

Moments in Our History p18

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8 National Convention 2019

People come together from around the country to build upon the ideas of community, solidarity, and action to build power and transform us into leaders of change.

15 Ford Driving Dreams

This year marks a decade of a cornerstone partnership between LULAC and Ford Motor Company Fund through the Ford Driving Dreams (FDD) Grants program. Read the impact it has had on our communities throughout America.

17 Latino Tech Summit

Latinos continue to challenge issues in their community in innovative ways. LULAC hosted the Latino Tech Summit to inspire Latinos to embrace technology and tackle the lack of diversity and inclusion within the tech sector.

27 EHAT Centers

Since 2004, LULAC has empowered local communities throughout the U.S. with technology and knowledge. Young leaders and families build essential skills and gain an understanding of STEM through informational, hands-on workshops.



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28 Feria de Salud

As part of our Latinos Living Healthy Initiative, this annual event provides free medical services and encourages healthier life choices to address the health disparities faced by underserved communities.

29 Grow with Google

Grow with Google and LULAC are working together to offer Spanish-accessible, digital skills training at our EHAT centers to locally support the career and business growth of our communities.

31 CDC Let's Stop HIV Together

We continue to work under the CDC's Partnering and Communicating Together (PACT) program to advocate for HIV awareness, prevention and care.

32 ¡Adelante America!

LULAC and AT&T have partnered to bring academic skills and tangible tools that prepare our youth for college and the workforce.

34 TECHNOLOchicas Lift

LULAC has partnered with the Televisa Foundation, the Eva Longoria Foundation and Intel, to encourage and support middle-school Latina students to pursue STEM studies through high school and college.

36 AARP

It is not easy to be a caregiver and we want to do everything we can to support you. LULAC and AARP are providing local or online resources to caregivers and helping ease some of the stresses connected to caring for our eldest loved ones.

38 Hernandez v. Texas

Learn what it took to effectively broaden judicial protections for Latinos and subsequently other communities of color.

40 Little School of the 400

It took a simple curriculum of 400 English vocabulary words to help thousands of Spanish-speaking children overcome the language barrier in Texas, and it inspired a national program that has impacted millions.

43 SER Jobs

Follow the history and impact of SER Jobs as we reflect on its founding story. SER has worked beyond workforce development to empower our local Latino communities with passion and pave the way for a legacy of excellence.



HIGHLIGHTS

7, 10 COVID-19 Resources

Find bilingual one-page resources that cover the steps to protect yourself and your loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic, even if you are healthy, symptomatic, unsure of how to get tested, or positive.

13 The Power of Reaching Latinos

Three national Town Halls. Various presidential candidates. This is just the beginning of LULAC's efforts to empower Latinos to be politically engaged and vote in 2020.

45 A Tribute to Legends

Some leaders lead by example. These legends truly rose to LULAC's call for service and lived with courage, selflessness and dedication. Let us remember and pay tribute to their stories.



A LETTER FROM THE LULAC NATIONAL PRESIDENT

D

Dear LULAC Family,

2020 is quite a year with the COVID-19 pandemic impacting the life of every LULAC member and their families. The coronavirus has hit the Latino community especially hard, both in our health and econom-

ically. Yet, LULAC members have risen to the challenge by fighting to improve working conditions for the safety of farmworkers in Arizona and California. Also, our LULAC councils in Iowa and Colorado fought and won battles to get protection for meatpackers and grocery store workers. This issue was carried by national media including CNN, MSNBC, and the New York Times.

This year we had virtual town hall meetings to get information to our communities including how to get small business loans and how to reduce the number of Latino with no health insurance. We improved LULAC's national website to provide the latest critical information to the community.

Since 1929 LULAC has stood for La Raza, no matter the opponent, or how long and difficult the fight.

I have faith in you, the members who volunteer, to make your communities better. You put your own sweat, money, and hard work in projects throughout America and Puerto Rico.

We had to cancel our 2020 National Convention because of the health crisis, but we will redouble our efforts to grow and help each Jose and Maria in the USA and Puerto Rico.

John F. Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country". That applies today more than ever. We need to each continue to do our part to keep the American dream alive for the next generation.

Con ganas todo se puede. Hasta La Victoria!

Domingo Garcia

A MESSAGE FROM THE LULAC NATIONAL STAFF

It's said that the true measure of a person's character is seen during a time of crisis when faced with situations never imagined or expected. This is why your LULAC National team is very proud to be serving you during the COVID-19 pandemic. We've seen the great courage, dedication and personal sacrifice of LULAC members in communities throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. They have been volunteering at food banks, checking in on seniors isolated in their homes or staying in touch with students whose schools have closed.

Every day, as we gather virtually from our remote home-offices in Washington, DC and El Paso, Texas, our number one priority is still to be the very best stewards of each program entrusted to LULAC by our partners. With that duty, comes a responsibility to ensure that the funding they provide goes directly into the programs we committed to delivering to help transform our communities. We're also thinking about how, year in and year out, tens of thousands of people's lives are touched by

“
**Our daily
purpose
is to help
you”**



LULAC's core programs. It's pretty special to know that our work as a team is supporting education, economic advancement, access to housing, health, services for veterans and seniors as well as the rights of women to equity in the workplace and our LGBTQ brothers and sisters.

Also exciting is that we're serving a great organization at a time when front and center are the decennial U.S. Census and our I Count 2020 / Yo Cuento 2020 initiative and the all-important Get-Out-The-Vote coalition campaigns throughout the United States leading up to elections.

Our LULAC Councils and coalitions are organizing, mobilizing and leading by example in their communities across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The fact is there is not a corner of the country where LULAC is not being heard or seen on the ground, in the media or its effects felt on policies touching every Latino as well as other people of color.

Your LULAC National Staff is proud to report that 2020 is a year of historic change in building our capacity through new community, corporate and leadership partnerships. From our team interns, specialist contractors to long-serving employees, we're here for one reason. Our daily purpose is to help you--nuestra comunidad. We work to amplify LULAC's voice, extend our reach and make a greater and lasting impact to ensure that we continue true to the calling of our founders.

Your national staff recognizes that as a non-partisan organization, LULAC in 2020 must endeavor to continue working with all allies. Our legacy of standing with elected leaders in Congress opens doors for us to meet personally and present timely solutions for our community. This includes immigration reform impacting millions of people already in the United States, reproductive rights for women, equal compensation for Latinas in the workplace and for Puerto Rico's right to equal treatment as U.S. citizens. This is the advantage of being close to the Hill, where these decisions



We work to amplify LULAC's voice, extend our reach and make a greater and lasting impact to ensure that we continue true to the calling of our founders.”

are being made. It's an advantage we cannot afford to relinquish, especially when “out of sight is out of mind” as budgets are being decided.

We are proud to serve and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you as leaders, advocates and champions for civil rights in the communities where you live. Let us together make 2021, the year when we redoubled our commitment to protect and expand the core programs that are the basis of our constant partnerships. May LULAC's cry for justice never go silent, our triumphs for those trampled never cease and may God continue to bless our fight for those seeking freedom in our great country.

All for One and One for All,

LULAC National Staff

LULAC National Staff



DETENGA LA PROPAGACIÓN STOP THE SPREAD

Stay connected!    @LULAC ¡Conéctese con nosotros!

**Si me siento saludable, ¿qué puedo hacer para
protegerme y proteger a mi familia?**

If I feel healthy, what can I do to protect myself and my family?



**Lave o desinfecte sus manos
con frecuencia.**

Wash or disinfect your
hands frequently.



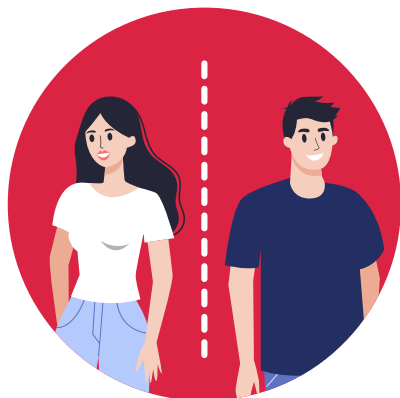
**No toque sus ojos, nariz o
boca sin tener sus manos
limpias.**

Do not touch your eyes, nose
or mouth without clean
hands.



**Continúe buscando
información de los
funcionarios de salud.**

Continue to seek
information from health
officials.



**Mantenga al menos 6 pies
de distancia entre usted y
otros.**

Keep at least 6 feet of
distance between you and
others.



**Cubra su boca al toser o
estornudar con la parte
interior de su codo o con un
pañuelo desechable.**

Cover your cough or sneeze
with the inside of your elbow
or a tissue to dispose of after.



**Evite grupos grandes y trate
de no salir de su casa con
frecuencia.**

Avoid large groups and try
not to leave your home
frequently.

Para más información visite
For more information visit

LULAC.org/covid19

#AYUDA EN ESPAÑOL

WHEN LATINOS NEED IT MOST

O

One of the glaring gaps that the COVID-19 pandemic has made very evident is the lack of timely, accurate and relevant information at a time when 60-million Latinos, many of them in multi-generational, bilingual households, need it most. In Central Florida for example,

Latinos account for 82% of the region's economic growth according to the Orlando Economic Partnership and 60% of the population growth. Yet, Latinos say the pandemic crisis and the resulting health and economic impact in Florida exposed a lack of information in Spanish leaving them without vital facts and resources.

To address situations like this one in communities nationwide and Puerto Rico, LULAC developed "Ayuda en Español", a one-stop online location for easy access to the latest information and resources related to the coronavirus for all members of the family. Our goal was to provide LULAC members and the Latino community-at-large Spanish language help at a time when we need it most. From children out of school and studying at home to parents in need of COVID-19 updates or our dear seniors...abuelo y abuelita... often in self-isolation out of an abundance of caution, we all may be seeking or needing different types of knowledge and help which is what "Ayuda en Español" is here to deliver.

How does it work?

