



The Hispanic Community Affairs Council (HCAC) is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization with a proud 33-year history. HCAC is dedicated to young Hispanics throughout Alameda County who are interested in pursuing a higher education. HCAC believes that investing in our future leaders is the key to a stronger community.

Our Mission is to promote the value of education, cultural diversity and community involvement.

Our Vision is to invest in the higher education of future Hispanic leaders to build a strong community.

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¿Que Pasa?

The Hispanic Community Affairs Council
Newsletter Fall 2015

HCAC ANNUAL HOLIDAY RECEPTION

Join us as we honor our
2015 scholarship recipients!

Thursday, December 17th
6 :00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Hayward City Hall Rotunda
777 B Street
Hayward



City Hall is easily accessible from the Hayward BART station; and garage parking is across from City Hall.

There will be light refreshments.

Please RSVP by December 14th to:
Angie Reyes at 510.792.9545 or
Yes4Reyes@gmail.com

Visit the HCAC website at
<http://www.hcac-ac.org>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

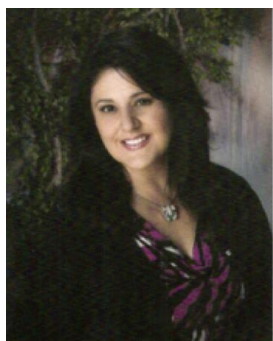
HCAC members and volunteers are working hard to make the 34th Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon a success. Please save the date- **Friday, May 6, 2016!**

This year, the **HCAC Challenge** is to award **70 scholarships** to students throughout Alameda County. We strive to increase the number of scholarships each year to help invest in the higher education of future Hispanic leaders, who will build a stronger community and improve the quality of life for everyone.

During these holidays, I invite you to join our efforts by volunteering or donating to the HCAC scholarship funds (**100%** of all contributions goes directly to the students). After all, the most treasured and sacred moments of our lives are those filled with the spirit of love and giving. For Sponsorship Opportunities, please contact Bettina Flores at (510) 303-6643 or bettina4335@sbcglobal.net.

HCAC is sincerely grateful for everyone who has made awarding scholarships for 33 years possible. Thank you for making a difference!

On behalf of HCAC, we wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!



*Aracelia G. Esparza
President*

SYMPOSIUM DINNER -“ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION” A SUCCESS

Dr. Norma Ambriz-Galaviz, President of Merritt College, and Maritere Guerrero, former HCAC scholarship recipient, were guest speakers at the Symposium Dinner held on September 24th in San Leandro.

Dr. Ambriz-Galviz spoke about the barriers for Hispanic students to attend colleges for higher education—cost. She explained how the cost of a four-year public education has risen enormously in the past five years. She also presented facts a figures concerning how the earning potential for Hispanics is impacted by the present situation. Crushing student debt was another barrier she discussed.

Maritere Guerrero, a Bay Area native discussed the difficulties and lack of educational opportunities she experienced starting in middle school.

Maritere is now at UC Berkeley and will be graduating soon. She plans to enroll in a dual credential program to teach elementary students, students with special needs, and later high school students. She also wants to be a future policy maker in education.

She said that being a minority at the number one public university in America has taught her to embrace her culture. “I am happy that I come from a humble family where I’ve had to work hard to get things.”

Maritere thanked HCAC for providing her with the financial support she needed to continue her journey for higher education. She closed by saying, “I encourage you to continue to donate your time and monetary gifts to HCAC because you are investing in student’s lives, like mine, and are helping address educational inequality.

HCAC MEMBERS IN THE NEWS ANA APODACA



Ana Apodaca recently was recognized by State Senator Bob Wieckowski during a Latino Heritage Leadership Awards ceremony. Senator Wieckowski said

that the awardees continue to make outstanding contributions to all parts of the 10th State Senate District and the Latino Communities in Alameda County.

He stated that Ana Apodaca is the Community and Government Relations Manager for Kaiser Permanent. She served on the Newark City Council from 2005 to 2014 and served as the District Director for former State Senator Liz Figueroa.

Senator Wieckowski indicated that she has served on the Hispanic Community Affair Council for nearly 20 years and also chaired the scholarship committee for the non-profit organization.

He mentioned that previously she was a commissioner for the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women and a mentor for the Puente Project at Chabot Community College.

HCAC is very proud of Ana for such well-deserved recognition, as she was also a former HCAC scholarship recipient.

THE STATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA

(excerpted from this report released in April 2015)

California is undergoing one of the largest demographic, cultural, and economic transformations in its history. How we address the challenges and incredible opportunities of the burgeoning Latino population will define our economy and civil society and the nation for decades to come.

The one factor that will largely determine the direction and velocity of that change is education. More than any other aspect of our society, education will have the most immediate and also the most long-lasting impact on the maturing Latino population.

