Iowa Department of Human Rights

Office on Latino Affairs and Commission on Latino Affairs 2012-2014

This document is a synopsis of the service and work of the
Office on Latino Affairs and the Commission on Latino Affairs from early 2012 to early 2014.

Please feel free to attend quarterly meetings and/or send input to the Office of Latino Affairs.

To link to the page for the Office of Latino Affairs please click here.

Respectfully submitted by Alba Perez, Executive Officer of the Office on Latino Affairs at the Iowa Department of Human Rights.

The Iowa Code

The Iowa Code states the duties of the Office on Latino Affairs and the Commission on Latino Affairs

216A.14 Office of Latino affairs — duties.

The office of Latino affairs is established and shall do the following:

1. Serve as the central permanent agency to advocate for Latino persons.
2. Coordinate and cooperate with the efforts of state departments and agencies to serve the needs of Latino persons in participating fully in the economic, social, and cultural life of the state, and by providing direct assistance to those who request it.
3. Develop, coordinate, and assist other public organizations which serve Latino persons.
4. Serve as an information clearinghouse on programs and agencies operating to assist Latino persons.

86 Acts, ch 1245, §1208 C87, §601K.14 90 Acts, ch 1180, §8 C93, §216A.14 2010 Acts, ch **1031, §110**, **170**

216A.13 Commission of Latino affairs — duties.

The commission shall have the following duties:

1. Study the opportunities for and changing needs of the Latino population of this state.
2. Serve as liaison between the department of human rights and the public, sharing information and gathering constituency input.
3. Recommend to the board the adoption of rules pursuant to **chapter 17A** as it deems necessary.
4. Recommend legislative and executive action to the governor and general a assembly.
5. Establish advisory committees, work groups, or other coalitions as appropriate.

86 Acts, ch 1245, §1207
C87, §601K.13
C93, §216A.13
2010 Acts, ch **1031, §109**, **170**
See also §**216A.15**

LATINOS IN IOWA

STATE DATA CENTER OF IOWA—A PROGRAM OF IOWA LIBRARY SERVICES / STATE LIBRARY

LATINOS IN IOWA: 2013

SEPTEMBER 2013

In 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a month-long celebration (Sept. 15-Oct. 15). During this month, the United States celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

3.92

The average family size for the Iowa Latino population in 2010. The average family size in the state of Iowa is 2.97.

162,894

The estimated Latino population of Iowa as of July 1, 2012, making people of Latino origin the state's largest race or ethnic minority. Latinos constitute 5.3 percent of the state's total population

79,706

The numeric change in the Latino population from 2000 to 2012. This is a 95.8 percent increase for the period.

436,138

The projected Latino population of Iowa as of July 1, 2040. According to the 2013 Woods & Pool Economics Inc., Latinos will constitute 12.7 percent of the state's total population on that date.

22.7

The median age of Iowa's Latino population in 2012. The median age for the state of Iowa is 38.1.

Families and Children

29,428

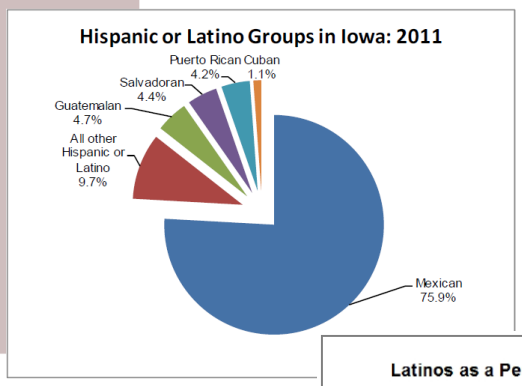
The number of Latino families in 2011 who reside in Iowa.