A range of templates makes it easy to navigate and seek assistance in an array of essential topics: Unemployment benefits, Social Security, Price Spiking, Access to Health Care, Housing, Healthcare for Uninsured Persons, Help for Incarcerated Individuals, Domestic Violence, Safety and Well-Being, Immigration Issues and General Questions...to name just a few.

One of the most exciting parts of the 'Ayuda en Español' Project is the wonderful list of some of the most well-known and beloved Latino names in entertainment. These include: Danny Trejo, Eva Longoria, Melissa Fumero, Emilio Rivera, Amaury Nolasco, Jason Canela, Maria Celeste, Chikybombom 'La Pantera' and Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC) from Major League Soccer. We encourage everyone to visit 'Ayuda en Español' during this time when federal and state assistance programs are making announcements almost daily so that you don't miss out on an opportunity that may help you and your family in the recovery from COVID-19. You can also text 'COVID19ESP' to 52886 to receive the latest information via text.

LULAC Relief Project: A Council Mobilization

As important as the information, LULAC has also established a fund of micro-stipends to lend a helping hand to as many areas as possible. To do this, LULAC is working closely with corporate partners and community-based organizations to provide assistance in communities across the United States.

Here's how it works:

- ✓ LULAC is funding councils that meet the criteria on how many people they can help during this COVID-19 public health emergency. Some of the initial needs include, but are not limited to: food insecurity, senior assistance, mental health and education resources. Also, this list will be updated as we know more about this rapidly evolving public health issue.
- ✓ As councils mobilize, the LULAC National Office will be awarding the stipends on a rolling basis. The money provided to councils should be used to provide relief and assistance in their community. Councils must be in good standing and are invited to apply at [LULAC.org/relief](https://www.lulac.org/relief) to fill their project plan and describe how they plan to carry it out.
- ✓ The application process opened on April 29 with funds released as early as the first two weeks of May and will continue to assist qualified projects until funding is exhausted.

The goal of “Ayuda en Español” and the LULAC Relief Project is to activate our LULAC Councils and partners around the US and Puerto Rico and impact thousands of families through our efforts. It's an ambitious goal but these are times when LULAC members will step up as they always have, to meet the extraordinary challenge of our times. For those people whose movement may be restricted because of personal circumstances, we invite you and those people you can reach to donate to our COVID-19 Relief Fund at [LULAC.org/donate](https://www.lulac.org/donate) to make this one of the most successful campaigns ever. You can also call us at our national office at (202) 833-6130 to get the information. In advance, gracias for all that you are doing to take care of each other.

Together We Rise,

Sindy & Sandra

Sindy M. Benavides,
LULAC National Chief Executive Officer ☺

Sandra Caraveo,
LULAC National Programs Manager





SÍNTOMAS Y QUÉ DEBO HACER

SYMPTOMS AND WHAT TO DO

Stay connected!    @LULAC ¡Conéctese con nosotros!

¿Qué debo hacer si tengo tos, fiebre u otros síntomas de COVID-19?
What should I do if I have a cough, fever, or other symptoms of COVID-19?

Solo tengo síntomas leves: || I only have mild symptoms:



Quédese en casa y evite el contacto con familiares o amigos.
Stay at home and avoid contact with family or friends.



Esto incluye ancianos y personas con condiciones preexistentes. || This includes elders and people with pre-existing conditions.

Mis síntomas están empeorando o creo que puede ser una emergencia: || My symptoms are getting worse or I think it may be an emergency:



Primero, llame a su médico para determinar si sus síntomas podrían estar relacionados con COVID-19.

First, call your doctor to determine if your symptoms could be related to COVID-19.



Si su vida puede estar en peligro, llame al 911 y dígalos sus síntomas asociados con COVID-19.
If your life may be in danger, call 911 and tell them your symptoms associated with COVID-19.



Para más información visite
For more information visit

LULAC.org/covid19



¿CÓMO SÉ SI TENGO COVID-19? HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE COVID-19?

Como saber si ha estado expuesto. || How to know if you've been exposed.



Los síntomas pueden aparecer entre 2 a 14 días después del contagio. || Symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after infection.



Contacto directo: si ha estado a menos de 6 pies por un tiempo prolongado o tocaste fluidos corporales de alguien que tiene COVID-19. || Direct Contact: If you've been within 6-ft for a prolonged time or touched bodily fluids of someone who has COVID-19.

Llame a su Departamento de Salud local para averiguar cómo hacerse la prueba. || Call your local Health Department to find out about how to get tested.



Su médico puede diagnosticar si tiene COVID-19. || Your doctor may be able to diagnose you if you show COVID-19 symptoms.



Algunos departamentos pueden priorizar las pruebas para comunidades vulnerables o personas con síntomas graves. Some departments may prioritize testing for vulnerable communities or people with severe symptoms.



En vez de realizar pruebas, es posible que se le solicite que comunique datos de salud, como temperatura, para monitorear su condición. || Instead of testing, you may be asked to communicate health measurements such as temperatures to monitor your condition.

Stay connected!    @LULAC ¡Conéctese con nosotros!

**Para más información visite
For more information visit**

LULAC.org/covid19



ESTOY ENFERMO I'M SICK

Stay connected! @LULAC ¡Conéctese con nosotros!

SI TENGO EL VIRUS, ¿QUÉ PUEDO HACER PARA PROTEGER A MI FAMILIA? IF I HAVE THE VIRUS, WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MY FAMILY?

Solo tengo síntomas leves: || I only have mild symptoms:



Quédese en casa. || Stay at home.



Lave y desinfecte frecuentemente las superficies tocadas. || Wash or disinfect your hands frequently.



Cubra su tos o estornudos con la parte interior de su codo o con un pañuelo desechable.
Cover your cough or sneeze with the inside of your elbow or a tissue to dispose of after.



No comparta objetos como tazas o toallas con otras personas.
Do not share anything, such as cups or towels, with other people.



Si vive con otros, límite lo que toca y trate de aislarse.
|| If you live with others, limit what you touch and try to isolate yourself.



Lave y desinfecte las superficies frecuentemente tocadas. || Wash and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Tengo problemas para respirar o creo que puede ser una emergencia: I have problems breathing or I think it may be an emergency:



Llame a su proveedor de salud para determinar la mejor manera de buscar atención médica.
Call your health provider to determine the best way to seek medical attention.



Si es una emergencia, llame al 911 y dígame que tiene COVID-19.
If it's an emergency, call 911 and tell them you have COVID-19.

Para más información visite
For more information visit

LULAC.org/covid19



THE POWER OF REACHING LATINOS

by Diego Tum-Monge



A

An estimated 32 million Latinos in the U.S. will be eligible to vote this year, according to the Pew Research Center. This is a significant increase from the 29 million Latinos who were eligible in the 2018 midterm elections. Political analysts consider Latinos

in the U.S. to be a growing and formidable voting bloc. Yet, other experts cast doubts on the significance by highlighting the history of low voter turnout among Latinos since 1996. LULAC believes strongly in the power of community outreach and political engagement to energize Latinos to vote in 2020. This is why LULAC organized three national town halls hosting key presidential candidates who came to address the policies and concerns of the Latino community. LULAC has co-hosted these digitally-accessible, bilingual

forums starting in July in partnerships with Univision Noticias, Newsmax-TV, and Telemundo. Here is what you should know about these historic events:

Milwaukee, WI **July 11, 2019**

Latinos in Milwaukee represent a population of more than 160,000. In fact, our community has more than tripled in this city since 1990. This growth trend is reflected in many other major cities throughout the country and added significance to the location of our first town hall, *Destino 2020*:



De Frente al Voto (translated Destination 2020: Forward with the Vote). LULAC produced this town hall in partnership with Univision to broadcast during the 90th LULAC National Convention and Exposition. Presidential hopefuls Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Julian Castro, and Beto O'Rourke took to the stage to answer questions from community members. You can re-visit this event and appreciate its impact by streaming it at [LULAC.org/live](https://lulac.org/live) or find it on C-SPAN by searching LULAC.

Des Moines, Iowa October 24, 2019

Latino voters and others gathered in Des Moines, Iowa for a town hall that brought together more than 500 attendees in that city with LULAC and NewsmaxTV. The event followed a highly-successful advocacy campaign

led by LULAC to overturn an unjust Voter ID Law in Iowa. Presidential candidates in attendance included Senator Bernie Sanders, Former U.S. Representative Beto O'Rourke, Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro, and Representative Tulsi Gabbard (via pre-recorded video).

LULAC highlighted questions from attendees who directly asked the candidates about the issues that mattered most to their community. The Iowa Town Hall provided a voice to Latinos in Iowa and across America. Iowa set a precedent for reaching out to Latinos and set a stellar example for the future of our Latino outreach nationwide. LULAC's goal now is to continue informing our community members

about their right to vote and empower them to use it as their voice for change.

Las Vegas, Nevada February 13, 2020

Latinos in Nevada make up about 500,000 of the 1.6 million total registered voters. Also, it was one of the first states in the presidential primaries with a significant Latino electorate. For this reason, LULAC hosted the Las Vegas Presidential Town Hall in partnership with Telemundo at the College of Southern Nevada and ahead of the Nevada Caucuses held on February 22nd.

The purpose of the premiere LULAC event in Nevada was primarily to boost Latino turnout by highlighting the concerns of our community in a language-accessible forum. This town hall provided the opportunity for attendees

and viewers to hear directly from the candidates on important issues pertaining to Latinos, including health-care, economic security, immigration and other topics key to the state of Nevada. Four Democratic presidential candidates attended the event, including Tom Steyer, Candidate; Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN); Pete Buttigieg, Former Mayor of South Bend, IN; and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) who participated via live video conference.