Education paves the way for progress. It ensures that we produce the best-skilled workers for the jobs of today and tomorrow in a global economy. Those educated workers drive economic prosperity that in turn determines our quality of life.

If we don't expand the opportunity for more of our young Californians to go to college and graduate, we will not succeed—neither individually—nor collectively as an economy, society and state.

The future success of Latinos in California will impact all of us. In a state as diverse as California, we can only grow and prosper when all racial/ethnic groups share in educational and economic success. Whether a significantly greater number of Latinos fare better in our education system and have the opportunity to succeed in college, will determine our economic fate.

To read the full report, go to or paste this address in your URL -- http://collegecampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2015-State-of-Higher-Education_Latinos.pdf

RECOGNITION BY ALLSTATE RAY J. RODRIGUEZ



Ray Rodriguez was recently recognized by Allstate Foundation “for committing to helping others and serving in the community. Because of his outstanding volunteerism, the Allstate Foundation

awarded a \$1,000 grant to the Hispanic Community Affairs Council of Alameda County.”

Ray has been an active member of HCAC for over 30 years. He was on the Board of Directors and served as the Scholarship Chair for several years. Now, he is on the HCAC Advisory Board.

Ray is a long time Newark school board member and businessman. He is a Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran and served as a local church Deacon in Newark. He is the co-founder of Avanzando Newark a non-profit organization to promote the advancement of Latino youth, their families and their community through education, leadership and networking opportunities.

HCAC is very grateful for the time, commitment, and support Ray has contributed to HCAC and the community!

ELECTION FOR HCAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2015-18

At the September 24, 2015 Board meeting, election ballots were counted and the following members were unanimously re-elected to serve a three-year term: Ana Apodaca, Aracelia

Esparza, Elsa Saenz, Pedro Naranjo and Susan Cota.

They will join the following already elected members on the Board: Suzanne Barba, Dawn Graeff, Bettina Flores, Angie Reyes, Yosaira Espinoza, Sandra Genera and Hector Ruiz Topete.

2016 HCAC SCHOLARSHIP TIMELINE

The 2016 HCAC Scholarship application will be available in December on the website at www.hcac-ac.org. The deadline to submit the application is **February 12, 2016**.

Mark your calendars for the following dates for scholarship selection events in which you may want to volunteer and participate:

Application Readings
Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Applicant Interviews
Week of March 21st, 2016

If you would like more information about how to participate in these important events, please contact Angie Reyes, Scholarship Chair at 510.792.9545 or yes4reyes@gmail.com

Save the Date!
Friday, May 6, 2016

Scholarship Awards Luncheon
DoubleTree by Hilton
Newark

HCAC OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aracelia Esperza – President
Alameda County Human Resource Services

Suzanne Barba – Vice President
Public Relations, Retired

Dawn Graeff – Secretary
Human Resources Management, Retired

Bettina Flores – Treasurer
Special Events Consultant

Angie Reyes – Scholarship Chair
Hayward City Clerk, Retired

Ana Apodaca
Community & Government Relations Manager, Kaiser Permanente

Dr. Susan Cota
CLPCCD
Chancellor Emerita

Yosaira Espinoza
Alameda County Office of Education

Sandra Genera
Chabot Community College

Pedro Naranjo
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

Elsa Saenz
Casey Family Program

Hector Ruiz Topete
Career Readiness Program

HCAC ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Yolanda Baldovinos
Alameda County Social Services Agency, Retired

Dr. Arnold Chávez
Alameda County Public Health Department

Marie Contreras-Danner
Court Interpreter, Fremont Hall of Justice

Hon. Ellen Corbett
Former State Senator, 10th District

Alberto Cuadra
HCAC Founder

Ignacio De La Fuente
IDLF Scholarship Foundation

Hon. Leo Dorado
Judge, Alameda County California Superior Court

John A. Dutra
Former Assembly Member

Hon. Liz Figueroa
Former State Senator

Felix Galaviz
Interim CEO/ President, HCCAC

John Garcia
Kaiser Permanente

Dr. Nina Michel Genera
Ohlone Community College Professor Emeritus

Hon. Alberto T. Huevo
Councilmember, Newark City Council

Robert Macias
City of Hayward, Retired

Carmen Melendez
Fremont Unified School District, Retired

Librado Pérez
Consultant, Government Relations

Robert Portillo
Consultant, Community Services

Roberto Rocha
Hispanic Empowerment Programs

Hon. Ray J. Rodriguez
Member, Newark Unified School District

Hon. Frank Roesch
Judge, Alameda County California Superior Court

Hon. Fortney (Pete) Stark
Former Congressman, 13th District

Gail Steele
Board of Supervisor, County of Alameda, Retired

Hon. Richard Valle
Board of Supervisor, District 2, County of Alameda