politicians that attended the dinners."

Lizbell Gerena

Age: 18

"I learned about the conference during a sign-up at our school. I was part of the House of Representatives group and learned how important it is to get involved in the community. I enjoyed getting into groups and explaining our ideas."

Anner Gutierrez  
Age: 16

"I learned about the conference when people came to sign-up youth at my school. I had fun and learned how to get involved in my community. I was part of the Governor's office group. The person playing the governor inspired me, she stuck to her opinion and didn't change her mind. The mock session at the end was great."

Cynthia Frolund

### **Comentarios de la Conferencia de Jovenes !!!!**

El Concilio de Chicano Latino's tomo una encuesta telefónica con unos de los participantes del 1998 Latino Youth Conference. Estas son las respuestas de nuestros jóvenes!

"Conoci a Gladys y Rachel en mi escuela en Johnson High School, me explicaron los detalles de la LYC, yo pense que esta conferencia hiba ser muy divertidaer mucha diversión. Yo fui parte dell grupo de la "Media". Aprendí si yo expreso mi opinión, la comunidad hoye mi voz. Mis planes son juntar a la gente y llevar nuestra voz y opiniones al gobierno. Mi pensamiento es que la conferencia sea mas larga el ano que viene, se paso el tiempo muy pronto este año."

Teresa Vasquez  
Edad: 15

"Yo atendí la conferencia el año pasado y quería regresar. Me gusto la diversión este año; fue muy bueno. Mi grupo fue el "Non-Latino Constituent", aprendí ver las otras perspectivas de otras culturas y no solamente la mia. Estoy pensando tomar clases en política para educar al publico y ser una Latina de buen ejemplo. Me gustaría que el próximo año fueran jóvenes de otras culturas y que la conferencia fuera mas larga. "

Alicia Lucio  
Edad: 14

" Supe de la conferencia a traves de una amiga de mi mama. Fue buenisimo, nunca he visto tanta gente unida en una conferencia y nunca he visto tantos adultos que se preocupen por la juventud, fue una gran experiencia. Yo fui parte del grupo de la "Media", aprendí que el "Media" toma una parte muy grande en nuestras vidas. Si yo misma tengo ideas se que puedo expresar mis sentimientos y llevar os a la legislatura. Margarita me inspiro mucho con decir

que podemos lograr cualquier cosa. El próximo año me gustaría que hubieran mas bailes. "

Janaya Allen  
Edad: 13

" Supe de la conferencia atraves de Carmen Guzman. La conferencia fue muy interesante y me divertí mucho. Yo fui parte del grupo del "Governor's Office". Aprendí que todo es posible mientras uno no se rinda o se de por vencido."

Mayte Rios  
Edad: 15

" Fui informado de la conferencia por medio de Gladys y Pedro, cuyos fueron a mi escuela a registrar jóvenes latinos. Me di cuenta de todos los problemas en rural MN. Yo fui parte del grupo del "Senate". Me gustaría correr por un puesto publico con el gobierno en el futuro. El año siguiente

me gustaría ver mas jóvenes de la ciudad atender.

Peter Villafañe  
Age: 15

" Aprendi de la conferencia atraves de mi consejero en la escuela. Me gusto oir que debemos tener metas en la vida y creer en uno mismo. Yo fui parte del grupo de "Non-Latino". Aprendí que tenemos que trabajar juntos y muy duro por las cosas que queremos y necesitamos. Todo fue espectáculo.

Yolanda Valle  
Edad: 16

" Yo tome parte en la conferencia el año pasado y quise regresar. Conocí muchas personas nuevas e hice nuevos amigos. Fui parte del grupo de "House of Representatives" y esto me enseno no perder la esperanza y luchar por mi comunidad. Yo pienso que puedo ayudar a mi comunidad por medio de educación sobre sus problemas como estereotípicos, racismo y violencia.

Claudio Sarmiento  
Edad: 17

" Me di cuenta de la conferencia por Juan Valencia. Me divertí aunque siempre fuimos supervisados por adultos. Yo fui parte del grupo de "Non-Profit" y aprendí mucho. Me gustaría ver la conferencia mas larga el año que viene y que hubiera mas información de nuestras comunidades. Yo le doy una "A" a la conferencia. "

Richard Magaña  
Edad: 13

" Aprendí en la conferencia de jóvenes como expresar mis ideas y que hay muchos problemas que necesitan atención para poder ayudar a nuestra comunidad. Maggie me inspiro mucho dejandome saber que nuestra opinión cuenta. Cuando hablo Jimmy mis ojos se llenaron de lagrimas.

Cinthia Martinez-Delgadillo  
Edad: 15

" Me di cuenta de la conferencia por Rachel y Gladys que fueron a registrar a la escuela. Tuve mucho diversión aprendiendo el proceso político y toda la gente que conocí de diferentes áreas en MN. Yo fui parte del grupo de Media. Mis planes son estudiar ser policía y pienso que esta experiencia me ayudara con esta decisión. Pienso atender el día de jóvenes en marzo en la Capital. Me gusto conocer la gente de diferentes áreas in MN. y como todos se respetaron. "

Crystal Blanco  
Edad: 15

" Yo fui a la conferencia el año pasado y quise regresar. Yo fui parte del grupo del "Governor". Aprendí como la gente trabaja con esta oficina en la vida real, la cual a veces no es muy buena. Jimmy me enspiro mucho cuando hablo. "

Roberto DeSantiago  
Edad: 17

" Encontre la conferencia muy animada y motivo todos los jóvenes, había mucho que hacer durante de la conferencia. Yo fui la gobernadora del grupo del "Governor's Office"; esto me enseno que la politica es muy dificil y que se necesita expresarse si uno quire hacer algo en la vida. Me gustaría correr para un puesto publico en el futuro. Me encanto hablar con todos los representantes de la legislatura y los politicos que atendieron las cenas."

Lizbell Gerena  
Edad: 18

" Yo me di cuenta de la conferencia durante una registracion en mi escuela. Yo fui parte del grupo del "House of Representatives" aprendí lo importante que envolverse en la comunidad. Me gusto estar en grupos y expresar nuestras ideas."

Anner Gutierrez  
Edad: 16

" Me di cuanta de la conferencia cuando gente de la oficina de CLAC fueron a registrar jovenes en mi escuela. Me divirti mucho y aprendí como envolverme en mi comunidad. Fui parte del grupo del "Governor's Office". La joven que tomo la parte del Gobernador me inspiro mucho, tomo su opinión y no fue cambiado su pensamiento. La sesión final fue espectacular."

Cynthia Frolund