Indeed, LULAC is using new forums, platforms and technologies to reach the fastest-growing electorate in the nation to expand our reach and invite others to join us. [LN](#)

10 YEARS OF DRIVING EDUCATION FURTHER

by Melissa Cossio



I

In 2020, Ford Motor Company Fund – the philanthropic arm of Ford – and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) will be celebrating ten years of working hand in hand through the Ford Driving Dreams (FDD) Grants program. For the past ten years, education has been a major cornerstone of both LULAC and Ford Fund’s work. Their dedication and commitment have been reflected in the 82 programs served and over 2,485 students impacted since 2010.

Participating students have received extensive resources to help them graduate from high school on time and pursue a post-secondary education at trade schools, colleges, and universities. Some of the most successful program components have included academic tutoring, mentorship, SAT/ACT prep, college readiness workshops, and field trips to various colleges and universities. Ford Driving Dreams sites have also engaged students’ families and communities. Par-

ents and guardians receive access to extensive resources to help them support their children through the college admissions process and the transition from high school to higher education institutions. Communities are often engaged through their leaders' participation as guest speakers and mentors. Community leaders who engage with the Ford Driving Dreams program and its students include elected officials, college educators, and industry professionals.

Ford Driving Dreams' success is demonstrated by its rate of 95% of students achieving on-time promotion to the next grade; 75% of students retaining or improving their overall GPAs; and 90% of students graduating from high school and enrolling in a post-secondary institution. In addition, many of the students served become first-generation high school and college graduates.

One of the many exceptional programs funded by Ford Driving Dreams Grants is the Waukegan to College program in Waukegan, IL. "With the generous support of Ford Driving Dreams, all Waukegan to College (W2C) students have graduated from high school and matriculated to college. Our college graduation rate is 5x the national rate. Through W2C, 52 students have become the first in their families to earn a college degree. With many of these graduates coming back to help younger students, W2C is building a college-going culture and a path out of poverty," shares Elyse Danckers, Executive Director of W2C.

Programs such as the Ford Driving Dreams Grants are touching the lives of individual students, and also making an impact nationwide. According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the average public high school graduation rate in the U.S. increased from 79% in

2010-2011 to 85% in 2016-2017. Furthermore, the Hispanic community has seen a considerable decrease in dropout rates from 27.8% in 2000 to 8.6% in 2016. LULAC and Ford Fund are proud to continue to be a part of the efforts to increase high school graduation rates and decrease dropout rates. "At Ford Fund, we are proud to celebrate 10 years of working with LULAC to support the mission of promoting education and helping students reach their academic dreams," said Joe Ávila, manager, U.S. and Latin America, Ford Motor Company Fund. "We are committed to continue helping councils provide the resources needed to build brighter educational futures for students in their own communities."

In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis, Ford Fund is working to provide assistance through its national partner nonprofits to diligently respond appropriately to the rapidly changing situation while continuing to serve Latino communities across the nation. Currently, Ford Driving Dreams, in collaboration with LULAC, is providing 50 grants to LULAC councils in the Ford Driving Dreams Network to support Hispanic students during the COVID-19 pandemic and provide relief efforts in their communities.

Beyond the Ford Driving Dreams COVID-19 initiative, Ford Fund and Ford Motor Company Executive Chairman Bill Ford will match \$500,000 in donations to community organizations in the fight against COVID-19. Funds raised will support community projects focused on addressing hunger, shelter and mobility needs, providing educational resources, or delivering critical medical supplies and services in more than 20 countries. **LN**

To learn more about the matching program, volunteering projects and online resources for people of all ages who are staying home, go to: fordfund.org/covid19.

To apply for a Ford Driving Dreams COVID-19 Response Grant, visit www.lulac.org/covid19.

Be sure to follow us on social media!

Hashtags	Facebook
#FordDrivingDreams #FDDGrants #LULACPrograms #FordGivesBack #COVID-19	@LULAC @FordFund @FordDrivingDreams
Twitter	Instagram
@LULAC @FordFund_	@LULAC @FordFund @FordDrivingDreams

LATINOS IN TECH

by Sandra Caraveo, Alejandro Roark
& Alberto Vargas



High tech jobs are growing two times faster than the national average, leading to higher pay and better benefits for employees, according to a report published by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The report also found that, in 2014, up to 68.5% of employees in the high tech sector were

white, whereas African Americans and Hispanics accounted for as low as 7.4% and 8%, respectively.

LULAC is dedicated to tackling the lack of diversity and inclusion within the tech sector. As a result, LULAC and its partners host the annual Latino Tech Summit as an event to give underrepresented communities, particularly Latinos, an opportunity to embrace their interests in tech and contribute their voices towards an equitable industry.

The 2019 Latino Tech Summit was an engaging two-day summit in Denver, presented in partnership with Hispanic Technology & Telecommunications Partnership (HTTP). The first day convened the best and brightest leaders in Latino tech and created a unique opportunity for Latino technologists to exchange ideas, share their professional journeys, and network with like-minded Latino tech professionals. Day two of this year's summit empowered Latino youth to become community problem solvers through tech through our inaugural "Tech en Familia" event.

Latino Flash Pitch: This initiative was launched in partnership with Verizon at this year's summit to encourage Latino entrepreneurs for their bold ideas! Participants of this year's Flash Pitch will get the opportunity to present for up to \$20,000 in pre-seed funding that you can use towards scaling your startup as well as the opportunity to build strategic relations with other Latino technologists and meet representatives from some of the country's largest tech companies. There is still time to pitch your idea. Learn more and apply to participate in this exciting new program by visiting [LULAC.org/technology/latino_pitch](https://www.lulac.org/technology/latino_pitch).

A warm and generous "thank you" to this year's summit sponsors and community partners: Comcast, Verizon and AT&T, T-mobile, Google, Facebook, Twitter, Godaddy, NCTA, The City of Denver, The Commons on Champa, Technolochicas, Hispanics in Tech, The Kapour Center, Neta Collab, Next Century Cities, Once Colorado, Prospanica, Que Bueno Radio, Visible, Wallbreakers, Bunkerlabs, and The Colorado Tech Association. **LN**

STORIES FROM AROUND THE LEAGUE



ANA KAREN BETANCOURT

SW WASHINGTON LULAC COUNCIL #47013

THE POWER OF LULAC IS IN the diversity of its members and the strength this creates when we work together. In Washington State, Ana Karen Betancourt is Vice-President for Youth and she believes every day is an opportunity to mentor others while pursuing your own dreams at the same time.

“I grew up in a family that includes three children and our Mom and Dad,” says Ana Karen. “They came to the United States in 1999 from Mexico and while they couldn’t give us everything, they gave us an opportunity for an education. This is why my focus and my passion is about helping build bridges for Latinx youth from high school to higher education in Washington State and encouraging them to do what my parents told me, keep pushing your dreams,” she adds.

Ana Karen discovered LULAC while working on a project as a student at Clark College in Vancouver. She was exploring legacy organizations that made a signifi-

cant impact in creating educational opportunities for Latinos. It was there that she met Diana Avalos, who became one of her LULAC mentors and got involved in Adelante America, a mentoring project in her community.

“LULAC became my second home and it has allowed me to give back to others,” says Ana Karen. “We are a community made stronger through our collective knowledge so it is our duty to share what we learn and this is what I’ve done along my own education journey,” she adds.

Among the students who have been inspired by Ana Karen’s example are Maria Sanchez and Joanna Campos. They are both LULAC Youth Council members in Vancouver. Maria’s interest is in helping feed the homeless while Joanna says working on the Census 2020 campaign is where she can best help.

“Homelessness is everywhere in America and I think LULAC Youth could create a volunteer event in each of our own communities to help feed the homeless and lend a helping hand,” says Maria. “This is very important





work for me because my own brother has at times disappeared and I worry he won't have food to eat. So I want to do whatever I can to make us aware that we can each help," adds Maria.

"For me the Census is one of the most important ways I can help as a LULAC Youth member," says Joanna. "Our community matters and the Census is one way we can make sure that we are represented and get our fair share of the funding. We are getting stronger and I want to help people be counted in the 2020 Census. I have the ganas and I thank LULAC for making me more aware of the world around me," adds Joanna.

Ana Karen says knowing our history as a culture can transform

how we see ourselves and sharing knowledge about our accomplishments is one of her lifelong goals. She will soon graduate from Washington State University where she's majored in Sociology and Latin American History. "We are so powerful because of all the work others have done before us," says Ana Karen. "Now it's my turn to do what I can especially for our youth who see financial hurdles or they feel like they're not enough to deserve a higher education. Each of us as adults in LULAC can help change that mindset by encouraging youth to not give up and instead, to keep pushing forward in whatever area of interest they have," she adds.



CORINA ALEGRIA

PINEYWOODS LULAC COUNCIL #22351

THERE IS A CONTAGIOUS energy in the voice and vision of Corina Alegria when she speaks about why LULAC is so important in her life. The Corpus Christi native who now attends Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, a college town two-and-a-

half hours east of Houston is a leader with a passionate zeal for the work at hand and what's ahead. Yet, there is also a very personal motivation burning within her that compels Corina to keep working, growing and advancing.

"I am a young mom with a daughter and see my life as opening doors for her in the future so she can see that I overcame obstacles to pursue my dreams and succeed so she will too, only ten times better," says Corina. "There have been some people who said to me why take time away from my daughter and that instead I need to work and not be in school but I know this is something I have to do," she adds.

Corina is a next generation Latinx leader who has already achieved recognition as a recipient of the LULAC Young Adult of the Year Award at both the state and national levels. Also, she is President of one of the largest LULAC collegiate councils in the nation which she helped establish two years ago and which now has 82 active student members.

"I see myself as a person who is not doing this work alone in LULAC so I encourage all the student members of our Piney Woods Council on campus to learn how to become leaders themselves," says Corina. "With this comes the responsibility of also sharing with them the values of LULAC and our Constitution so that they appreciate how important it is. Also, I want to be a bridge between our mentors who have been in LULAC many years and the newer, younger ones so that we learn from them and feel that there's a strong bond with the people we look up to," she states.

