



Georgia Latino Forum

Your Georgia Latino Connection

September, 2008
Volume 2, Issue 3



Member Organization Spotlight

Gainesville State College

Situated in Northeast Georgia, Gainesville State College was founded in 1964 as a non-residential unit of the University System of Georgia. Gainesville State College's Gainesville Campus is located 45 miles northeast of Atlanta and six miles southwest of downtown Gainesville in Oakwood and is easily accessible from I-985 via Exit 16 (Hwy. 53). Gainesville is very close to beautiful Lake Lanier, the Appalachian Trail, white-water canoeing, and the rich multicultural activities of metropolitan Atlanta. The Gainesville State College Oconee Campus is located at 1201 Bishop Farms Parkway in Watkinsville, Georgia. Students are drawn primarily from the increasingly diverse Northeast Georgia area.

With an enrollment which now approaches 8,500, Gainesville State College offers courses leading to the:

- Bachelor of Applied Science in Environment and Spatial Analysis
- Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education for Grades P-5 (Teaching Certification)
- Bachelor of Science with a Major in Early Childhood Care and Education (Non-Teaching Certification)
- Bachelor of Applied Science with a Major in Technology Management
- Associate of Arts, Associate of Science
- Associate of Applied Science degrees
- Certificate programs in Information Technology, Geographic Information Systems and Personal Fitness Training

Ninety percent of Gainesville State College students are in programs transferable to four-year colleges and universities with many of our students transferring to The University of Georgia and Georgia State University.

Gainesville State College integrates academic and extra-curricular activities in order to emphasize development of the "whole person". Gainesville State College students can enjoy the "total college experience" by participating in student activities such as intramurals, clubs and organizations, bands, chorus, publications, cultural affairs programs, fine arts offerings including theatre, extended orientation, and international-intercultural studies programs.

Guided by a commitment to excellence, The Office of Hispanic Outreach and Development assumes a special responsibility for teaching students about the history and culture of Hispanic/Latino people worldwide. The Office of Hispanic Outreach and Development seeks to develop young men and women with disciplined minds, emphasizing the continuing search for truth as a liberating force. It prepares GSC students for leadership and service through a number of instructional programs and extracurricular activities that are intended to develop skills in oral and written communications, analytical and critical thinking and interpersonal relationships; foster an understanding and appreciation of the elements and evolution of various cultures and the nature of the physical universe; foster understanding and appreciation of the specific knowledge and skills needed for the pursuit of professional careers and/or graduate study and; cultivate the personal attributes of self-confidence, tolerance, morality, ethical behavior, humility, a global perspective, and a commitment to a social justice.

To build on our legacy and become even more competitive as a college, the Office of Hispanic Outreach and Development has a five-part initiative call ALIVE, which promotes:

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Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

- Sharon Maloney, Executive Chair
Quality Care for Children
- Doug Polley, Vice-Chair
Atlanta & North Georgia Building Trades Council
- Jessica Herrera, Secretary
Cornelia
- Robert Welsh, Treasurer
Atlanta
- Jerry Gonzalez, Nominating/
Membership Chair
Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials

At Large Members:

- América Gruner, NWGA
Coalition of Latino Leaders
- Louis Negrón, NEGA
Gainesville State College Hispanic Committee of Gainesville
- C. Duran Dodson, Metro Atlanta
American Immigration Lawyers Association
- Soraya Kimbrel-Miller, SWGA
Child Care Resource & Referral Agency of Southwest Georgia at Albany
- Marilyn Mercado, SEGA
Asociación Latino de Servicios

Associate Board Members:

- Paola Diaz-Torres, Norcross
- Eileen Toledo, Gainesville

Georgia Latino Forum News

We are well on our way to holding Regional Meetings in all five regions of our state. So far, we have had successful meetings in SWGA—Albany, Metro Atlanta, and NEGA—Gainesville. Two more are planned for this month, in SEGA—Augusta and SWGA—Macon. Please see our website at www.georgialatinoforum.org for details. The response has been overwhelming, the networking is wonderful, and the ability to discuss issues and learn more about what is happening around the State of Georgia invaluable!

Please don't forget to mark your calendars for our 3rd Annual Meeting,

Saturday, February 21, 2009, in Gainesville (again see our website for further details). This will be a very important day, as we will have a number of breakout sessions on crucial issues impacting the Hispanic/Latino community, and we will also be voting on all Board of Director positions.

Once again, we would love to hear from you as well as any ideas you have for either the group as a whole or our newsletter. Also, remember that you can email us at any time with dates for events to be added to our next newsletter's event calendar.

