



2005 2nd Qtr Latinos Unidos Newsletter Lena Avila Robison & Ann Morris Editors

**Latinos Unidos Conference: Education a Bridge to Employment
SAVE THE DATE**

EDUCATION A BRIDGE TO EMPLOYMENT

Join Latinos Unidos of Iowa, Inc. Be informed and earn your CEUs.

2005

CONFERENCE

**Hotel Fort Des Moines
1000 Walnut Street
Des Moines Iowa**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2005

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Welcome

Program

Morning Workshops

Lunch Panel discussion

Afternoon Workshops

Closing Speaker

Scholarship Awards

Please contact Linda Anderson with your questions at 515-643-4200 or landerson@mercydesmoines.org
or Lena Robison at 515-279-6840 or iowalatina@aol.com or Tia Huggins at 515-294-0416 or
thuggins@iastate.edu

Other Latinos Unidos Events:

TBA

Film Festival (Committee Chair: Bertha D'Souza)

TBA

Drake Farmers Market (Committee Chair: Lilia Douglas)

August 11-21, 2005

**Latinos Unidos members will help with the Friends of
Iowa Civil Rights Booth at the Iowa State Fair**

September 16, 2005

Latinos Unidos Conference

October 28 - 29, 2005

**Latino Affairs Conference of which Latinos Unidos will be
collaborating**

December 2005

**3 to 4 Latino Families selected to receive a Holiday dinner and
miscellaneous certificates**

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Latinos Unidos Scholarships update:

As one of the chairs for the scholarship committee it has become a challenge to find moneys for the Latinos Unidos Scholarships. Hope can be found in the contributions you make by paying your memberships dues, helping with the fundraisers and coming up with new inventive ideas for fundraising.

We have started to receive scholarship applications both via mailed and email.

Our goal is to award \$25,000 in scholarships on September 16, 2005.

This is a win win opportunity for everyone. As I share information regarding the scholarships to those contributing or wanting to contribute; the money is recycled back into Iowa's economy as the Latino student must study in Iowa at one of our University's or community colleges.

Contact information: Lena Avila-Robison, 515-279-6840 iowalatina@aol.com

Our scholarships judges are:

Hector Avalos, ISU

Corley Turner, Grandview

Jennifer Estrada, Simpson

Jodi Linley, U of I

Eva Pratt, DMACC

Past events:



Group shot by Lilia Douglas

Latinos Unidos Picnic chaired by Lilia Douglas was a huge success. We became reacquainted, made new friends and had tons of food. Thanks to the cook Dale Morris (Ann's husband) and many others. Thanks to those who came and shared in the 90°+ weather. Thank you to Tyson who donated the meat.

We laughed, had fun and closed the evening dancing meringue and salsa.

Media coverage was there from the *Des Moines Register*, from *El LatinoNewspaper*, and from the magazine *La Opinión*. Fantastic!



Photo from El Latino Newspaper: Alberto Olguín, Board; Eric Idehen, Board; Linda Anderson, Secretary and Board; Lena Ávila-Robison, President and Founder; Lilia Douglas, member; Ann Morris, Public Relations; Jill Johnston, Treasurer; (standing) Mauricio Matheu, Operations.



Photo by Lilia Douglas; Tons of fun for everyone!

Un Orgullo Latino:

Carmen Sosa a diligent soft-spoken woman with a heart made of gold. Carmen is the Bilingual Liaison for the Department of Education. She works endless hours to make sure our children have the education they need to be successful. Thank you, Carmen for caring.

Achieving the Dream...A Call for Unity and Action to Celebrate 40 Years of the Iowa Civil Rights Act, Capitol Complex and Historical Bldg. July 21, 2005

Governor to issue Executive Order: Create opportunity to connect Iowans to American government

Directive will grant restoration of voting rights for ex-offenders

DES MOINES - Governor Tom Vilsack, joined by legislators from both parties, announced today plans to issue an Executive Order that will grant voting rights to disqualified electors who have discharged their sentence, probation or parole. Vilsack will sign the Order on July 4, 2005.