Presently, the council's focus includes being an advocate for Latino-American students on campus by urging for more faculty that reflects the school's Latino enrollment. Also, to reach out into the surrounding community by ensuring there are accessible polling places in Hispanic neighborhoods, conducting outreach to encourage more voter registration and tackling inequities in a region where there are the very affluent non-minority residents while working Hispanic families living under the poverty line are struggling to make ends meet.

"I love LULAC and would say to all our members that we should work to have young adults in every council because this is how we can help and train our future leaders," says Corina. "That is what this organization has done in my life by opening door after door and if we help people when they're young, LULAC will be part of their lives until they become older and can pass along their wisdom and knowledge to others," she concludes.



"We should work to have young adults in every council because this is how we can help ..."





CRISTAL GARCIA

LULAC COMMUNITY ORGANIZER - IOWA

CRISTAL GARCIA IS WALKING for the future of Latinos in Iowa as a community organizer with LULAC. Every day, she is knocking on doors, making telephone calls and attending events in neighborhoods talking to anyone who will listen, but especially young people about the importance of voting. Her work is part of a historic voter registration campaign ahead of the March caucuses in Iowa that is paying off with significant results at one of the most important times for the Latino community.

Iowa has more than 50,000 Latinos registered to vote in the state but Cristal is also reaching out to the thousands more who are eligible and are eager to receive more information. "There is fear among some Spanish-speaking Latinos to attend events in English to meet the candidates," says Cristal. "That's why I am excited that LULAC is providing resources including transportation to get them to meetings where the information is bilingual and they can understand it," she adds.

The Iowa caucuses are drawing

national attention because political observers view them as a preview of the impact Latinos will make in the 2020 race for President of the United States. Iowa's turnout for this first major contest on the road to the White House is expected to draw up to 240,000 voters, which means every Latino matters.

"I'm the daughter of immigrant parents with one older sister and two younger brothers," says Cristal. "At first they were hesitant and scared about what I'm doing but now my whole family is proud and supports my work. For me, I just turned 18 last March so I am both nervous and excited at the same time because this will be my first time voting," she says.

Cristal says the Latino community in Iowa really likes Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. "They have been reaching out the most and paying attention to our issues," she says. "They're informing us and the Latino community says both Sanders and Warren make them feel like their opinion is really valuable. Young people approve of Bernie Sanders because of his climate change policies on clean air, clean water and the environment. One day if I have a child, I want him or her to take their first step and have their

... and
train our
future
leaders."

◀ *Writer's Note: This story on Cristal was written ahead of the Iowa Caucuses held February 3, 2020. She continues to work engaging and mobilizing Latinos in 2020.*

first day at school but that won't happen if our planet is destroyed," adds Cristal.

Cristal attended public schools and plans to pursue higher education but wasn't financially prepared when she graduated in 2019. Now, her sights are on completing the community organizing work before going to college where she intends to major in Political Science or Human Relations with a focus on political work.

"I am proud of being a part of LULAC at this time and it's important that everyone knows young people are getting involved and they want to be heard," says Cristal. "We're doing everything we can to make our world better. For example, when I decide whether to use my car, it's only for when I really need to go somewhere and I limit my number of hours driving. This may seem like a small step but we can each make a big difference even if it is a little at a time," she said.



FLORA JOHNSON & HANNAH REYES

LULAC COUNCIL #25001 & AUBURN UNIVERSITY

FLORA JOHNSON AND HANNAH Reyes live four hours apart but when it comes to sharing the passion and dedication of being servant leaders in their communities of Huntsville, Alabama and Auburn, Mississippi, it's like they're next door neighbors.

"Working with Hannah is wonderful because we need all the help we can get," says Johnson, the first

LULAC leader in the Southern state. "Right now, the Census is our big push and this is the most important word to get out to entire families. If we don't take part in the count as a community, federal funding will be left out but I'm hopeful we can make a major difference," she adds.

In December, 2019, Governor Kay Ivey announced a \$1-million fund to be shared among 34 government agencies and organizations for programs to increase Alabama's self-response rate during the 2020 Census this spring. Yet, the task of engaging and then convincing Latinos to take part in this decennial count is challenging because of long-held distrust, made only worse by recent workplace raids carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. One state over in Mississippi, other factors present other challenges.

"There are the generations of prejudice and historical exclusion of Latinos," says Reyes, now enrolled in a Master's Program at Auburn University. "My goal is a graduate degree in administration within higher education because this is where I can make the biggest difference for Latinx students who



"Right now, the Census is our big push and this is the most important word to get out to entire families."



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don't have an advisor advocating for them. I suffered the hurtful experience growing up as the only Latina in my high school and it was jarring and exploitative. Mississippi is very much a binary environment --- black or white and I still remember the mistreatment of constantly having to defend my identity as a Latina and a mestiza since I also have Native American ancestry," adds Hannah.

Flora's mentoring of Hannah is a mutually-beneficial relationship because they can encourage and support each other's work, even if it's long distance. "I moved to the United States from Panama where I used to earn 88-cents an hour," says Johnson. "Thirty years later, I am still amazed at how great a country we live in and for me, every day is about moving forward in helping others and setting aside envy, negativity and whatever else can distract us. LULAC is here to help, that's it!" she adds.

The commitment is just as intense with Hannah who first discovered LULAC online as part of a research project. "I grew up spending time between Texas and Mississippi so I had to become resilient but what the difference in my life was being curious about what else I could learn and become. Now, I want to be a role model for other Latinx students in an academic diversity center where they too can feel proud of who they are. I want to be that person to inspire them and with LULAC's help, I'll achieve that goal," she adds.



RENE RODRIGUEZ

LULAC PUERTO RICO

LULAC MEMBERS HAVE BEEN very active in the recovery work on the island which is home to 3.2 million American citizens who have suffered a series of more than 11 earthquakes of 5.0 magnitude or greater and countless other smaller tremors since December 28, 2019.

"We still have more than 4,000 people living in temporary shelters and there are countless others who continue to endure unimaginable conditions in their communities even as they live in daily fear of more earthquakes," says Rene Rodriguez, LULAC Puerto Rico Deputy Director of Young Adults. "And yet, our young people are stepping up and helping in the affected areas, providing them food, water and whatever other essentials we can get to help those affected," adds Rodriguez.

Rodriguez is a university mathematician who teaches computer sciences and says the natural disasters that have struck Puerto Rico in the past three years beginning with Hurricane Maria have a devastating impact on the youth, many of whom have seen the need to leave the island and seek their futures on the mainland.

"Businesses have been forced to close, first because of the hurricane's widespread damage that destroyed vast areas and literally brought our economy to a standstill," says Rodriguez. "Then they have family in the United States and see better opportunities over there. We cannot compare our experience to how they see their



“It’s like the gears in a finely-tuned machine, we can each have a place in making humanity better.”

lives at this time because it’s a cycle in every generation,” he adds.

President Trump and Congress have delayed action on a \$4.7 billion disaster relief aid package which has added to the lack of new jobs that could be generated in construction, social services and the small business sector through low-interest recovery loans. LULAC has spoken out strongly about the slow response from the federal government and managed to secure release of \$900-million in relief aid for food and housing programs.

“LULAC’s future here on the island will have many of these younger men and women who are seeing their lives very differently,” says Rodriguez. “Where before we were starting families at 22 or 23 years old, now they’re 27 or 28 and some are still at home as they continue to study or begin a career. So how relevant we as an organization are to them in Puerto Rico depends on our leadership vision. It’s like the gears in a finely-tuned machine, we can each have a place in making humanity better. The key is get into action with these young people and when there’s a need like these earthquakes, get them moving with

us. They welcome challenges and want to help and we can be their mentors to show them the way. I am very optimistic that we can do it!” he adds.



ANDRES RODRIGUEZ

LULAC NATIONAL VP FOR YOUNG ADULTS

WHILE SOME YOUNG LATINOS in the United States look around today and may see only challenges and barriers, Andres Rodriguez, National Vice-President for Young Adults sees opportunities to develop the leaders of tomorrow within LULAC through more engagement, training and mentoring.

“I am seeing a dramatic change with our young people in LULAC who want to feel a lot more included,” says Andres. “We are more involved and young people are doing more things. Also, there more diversity among our youth and youth adults and more opportunities for some to run for a position within one or two years which is a great goal,” he adds.

Andres says LULAC Young Adults are very aware of the

importance of 2020, both for the Census count and the upcoming presidential election. However, many of them are also concerned for their safety and well-being and that of their families because of their immigration status. Encouraging them to participate, either by coming to their door or publicly is a change from how they have been taught in the past.

“There’s always going to be that battle but LULAC has taught them to be leaders and that’s what they’re doing,” says Andres. “We are reminding them to be knowledgeable and to stay as informed as possible. I know what that process is like and we have to help our younger members know when they’re being baited and how to be aware of that,” he adds.

Andres says events like the State of Latino America Summit and Emerge Latino Conference are invaluable opportunities for younger members to gather and share their experiences. Also important, he adds, is learning more about their history and achievements LULAC has realized such as Mendez-vs-

Westminster, the Supreme Court case which desegregated California’s schools. So too, establishing the School of 400 in Houston, Texas that provided the model for Head Start which promotes school readiness of pre-school children from low-income families.

“I am proud of the privilege to lead LULAC Young Adults as this time in our history,” says Andres. “I’ll be 26 in April of this year and what I am seeing and doing already is preparing me to perhaps one day, take on other responsibilities too. We have seen the last four years of violence and divisiveness in our country from cities to even rural areas. Yet, I am hopeful and positive that all these relationships are helping me become a better servant and I am thankful to LULAC for teaching me that,” he said.

DAVID CONTRERAS

LULAC COUNCIL #688

ASK DAVID CONTRERAS ABOUT LULAC history and you can hear



the excitement and passion, like that of a gold miner, in his voice as he shares what his years of research have uncovered and where he wants to dig next.