Sharon Maloney, Executive Chair

Calendar of Events

August - National Immunizations Awareness Month

- 03 Georgia Latino Forum Southeast Regional Meeting
12:00 noon—1:30 pm, UGA, Small Business Dev. Center, 1450 Greene St., Suite 3500, Augusta
contact Marilyn Mercado at 706-790-5828 x2658 or mmercado@meybohm.com for more information

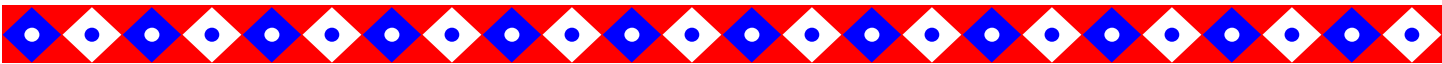
September - National Childhood Cancer Month

- 00 Fall 2008 Recruitment begins for the GALEO Institute for Leadership. Sessions will be held in Atlanta, Dalton, Gainesville, and Savannah. Apply TODAY! Seminars are open to all persons, regardless of their racial or ethnic background. Diverse participants with appropriate language proficiency are encouraged to apply. The leadership sessions are more beneficial to all when the group represents a wide ethnic diversity. EVERYONE is encouraged to apply.
Registration deadline is Monday, September 8, 2008, 5:00PM
form more information, please visit: <http://www.galeo.org/institute4leadership.php>
- 07 Fiesta Georgia
GA LATINO VOTE! Register to vote or volunteer to register voters
contact Jose Blanco at joseblanco@galeo.org for more information
- 10 Taking the Fight to Washington: Building a grassroots business constituency for immigration reform
A day long strategy session organized by Immigration Works USA. Who should attend: Southerners for immigration reform, business owners who employ immigrants, trade associations that represent them, citizens who believe immigrants benefit America, employer coalitions working with state legislators.
8:00 am—3:00 pm, Marriott Atlanta Airport
if you are interested in attending or have questions, please email events@ImmigrationWorksUSA.org or visit www.ImmigrationWorksUSA.org for more information
- 16 Georgia Latino Forum Southwest Regional Meeting
Latino & Latino-serving organizations and interested partners from the South, Southwest, and Middle GA areas are invited to get better acquainted and discuss needs and concerns in an informal setting. Lunch will be served with an RSVP by 9/10.
12:00 noon—1:30 pm, Peyton Anderson Community Services Center, 277 MLK Jr. Blvd., Macon
contact Soraya Miller at 229-317-6947 or soraya.kimbrel@darton.edu for more information
- 17 Immigrants' Rights Legislative Working Group
12:00 noon—2:00 pm, Refugee Family Services, 5561-H Memorial Dr., Stone Mountain
contact Susan Pavlin at smpavlin@yahoo.com for more information, directions, and the agenda
- 20 Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
11:00 am—3:00 pm, WalMart, 630 Collins Hill Rd., Lawrenceville
contact Sharon Maloney at 404-479-4236 or sharon.maloney@qualitycareforchildren.org for more information

October - Hispanic Heritage Month

The entire month of October: Hispanic Heritage Month Display—features a display for every Spanish-speaking country

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Dr., Lawrenceville
contact Sharon Maloney at 404-479-4236 or sharon.maloney@qualitycareforchildren.org for information



10 2008 Hispanic Heritage Month Luncheon

Keynote address by Sylvia Mendez. <Sylvia Mendez is an American civil rights activist of Mexican-Puerto Rican heritage, who, at age eight, played an instrumental role in Mendez vs. Westminster, the landmark desegregation case of 1946. The case successfully ended de jure segregation in California and set a precedent for the better known Brown vs. Board of Education seven years later, which paved the way for integration of public schools and the American civil rights movement. To read more, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SylviaMendez>> Sponsored by GALEO, the GALEO Latino Community Development Fund, and the Georgia Hispanic Bar Association in celebration of the end of Hispanic Heritage Month as well as GALEO's 5th Anniversary. Please make every effort to join us!

12:00 noon

contact Jerry Gonzalez at 404-745-2580 or see www.galeo.org for more information

11 12 Augusta Hispanic Festival

Live bands, Hispanic foods, entertainment for children, business and nonprofit organization information booths Saturday, 11am—11pm, Sunday, 11am—6pm, 9th and Broad Street, Augusta

contact Marilyn Mercado at 706-790-8875 x2658 or see www.elcervantino.org for more information

10 21 Parade of Nations

Asociación Cultural Hispanoamericana (ACHA) will participate in the Parade of Nations during the Arts in the Heart of Augusta Festival. ACHA will also have a booth to sell Hispanic food and promote our culture and institution during the three day event. Volunteers are needed for 2-3 hour shifts daily (cooking is not required)

Friday, 5-9pm, Saturday, 11am-9pm, Sunday 11pm-7pm, Augusta Common, Augusta, GA

contact Estrella Febus at 706-373-2564 or see www.elcervantino.org for more information

Save-the-Dates

December 3, 2008— GALEO Holiday Party, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, La Mansion Hall, Plaza del Sol (members only) for more information contact Jerry Gonzalez, 404-745-2580 or jerry@galeo.org

February 21, 2008— Georgia Latino Forum 3rd Annual Meeting, Gainesville State College for more information contact info@georgialatinoforum.org or see www.georgialatinoforum.org



Gainesville State College (continued from page 1).....