With the proposed directive, Iowa will join 45 other states that have put in place an automatic process for restoration of voting rights. Under Iowa's current law, individuals convicted of felonies or aggravated misdemeanors lose their right to vote and hold public office. To become eligible to vote, offenders now must undergo a 3 to 6 month process that includes submitting an application to the Governor seeking "restoration of citizenship," the application is then forwarded to the Division of Criminal Investigation for verification and then sent to the Board of Parole for a recommendation.

"The right to vote is the foundation of our government and serves as a symbol of opportunity for our citizens," Governor Vilsack said. "Research shows that ex-offenders who vote are less-likely to re-offend and the restoration of voting rights is an important aspect of reintegrating offenders in society so that they become law-abiding and productive citizens."

The executive order will also direct the Department of Corrections to submit a list of eligible offenders each month to the Governor's Office for consideration of a restoration of citizenship. This will eliminate the requirement for an offender to file an application and seek review by the Parole Board.

"Iowans who are living, working and paying taxes in Iowa are denied the right to vote because of their prior conviction," Vilsack said. "The disenfranchisement of these offenders has a disproportionate impact on minorities in our communities, which means those minorities are not being equally represented by their government. This directive will provide the most important opportunity to those who need it most - the right to vote."

The Executive Order will not constitute a "pardon" or remission of guilt and will not restore an individual's firearms rights.

The Iowa Able Foundation is pleased to present our 2004 Annual Report!

<http://www.iowaable.org/uploads/pdf/AnnualReport2004.pdf>

The Iowa Able Foundation helps Iowans with disabilities, their families and older Iowans access adaptive devices/equipment and home modifications through its loan programs. Iowa Able is a consumer-driven, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose efforts enhance the independence of Iowans.

Great progress was made during the last year. Since our kickoff in April, 2004 the Foundation has focused on capacity building, outreach, and providing opportunities to Iowans for greater independence.

Please help us share information about this important resource!

For more information and to obtain copies of our materials contact the Iowa Able Foundation at 515-243-2000 or visit our website, www.iowable.org.

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The Iowa Council for International Understanding (ICIU) will honor five immigrants who are helping to make a difference in our lives at its annual Passport to Prosperity: A Celebration of Iowa's Immigrants and Refugees awards dinner on Saturday, September 24, 2005. The event will be held at the top of the 3rd Street and Court Avenue parking garage. The Passport to Prosperity event will offer an elegant, international buffet-style dinner and entertainment.

The honorees are:

- Juliet Cunningham - Vice President, Owner, & Co-Founder of Team Services, immigrant from Iraq.
- B.J. Do - President and Co-Founder of ABC Virtual Communications, refugee from Vietnam.
- Joe Gonzalez - Sergeant with Des Moines Police Department, immigrant from Mexico.
- Sonia Parras-Konrad - MUNA Program Director for the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, immigrant from Spain.
- Liansuo Xie - Manager CAD System and Research Development for Townsend Engineering, immigrant from China.

This ICIU signature fundraising event will begin with a 7 p.m. reception, followed by an international buffet and program. The cost of the event is \$125 per person or \$1,000 for a table of eight and reservations should be made by Friday, Sept. 16.

To make your reservation today, call ICIU at (515) 282-8269, ext 12 with your credit card information or mail your checks to:

Iowa Council for International Understanding, 1000 Walnut Street, Suite 1105, Des Moines, IA 50309

ICIU Mission Statement: "We build cultural respect at home and around the world one person at a time."

Latinos Unidos of Iowa Sponsors:

Bankers Trust	DMACC	Mercy	UPS
Wells Fargo	Tyson Meats	Hy-Vee	Fleur Theater
The Iowa Vein Center	Des Moines University	Mediacom	Dr. Jeff Gilbert

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