"I may not have the formal education as a historian but it's my hobby, something I've been doing for years," says Contreras, a Houston resident who was first introduced to LULAC as a youth in 1965. "I spent a few years away (from LULAC) but came back in 2007 and have been a member ever since and now serve as Treasurer of Council 688. LULAC has been a part of my family since my uncle, Ernest Eguia returned from World War II where he served as a Sergeant in the Army at the Normandy invasion leading soldiers who were white. Yet, when he returned home to Texas, he realized things had not changed for Hispanics," he adds.

The former Army Sergeant learned Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Macario Garcia was not allowed to eat at a diner in Sugarland, Texas, a small town southwest of Houston because he was Mexican. Also, Eguia himself was arrested, jailed and labeled "... a smart Mexican" when he spoke up against two police officers for nearly causing a traffic collision.

Contreras says those experiences caused Eguia to join LULAC where he became a passionate defender of civil rights for Hispanics and an important role model for him. Others factors that drew Contreras' interest in LULAC is its historical emphasis on education, civic engagement and becoming part of the community

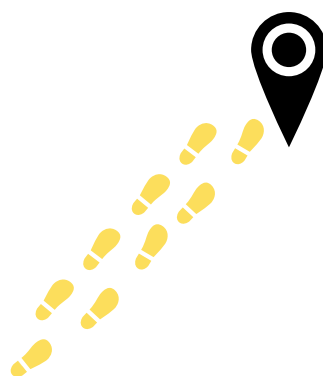
where you live, the same values he and his wife have instilled in their own four children.

"My brother and I grew up feeling like we didn't fit in because where we grew up, we were the only Hispanics," says Contreras. "I'll never forget playing ball with other mostly white kids in our neighborhood but at lunch time they would all go to one of their homes and go inside to eat while my brother and I waited in the garage," he adds.

Contreras says his goal now is to create an online resource for people to find out about Latino history, art, culture and food. He wants the platform to be readily accessible and all-inclusive. For now though, Contreras' first phase is locating and digitizing collections of archived LULAC newsletters, some dating back to the 1930's.

"I've had a good life including becoming the youngest Vice-President of a major banking institution at the age of 29," says Contreras. "My brother who stayed active as a young man in LULAC got a degree in engineering and became a chemist and lawyer. By sharing what we and others have experienced, future generations will benefit. That's the purpose of history; to learn from the past to make our future better," says Contreras. **LN**

"I am hopeful and positive that all these relationships are helping me become a better servant..."



EMPOWER HISPANIC AMERICA THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

by Alberto Vargas



In 2004, the Empower Hispanic America through Technology (EHAT) initiative was created to advance the Latino community through greater access to telecommunication technologies. LULAC has established 67 technology centers throughout the United States, which have provided educational and professional career opportunities to thousands of our community members. Youths and their families engage with a STEM, skills-building curriculum through informational and hands-on workshops. Our generational trailblazers gain essential skills to grow as individuals and attain new opportunities through development training they can use.


The EHAT Initiative has provided support to more than 1.6 million underserved Latinos by increasing their technical knowledge, creating pathways to new careers and improving their quality of life through professional achievement. LULAC is proud to announce three new centers as we continue to expand services and advocate for access to technology for all communities including Latinos. **LN**

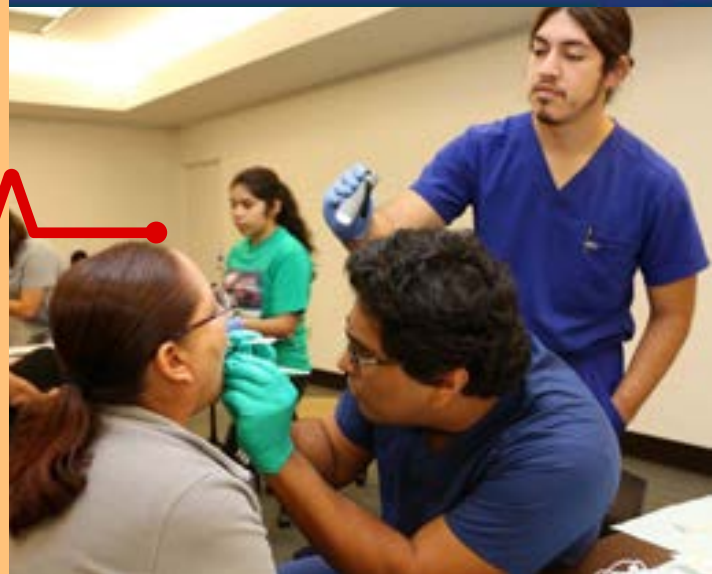
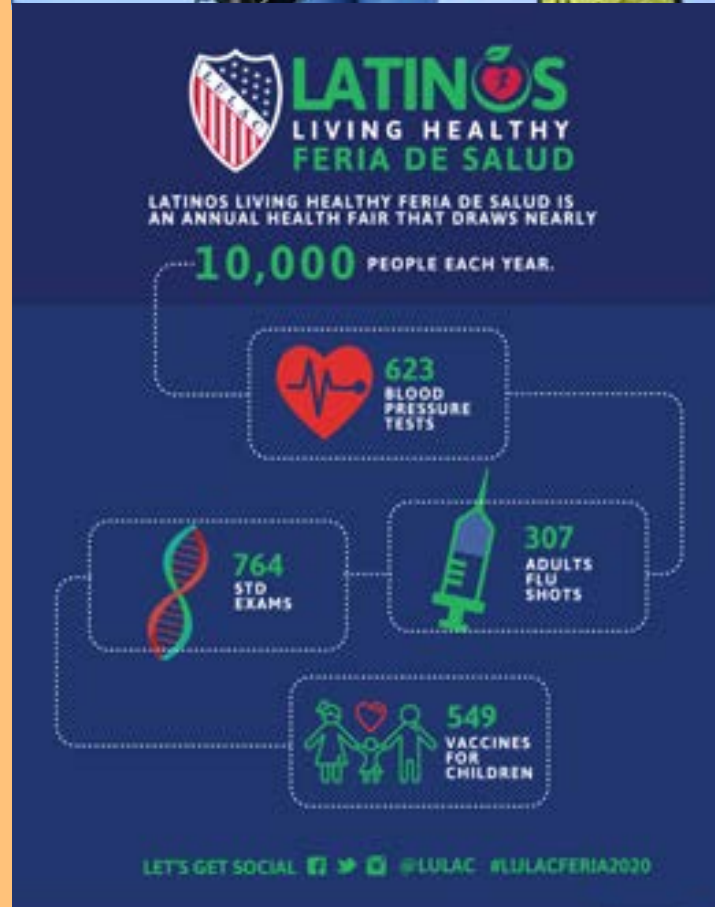
LULAC BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR

by Beatriz Paz

Feria de Salud is part of our Latinos Living Healthy initiative and provides an annual health event that draws nearly 10,000 people and includes more than a hundred, individual, free health services. This fair addresses health disparities faced by Latinos and other underserved communities nationwide and promotes families becoming physically active and promoting healthier life choices.

Our community partners are able to provide a variety of health screenings including back-to-school vaccinations, vision, dental, osteoporosis testing, mammograms, HIV testing, adult vaccinations, and glucose exams. LULAC also features topline entertainment, folkloric dancing, celebrity guest appearances, and other family-oriented activities.

This event is completely free and open to the public. Visit www.LULAC.org/feria for more information. 





GROW WITH GOOGLE

by Alberto Vargas

Creciendo con Google



LULAC is the longest standing Latino

civil rights organization in the grassroots non-profit sector. We are advocates for immigration reform, fair opportunities in housing, healthcare and more. Throughout our 90 years of service, LULAC has developed a diverse array of local initiatives in support of our communities. One of these initiatives is Empower Hispanic America through Technology (EHAT). LULAC established its first EHAT center in 2004 to help Latino community members gain access to internet and empower them to expand their own digital skills. Today, we have more than 60 technology centers that are housed at LULAC and affiliated community based non-profit cen-

ters around the country. These programs offer exponential value to our local communities through educational workshops and employment training. Our EHAT initiative, with support from our partners, is effective in narrowing the digital divide in the Latino population in the US. We have helped more than 1.6 million Latino people advance their education, careers and quality of life. But this is just the start -- we are aiming to reach millions more!

There is much work to be done. A Latino household is far less likely (57%) to have a desktop or laptop computer at home than a white household (82%). Access to a technology center and its resources is essential for our communities to overcome these disadvantages and thrive.

For this reason, we develop relationships with organizations and companies across the nation that help us reach our mission of providing educational attainment, robust economic conditions, and more. Our partnership goals include continuing to improve our technology centers with resources that will educate our students on technology pro-




grams and computer literacy. We are proud to announce our most recent partnership with Grow with Google, the tech company's initiative to help ensure that the opportunities created by technology are available to everyone. Grow with Google and LULAC are working together to offer digital skills trainings in EHAT centers to help people land the jobs they want, advance their careers and grow their businesses.

Our Grow with Google workshops will teach Latino learners the digital skills that will grow their careers and businesses and are available in both English and Spanish. Starting this fall, our EHAT centers will launch a series of Grow with Google workshops that will help attendees with such topics as planning and creating a budget, writing and developing a business plan and much more. Whether looking for the next job or preparation for college, Latino community members grow from learning digital skills. These assets strengthen the perseverance of our Latino students and community members; allowing them to advance their own knowledge and careers. Grow with Google workshops will be free of charge to ensure that all, regardless of financial ability, can benefit by learning new

skills and gaining employment in our tech driven economy.

Grow with Google representative Tia McLaurin says, "We are excited to partner with LULAC to ensure Google offers key resources for educating and training community members. We believe that technology has the power to unlock new opportunities for growth for everyone".