- Academic Excellence through the recruitment and retention of the next generation of Hispanic/ Latino students committed to the college model of excellence, the recruitment and retention of strong students, and continual growth in scholarship and shared responsibility for service.
- Leadership Development through community service and the Leadership Class developed by the Office of Minority Affairs, which will become a campus wide resource on the leadership development for students
- Improving Our
- Environment to strengthen our infrastructure and enhance our neighborhood by working with our community partners
- Visibility of Our Achievements so that the accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, and our alumnae are apparent to everyone
- Exemplary Customer Service, creating a pervasive sense of hospitality and generosity of spirit for each other and everyone who passes through The Office of Hispanic Outreach and Development's doors

For the past four years, The Office of Hispanic Outreach and Development has empowered Hispanic/Latino students to fully use their talents to succeed and to better the world. Its programs include English for Speakers of Other Languages Program (ESL). Students who are required to take English and/or Reading Learning Support classes and whose first language is not English should take ESL classes instead of English and/or Reading 0099. Students who successfully exit from ESL fulfill their Learning Support requirements and do NOT have to take English 0099 and/or Reading 0099 Learning Support classes.

Matriculating College Students or any current college student whose first language is not English may volunteer to take ESL courses in order to enhance his or her academic performance. Members of the community whose first language is not English may also take college ESL courses without applying for admission to GSC, by registering through the Continuing Education program.

Gainesville State College as an institution of higher learning is committed to improving the lives of students through a solid foundation of education and life experiences.

Louis Enrique Negrón, MSA, Director Minority Outreach Programs, Georgia Gwinnett College
President, Hispanic Committee of Gainesville
Formerly, Hispanic Outreach & Development Coordinator, Gainesville State College

2008: The Year of the Latino Vote Continues to Evolve

We are in an exiting election cycle. In recent elections across the country where there is a significant Latino population, Latinos have played critical roles. In Georgia, we have an estimated 97,000 Latinos registered to vote already. However, we have an estimated 100,000 Latino U.S. citizens not yet registered that are eligible to vote in the upcoming elections.

We have to vote in November for a President, a U.S. Senate seat, a full slate for the Georgia U.S. House of Representatives, as well as for members of the Georgia General Assembly. Our vote is critical.

Immigration will remain an election issue until the U.S. Congress has the courage to solve the current failed policies. Recent polling and surveys indicate that Latino voters are not happy with the unresolved issues of the War in Iraq, a slowing economy, out-of-control health-care costs, and our Congress's failed attempt to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Latino voters will hold elected officials accountable for what they say, what they do, and what they fail to accomplish. Latino voters are listening, and we must vote.

Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, recent developments in the Presidential campaign should provide you with the hope and aspiration that our Latino families will soon be a part of a change in this country through effective voter engagement. Things change when we vote. We must believe that change is coming. In our democracy, change occurs when our citizens are actively engaged and vote.

In the final analysis with regard to the 2008 elections, I believe that the Latino vote will make all the difference in the world and that finally we will move forward by facing our nation's immigration policy failures and finding more effective solutions. Even in Georgia, Latinos can make the difference in highly competitive elections. For the Presidential election, Georgia is being considered competitive. But first, we must register, then we must vote.

It is election season, and there is excitement in the air. ¿Si no votamos, que esperamos? ¡Su VOTO Es SU VOZ! Join our efforts with the Georgia Latino Vote. Deadline to register to vote for the November 4th election is October 6th! Don't miss out!

For more information about candidates, deadlines, and other vital voter tips, please visit the Georgia Secretary of State website at

<http://www.sos.ga.gov/cgi-bin/qualifyingindex.asp> or <http://www.eslahora.com>

—Jerry Gonzalez, Executive Director Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO): Promoting greater civic engagement and leadership development for the Latino community across Georgia: www.galeo.org

Membership Information

Join the Georgia Latino Forum!

Your Georgia Latino Connection

It is time for you to join the Georgia Latino Forum—

or renew your membership. Be a part of the network of Latino and Latino-serving nonprofits in Georgia.

For more information about membership requirements and rates, please visit:

www.georgialatinoforum.org

Hope you find this newsletter informative. Please feel free to inform us on how we can make it more useful for you!

Sincerely,

Sharon Maloney, Executive Chair

Georgia Latino Forum

www.georgialatinoforum.org