In addition, Grow with Google's tools will support our small business and entrepreneurship programs by incorporating Google's Primer app. Primer is a fast, easy way to learn new business and marketing skills. The Primer app will assist entrepreneurs and community members that own or want to start a business, or want to develop digital and professional skills that will help them in today's job market. Users will have easy access to simple and short lessons on creating a business plan, managing a business' finances, getting started with online marketing and even building useful management skills as a business owner.

LULAC is dedicated to helping build the digital skills of our Latino community by developing essential skills that help us prepare and grow for the future. 

To learn more about this program please visit us at www.LULAC.org/GrowWithGoogle.

LET'S TALK HIV

by Tanya Mendez

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LULAC is proud to continue the work under the Let's Stop HIV Together campaign in advocating for HIV awareness, prevention and care. As LULAC navigates through its fifth year in the Partnering and Communicating Together (PACT) program with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we have become dedicated to bringing awareness to terminology around HIV, promoting routine HIV testing as part of a regular doctor check-up,

and de-stigmatizing HIV testing in the community.

LULAC believes that using more inclusive and diverse terminology around HIV efforts and information begins to destigmatize the sentiments around HIV. The promotion of this terminology is essential in creating an inclusive space within LULAC and our communities by normalizing HIV testing, especially for everyone between the ages of 13 and 64.

LULAC has continued the conversation on HIV by highlighting how someone can get HIV and what different resources are available for someone who is diagnosed with HIV. It is essential that the community knows about the HIV treatment available that can help someone live a long and healthy life.

Taking the prescribed medications enables a person's HIV range to

become undetectable which means they are virally suppressed. According to the CDC, "viral suppression means having less than 200 copies of HIV per milliliter of blood. HIV medicine can even make the viral load so low that a test can't detect it. This is called an "undetectable viral load." When someone becomes undetectable, they become untransmittable which means that "reducing the amount of virus in the body... helps prevent transmission to others." This is referred to as treatment as prevention.

Together, let us begin promoting inclusive conversations about HIV where anyone can share their experience and knowledge that can help someone else. The Latino population in the United States is the second highest impacted by HIV and it is our mission to de-stigmatize it with the right language and facts. [LN](#)



"¡ADELANTE! HAS HELPED ME SO MUCH TO BECOME A BETTER LEADER. IT REALLY EMPHASIZED THAT WE SHOULD BE REALLY VOCAL ABOUT OUR OPINIONS IF WE WANT TO SEE A CHANGE."

Marissa Galicia
Dallas, TX

"¡Adelante! has helped me become a leader by showing me that nothing will get done without someone stepping up."

Maria Aguero
Dallas, TX

"¡ADELANTE! ADVISORS AND MEMBERS HELPED ME, BELIEVED IN ME, AND PUSHED ME TO BE THE BEST ELISSA THERE IS, AND I CAN NEVER THANK THEM ENOUGH FOR THAT. ADELANTE PROVIDED A VOICE - A VOICE THAT LET US SPEAK UP TO CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS. WITH THAT VOICE, WE WERE ABLE TO CHANGE ISSUES NOT ONLY IN OUR COMMUNITY BUT ALSO IN OUR HIGH SCHOOL. I WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL FOR THE TIME I SPENT WITH ¡ADELANTE!, MORE THAN WORDS CAN EVER DESCRIBE."

Elissa Ann Rodriguez
Hollister, CA

LULAC AND AT&T EXPAND ¡ADELANTE! AMERICA

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LULAC and AT&T have partnered to bring state of the art technology to Latino communities across America through the ¡Adelante! America program. Established in 2008, ¡Adelante! America provides leadership development for students in grades 8 through 12. The program has helped reach over 10,000 students throughout the

past 11 years in three sites located in Hollister, California, Dallas, Texas and Vancouver, Washington. For children between the ages of 13 to 18, it is important to develop leadership skills through a peer support system and an engaging environment. ¡Adelante! America aims to equip youth with academic skills and tangible tools to prepare for college and the workforce.

We are proud to announce the newest ¡Adelante! America site opening this fall in Puerto Rico. With this expansion, we will also be opening a new Empower Hispanic America with Technology Tech (EHAT) Center in Puerto Rico. The EHAT Center will provide access to state of the

¡ADELANTE! AMERICA

Here are just a few thoughts and stories from past and current participants of the ¡Adelante! America Program

art computers, printers, projectors and all the software needed to empower the local community.

Hispanics have a higher drop-out percentage rate on average compared to other demographics. In 2017, the drop-out rate had decreased from 21% to 8.2%¹ and, as a result, the college enrollment rate has increased from 32% to 47%². ¡Adelante! America strives to continue this trend by reducing the dropout rate and encouraging student involvement in meaningful afterschool programs that reignite a love for learning.

LULAC and AT&T hope to continue motivating and empowering students in Puerto Rico and beyond. 

¹ "Status Dropout Rates." The Condition of Education - Prep-Primary, Elementary, and Secondary Education - High School Completion - Status Dropout Rates - Indicator May (2019), May 2019, nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_coj.asp.

² Gramlich, John. "Hispanic Dropout Rate Hits New Low, College Enrollment at New High." Pew Research Center, Pew Research Center, 29 Sept. 2017, www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/09/29/hispanic-dropout-rate-hits-new-low-college-enrollment-at-new-high/.

"I loved how we were being taught to value ourselves and cherish the dreams we hold."

Valeria Delacruz
Dallas, TX

"I AM AN UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT WHO FELT THAT I WOULD GET NOWHERE IN LIFE BECAUSE NOBODY WOULD EVER GIVE ME A CHANCE. AFTER JOINING ¡ADELANTE!, I REALIZED THAT, SINCE I AM THE OLDEST, I MUST PROVE TO MY YOUNGER SIBLINGS THAT I CAN GRADUATE AND GO ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF LIFE WITH MY EDUCATION. ADELANTE GIVES STUDENTS HOPE, MENTORS GIVE US ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT, AND THAT IS SOMETHING I WANT TO PASS ON TO MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND MAKE MY PARENTS PROUD. THANKS FOR ALLOWING ¡ADELANTE! TO BE PART OF OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY, I KNOW NOW THAT ¡ADELANTE! HAS CREATED A NEW ME."

An ¡Adelante! America Participant

INCREASING STEM OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG LATINAS

by Melissa Cossio

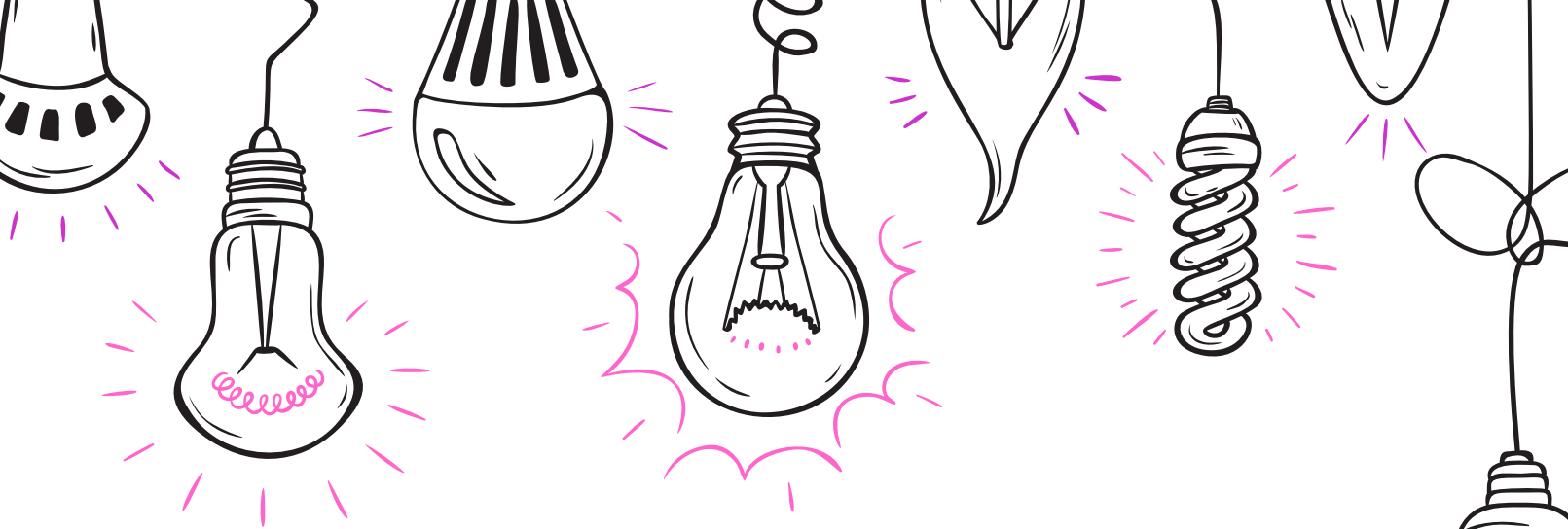
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Since 1990, STEM employment has grown 79% (9.7 million to 17.3 million) and computer jobs have seen a 338% increase over the same period. Along with this increase, we have seen a rise in wages for STEM occupations. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, STEM workers typically earn about two-thirds more than those in non-STEM jobs. However, Hispanic women remain underrepresented in the STEM workforce as a whole. The National Science Foundation found that while women comprise 25% of

the science and technology workforce, Hispanic women represent only 3% of this workforce.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), in partnership with the Televisa Foundation, the Eva Longoria Foundation and with the support of Intel, is working tirelessly to increase Hispanic female representation in STEM fields. We believe that by empowering Latina students with technological skills and encouraging their interest in math and science during the critical middle school years, we can begin to close the educational and economic gaps that are all too prevalent in our communities. By targeting middle school girls, we engage participants in the fields of STEM at an early age, and encourage and support them in pursuing STEM studies through high school and college.






The coalition is proud to serve primarily Hispanic middle school girls in Northern California through the culturally-relevant STEM education program, TECHNOLOchicas Lift (TC Lift). The TC LiFT curriculum seeks to create science, technology, math and engineering (STEM) education opportunities for students by teaching them computer science and coding skills through hands-on afterschool classes and workshops. Providing students with fun and engaging STEM workshops at an early age helps build young girls' confidence and self-esteem by showing them they are capable of accomplishing anything they set their mind to.

The program also promotes Latina STEM professionals as role models and mentors for young girls, promoting students' confidence in themselves

and their studies by providing them with real-life examples of educational and career paths they can follow. In October 2019, students traveled to Intel's historic campus in Santa Clara, California to meet these role models and activist Eva Longoria Bastón. The girls participated in a day of fun, educational activities, guided by STEM leaders who share their backgrounds and are invested in their success.

To further build a supportive environment for students to grow, TC LiFT engages parents in the educational process to ensure students are supported inside and outside of the classroom. TC LiFT provides under-represented girls with the tools and resources necessary to thrive as they pursue future education and work in STEM careers. 

To learn more about the TCGiFT program, visit www.LULAC.org/tc_lift



AARP CAREGIVING

by Sandra Caraveo

The first loving human touch when welcoming a newborn into our family is one of life's most precious moments. Yet, for millions of Latinos, that remembrance is being shared with other deeply moving memories, the last touch with a departing family member as their final caregivers.

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Nearly seven million Latinos in the United States are now shouldering the job of caring for loved ones full time at home according to a new study by the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP). America is witnessing the largest generational transition in its history and the emotional conflicts triggered in families trying to juggle busy schedules and responsibilities with the constant demands of caregiving duties is a heavy burden to carry, especially when there has been very little planning for it ahead of time. We are seeing this reality firsthand among our community's families as members of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization with more than 1,000 chapters throughout the country and Puerto Rico.


Whether for parents or grandparents, one-in-five Latinos living in the U.S. is an unpaid caregiver because taking care of our most respected family members is a source of cultural pride and expectation, something we would never dream of entrusting



to anyone else, especially an outsider. Still, the full reality of what this means only begins to sink in when we come face-to-face with its daily requirements. This includes tracking an array of medical appointments, dispensing medications, adapting to strict nutritional needs, constant attention to their personal hygiene while still respecting their need for what may be the last vestige of their self-pride, care of their own bodies. Indeed, this time is often the very painful, confusing intersection when the children once cared for are now the adults serving as caregivers straining relationships, budgets and even our health.

There's another reason why caregiving in Latino families presents some very unique and acute challenges. For us, quality alone of time spent with them isn't good enough. For our elders we are raised from our earliest, formative years to do the most possible in life. So of course, mama and papa or abuelita and abuelito deserve to have all the time possible which means Latinos devote 50% more time than other communities as caregivers, says AARP. The same goes with personal resources and explains why Latinos spend as much as 44% of their income on out-of-pocket expenses caring for their loved ones.

However, there is also the reality that as a community, Latinos have not had easy access to information which can help us prepare for the time that is certain to arrive and we are caught unprepared both in knowledge and finances. Also, many of the resources available have not been adapted to the culturally familiar ways of life that Latinos embrace. For example, our families often ask to be present when care and attention is being dispensed to our loved ones, a request that some facilities may not understand.

AARP and LULAC are working together closely to increase awareness of the many ways caregivers can tap into nearby or online help and provide informational tips that can ease some of the fear or stress connected to our daily roles on behalf of our loved ones. We know that you are pouring your energy and heart into every day as a caregiver and we want to do everything we can to be there with you too. 

*For more information,
please visit us at
[www.LULAC.org/
programs/seniors/](http://www.LULAC.org/programs/seniors/)*





Gus Garcia is holding his glasses while sitting in a chair, facing away from a desk full of casework

M

Mexican Americans were legally classified as white prior to the Hernandez v. Texas case, yet blatant and overt discrimination continued.

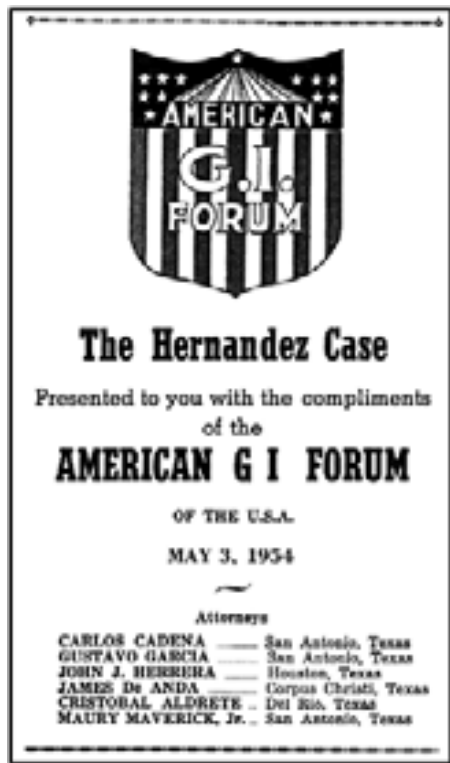
An all-white Jackson County, Texas jury in 1950 found a Mexican American agricultural laborer, named Peter “Pete” Hernandez, guilty of murder. Civil rights attorney Gustavo “Gus” Garcia seized upon the opportunity to represent Hernandez in his appeal. The basis of his case was challenging the state’s systematic practice in approximately seventy Texas counties, of excluding Mexican Americans from serving on juries. Garcia assembled a legal dream team consisting of James de Anda and Chris Alderete of the American G.I. Forum and Carlos Cadena and John J. Herrera of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Garcia and his team researched over 25 years of jury selection records in Jackson County for their appeal. They found overwhelming evidence that of the estimated 6,000 jurors selected during this time frame, not one had a Spanish surname despite the county’s high concentration of Hispanics. Hernandez was denied from being tried by a jury of his peers, argued Garcia, due to the discriminatory practice of not selecting Mexican Americans. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals upheld the lower court’s decision and the case was ultimately appealed to the highest court in the land,

HERNANDEZ v. TEXAS

by Alfonso Maldonado, LULAC
Council 60 & David Contreras,
LULAC Council 688

A flyer from the American G.I. Forum about the Hernandez Case which names the team of attorneys and the local cities they represent




the United States Supreme Court.

Garcia and his team presented their arguments before the nine-member Supreme Court on January 11, 1954. It was a historic moment because this was the first appearance ever by Mexican American attorneys before the high court. Garcia's contention was that although Mexican Americans were classified as white, they were treated as a "different class of whites" because of their ethnicity and were not receiving the guaranteed protection of the Fourteenth Amendment. They also presented the 25 years of jury selection records and added that Jackson County had a long history of segregation and discrimination.

The State of Texas argued that the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause applied only on the basis of race. Since Mexican Americans were classified as white, they were not being discriminated based upon their race. The State did not dispute the fact that no one with a Spanish surname had not been selected for jury duty the past 25 years but insisted that was a coincidence and not discrimination.

The Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of Hernandez stating that Mexican Americans were "a class apart" despite being considered white. Further, the justices determined that Hispanics were entitled to the same protections as other racial and ethnic minorities as a distinct group. Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote: "The Fourteenth Amendment is not directed solely against discrimination due to a 'two-class theory'—that is based upon differences between 'white' and Negro." The Court further held that Hernandez had "the right to be indicted and tried by juries from which all members of his class are not systematically excluded."

The case was decided on May 3, 1954, three weeks before the landmark *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* case. The legal strategy of utilizing the "other white" concept was successfully applied in future civil rights cases from 1930 to 1970 effectively broadening judicial protections to include Hispanics and all other non-whites. 

Gus Garcia pictured with his glasses on, carrying his briefcase



LITTLE SCHOOL OF THE 400

by Alfonso Maldonado, *LULAC Council 60*
& David Contreras, *LULAC Council 688*

The Little School of the 400 is perhaps LULAC's greatest educational achievement.

LULAC members from Houston Council 60 took note in the early to mid-1950s, that first grade Spanish speaking children (mostly of Mexican origin) were not being promoted due to the language barrier they encountered.

The Council created a curriculum to teach an English vocabulary of 400 words to combat the crisis. The goal was that Spanish-speaking children could overcome the language barrier and successfully advance to the second grade. The Council approached one of its members named Felix Tijerina to help fund the program. He was a successful restaurateur and National President at the time. Tijerina grew up speaking only Spanish and had little to no formal education. He understood the need for such a program and generously donated the funds to finance the project. The funds would be used to hire a teacher, buy paper, pencils, and other essentials.

Some also give credit for the creation of the program to an attorney named Alfred J. Hernandez. He was a member of Council 60 and a close ally of Tijerina. Hernandez would later be elected LULAC National President. He was born in Mexico City and was four years old when his family moved to Texas. He was later naturalized as a US citizen. Hernandez learned the language through a tutor because he did not know English when he first enrolled in school. He eventually

mastered the English language to the point of being able to switch off his accent.

The program came to fruition in the summer of 1957 when it hired 17-year-old Isabel Verver as its first teacher. Verver was a high school student in Ganado, Texas, about 100 miles southwest of Houston when she learned about Tijerina's endeavor through an article in the Texas Outlook Magazine. She immediately contacted Tijerina and expressed an interest in starting the pilot program in her hometown. She too experienced the hardships of not knowing English as a child and being unable to communicate with her teachers or fellow students.

The list of the 400 words was provided by Elizabeth Burrus, a Baytown, Texas educator who based the list on her years of experience teaching Spanish-speaking students. The pilot class produced 60 graduates that summer. All successfully completed the first grade and were promoted to the second grade. Due to its success, LULAC expanded the program the following summer in neighboring Texas communities including Edna, Aldine, Sugar Land, Brookshire, Rosenberg, Vanderbilt, Wharton and as far away as Fort Stockton in West Texas. It was then that the program became known as the Little School of the 400.

Texas Governor Price Daniel recognized the program's success and attended a dedication of the Little School of the 400 in a formal ceremony held in Sugar Land, Texas on June

JANUARY, 1958

Isabel Verver is featured on the front page of a LULAC News publication teaching a few children for her first "basic English classes."



23, 1958. The Governor was a close friend and associate of Tijerina. Governor Daniel is quoted as stating that the Little School program is “one of the truly great privately financed educational projects in our state.”

Sadly, Tijerina and LULAC were unable to sustain the program’s funding despite it receiving praise from across the state. Tijerina was a member of a state-wide education committee working to reform the state’s public school system and he lobbied vigorously to ensure the committee recommended a preschool English language program.

Tijerina’s efforts paid off when the 56th Texas Legislature adopted House Bill 51 entitled, “The Preschool Instructional Classes for Non-English-Speaking Children” which emulated the Little School concept. By 1961, 158 Texas school districts participated in the state-sponsored program and hired more than 700 teachers to teach an estimated 18,000 students an increased English vocabulary of 500 words. The program was prominent in south Texas although it was also active in Austin, Dallas, Temple, Waco and Abilene.

The Little School of the 400 received national attention and was featured in Time magazine and the Saturday Evening Post. By the mid-1960s, the state-sponsored preschool English language program led to the implementation of the federally sponsored Head Start program in 1965.

The Head Start program was part of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s Great Society and War on Poverty program. The president had taught at a Mexican school in Cuero, Texas south of San Antonio when he was a young man. He saw first-hand the plight of the Spanish speaking students. His wife, Lady Bird Johnson, received a teaching certificate from the University of Texas and was also a strong voice for education. Many people who knew Johnson believe that as a Senator from Texas during the 1950’s, he was aware of the Little School’s success which led to a state-wide program. Other historical observers acknowledge that the Little School of the 400 served as the model for Project Head Start. Head Start is now in fifty-five years old and is one of the



longest-running federal programs providing early childhood education, health and nutrition to low-income families. The Head Start program has served over 25 million children since it was founded. Today, Head Start is offered at over 1,700 locations and serves over one million children. Indeed, the vision of one LULAC Council and two members of immigrant backgrounds became the spark that lit the flame of innovation and hope which would eventually transform the lives of millions. **LN**



PAVING THE WAY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

by Lucero Cantu at SER Jobs
& David Contreras of LULAC Council 688



Ernest Eguia pictured as a young man more than 65 years ago and then again in 2013.

It was February 12, 1965 and most people in Houston were finalizing Valentines Day plans or just trying to avoid the chill of winter. However, there was something remarkable going on that same day at the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council 60 meeting.

Ernest Eguia had big ideas and he pitched a unique project idea during that February 12 meeting. He wanted to pioneer a program that registers, classifies, and refers Mexican American applicants to industry jobs. Attendees including Joe Ramon, champion of the concept. The details on what was said during the discussion that followed can only be surmised. However, the proposal became a significant motion that was passed unanimously after Council President, Roy Martinez called for a vote.

That's when the real work began. LULAC Council 60 had a great deal to do to transform this vision into reality. Members later attended a program committee meeting where Robert Ornelas, LULAC National President was present and it was

agreed that the project would be called "LULAC Jobs for Progress". Eventually, this jobs-initiative would gain valuable partnerships with the American GI Forum, Department of Labor, the Department of the Navy and evolve into "Operation SER."

The organization developed and grew as its dedicated volunteers gained experience. Ernest Eguia eventually urged his nephews to take part in LULAC's work. One of them was named David Contreras who joined the Junior LULAC Council in 1965 and began volunteering the very same year that SER Houston opened at the LULAC Council 60 location called the "clubhouse". Contreras says he "...didn't realize that there was history in the making" since the Junior Council's total focus was culture and social involvement.


Contreras recalls that at a young age his father moved their family "...out of the 'barrio' and into a predominantly white neighborhood." So, joining the council was the first time he was truly immersed in Latino culture. It was a life-changing

shift that ignited a passion for giving back to his Latino community.

Contreras participated in a SER job fair in the summer of 1970 following years of working with LULAC through the Junior Council. He still finds himself “especially grateful to SER for the job opportunity” from this event. SER helped him earn a position with Star Motor Car that allowed him to pay for his second year of college at the University of Houston. Contreras went on to major in Bank Administration and graduated while working at First City National Bank.

After a decade of hard work, Contreras found himself in a groundbreaking position. Contreras was elected Vice President of First City Bank at a time when Latino corporate officers were scarce. Contreras went on to spend a total of 45 years in the Bank and Operations Technology sphere. Contreras continues to be a fixture in Houston’s Latino community following his retirement in 2016

When asked what advice Contreras would give to those who believe they cannot be helped or are hesitant to reach out to SER he said, “I would encourage them to not feel that way. People go to SER to help identify their skills, talents, and passions.”

As Contreras and his family exemplify, the work being done at SERJobs goes beyond workforce solutions. Our collective work is to build community, passion, and pave the way for a legacy of excellence in Houston’s Latino community. 

Visit us at www.LULAC.org/programs/economic/serjobs/ for more information.



1965 Junior LULAC sponsored by Council 60

A Tribute to Legends

LULAC throughout its history has had legends among its ranks of members whose lives are a testament to the true meaning of courage, selflessness and dedication to the needs of others, especially those who cannot help themselves. The following tributes are so we may never forget their example and may their lives inspire us to the higher calling of why we serve in LULAC.

RENE GUZMAN

died January 20, 2020 at the age of 53 in
Corpus Christi, Texas

As a LULAC member, Rene took every day and every opportunity to mentor youth, embrace everyone around him and he did it always with a huge smile matched only by his huge heart. We will miss his laughter, his passion and his kindness but we will treasure what he taught us --- make use of every opportunity and every moment to help build up, not tear down, inspire not criticize and lift up not crush those whose lives we touch.

Rene reminded us that there is beauty and strength in our diversity and that every human being deserves to be respected and embraced equally no matter who they love or with whom they share their lives. LULAC will always miss and cherish our friend.

BENNY MARTINEZ

passed away Sunday, December 31, 2019 in the
Rio Grande Valley of Texas

Benny Martinez was involved in helping establish the Little School of 400, a program in Texas to teach Spanish-speaking children 400 English words before

they entered kindergarten. President Lyndon B. Johnson used this model to create Head Start.

Martinez may be most remembered for helping to arrange the first visit of a U.S. President to an official gathering of LULAC. This took place on November 21, 1963, when President John F. Kennedy joined LULAC at the Rice Hotel in Houston, Texas. Tragically, this was to be the last event President Kennedy celebrated. He was assassinated the following day in Dallas, Texas.

Another of Martinez's most notable achievements was the Tejano Monument on the Texas Capitol grounds honoring Hispanics.

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

U.S. Representative died October 17, 2019, in
Baltimore, MD

LULAC shall always speak loudly and proudly of Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D) Maryland and of our many years having worked alongside one of our nation's greatest champions of civil rights, social justice and the advancement of gender equality in America.

Representative Cummings was born the son of a sharecropper and rose to become a member of the Maryland House of Delegates and later, the U.S. Congress. In all, for more than 36 years, he was a faithful and devoted public servant whose hallmarks were integrity and distinction.

Through his life's work he inspired unwavering tenacity in the struggle for civil rights even in the face of seemingly insurmountable forces and empowered movements to be steadfast while urging others to rise up and lead within their own communities.

EDUARDO "ED" PEÑA JR.

died Saturday, June 22, 2019 at his home in
San Antonio, Texas

President Peña will be remembered as a LULAC leader who was known for being a calm but fierce defender of the civil rights of Latinos.

Peña practiced law in Washington, DC for more than 20 years and was General Counsel to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute since its founding. He was a Special Advisor to President Johnson with the Committee on Mexican American Affairs and helped organize and charter numerous other Latino organizations.

Peña was elected National President of LULAC during its 50th anniversary and served as a founding member of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia.

RAMIRO ROBLES

Former National Vice-President of the Southwest,
died December 9, 2018 in El Paso, Texas

Ramiro Robles was the husband of Belen Robles, the first woman elected LULAC National President.

Ramiro loved LULAC and served in various capacities within Council 132. Also, he served two terms as National Vice-President of the Southwest. He felt very strongly about encouraging Latino youth to participate in scouting and was also an advocate in ensuring financial support for students who could not afford higher education.

Belen was first elected National President in El Paso, Texas in 1994, an historic milestone for LULAC. She was re-elected at the 1995 convention held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, at the 1996 convention held in Boston, Massachusetts and at the 1997 convention held in Anaheim, California.

LEONARD CHAIRES

died September 16, 2019 in Dallas, Texas

LULAC knew Leonard as one of its staunchest and most loyal members who devoted much of his life to the service of others, selflessly and without ever asking nor expecting any glory or praise for his actions. His calm and respectful demeanor as well as his gaze and smile belied his steeled commitment to justice, even in the face of seemingly impossible challenges.

His words on behalf of the weaker and more vulnerable among us shall always be remembered for the power in their simplicity and truth. His voice invited engagement and his handshake conveyed transparency of purpose as an honest advocate whose promises always held strong and his bond enduring. **LN**



In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis, Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford, is working to provide assistance through its national partner nonprofits to diligently respond appropriately to the rapidly changing situation while continuing to serve Latino communities across the nation. Currently, Ford Driving Dreams, in collaboration with LULAC, is providing 50 grants to LULAC councils in the Ford Driving Dreams Network to support Hispanic students during the COVID-19 pandemic and provide relief efforts in their communities.

Beyond the Ford Driving Dreams Grants COVID-19 initiative, Ford Fund is also supporting our communities by providing online resources for all ages along with an employee matching program. To learn more, please go to fordfund.org/covid19.

To apply for a Ford Driving Dreams grant, visit www.lulac.org/covid19.



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#LULACPrograms #FordDrivingDreams #FordGivesBack #FordFund

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