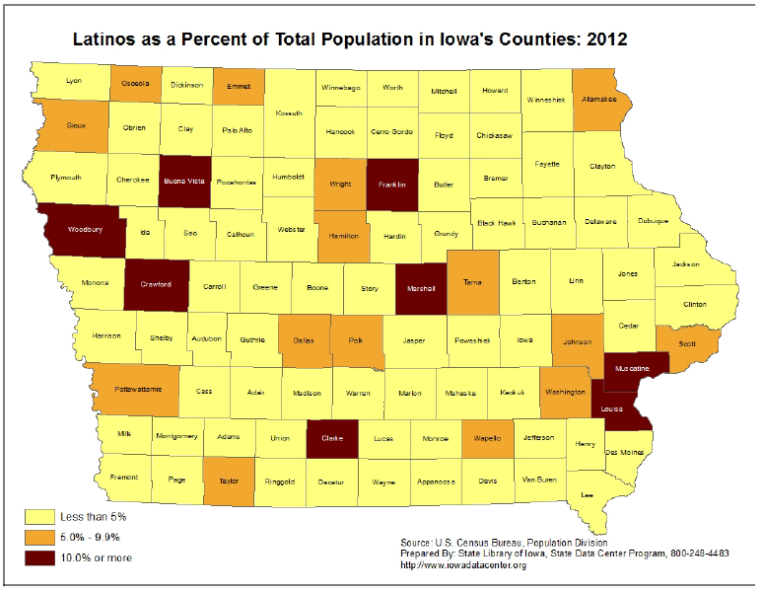
3,584

The number of Latino grandparents in 2010 living with their own grandchildren. 32.8% of those are responsible for the own grandchildren under 18 years of age. This compares to 42.8 percent for the U.S..

13.7%

Percentage of Latino population under age 5 as of July 1, 2012. Latinos have a higher concentration of preschoolers among the population than any other race or ethnic group





Source: [Iowa Data Center](), [Latino data.]()

2012 Latino Heritage Festival

The Office and Commission on Latino Affairs
were present at the annual event. Commissioners volunteered at the Latino Affairs booth. September 2012

Aztec drummer at the 2012 Latino Heritage Festival.

Commission Chair, Sal Alaniz volunteering at the Latino Affairs booth.

The Jackson and Johnson babies at the Office on Latino Affairs booth.

← Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS) at the Latino Heritage Festival.

2012 December 12

The Office on Latino affairs and the Commission on Latino Affairs held a strategic session that set the course and focus of the group.

Commission on Latino affairs PRIORITIES
Communications
Public Safety & Corrections – Disproportionate Confinement
Education
Health
Immigration
Workforce and Economic Development
Leadership Development and Civic Engagement
Legislation

To read meeting minutes of the Commission on Latino Affairs and to find agendas/notifications for future meetings please click ***here***.

2012-2014

The Latina Leadership Initiative of
Greater Des Moines— LLI

The Executive Office of the Office on Latino Affairs, Alba Perez, joins the LLI Advisory Committee early in 2012. In mid 2012 Perez becomes the Curriculum Chair for the committee and begins to work on the unique content of the first of its kind leadership development program with a group of Latina leaders in the area. The first cohort starts in September of 2013 with twelve participants.
Eleven participants will graduate on May 3, 2014.

2013 Opening Reception with participants, mentors and supporters.

OUR MISSION

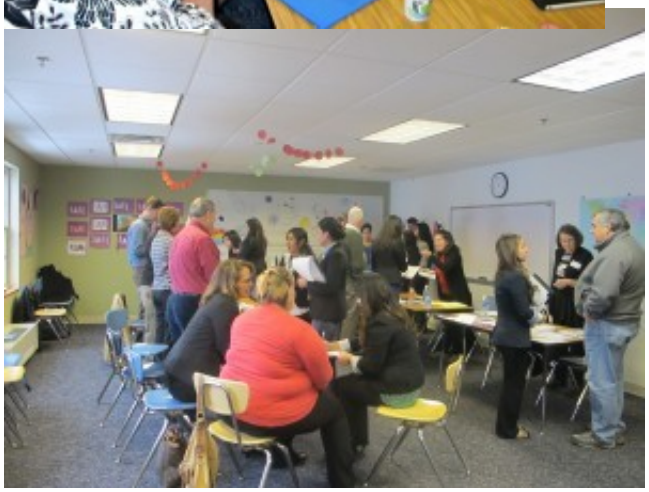
The Latina Leadership Initiative of Greater Des Moines (LLI), supports young Latina leaders by providing them with the necessary skills, training, and mentors for personal, professional and community advancement; and promotes heightened awareness of social responsibility and stronger attention to the needs of the broader Hispanic community.

The Latina Leadership Initiative of Greater Des Moines fills a gap where there is a lack of culturally appropriate leadership support for promising Latina women.
The goal is that through the Latina Leadership Initiative, we will begin to see more and more young, powerful and well-educated Latinas serve on boards, commissions and other leadership capacities in the Des Moines metro area. Latina women will be prepared for these roles and others in their communities, but they must first receive the nurturing and talent and skill development to do so.

"I love that we are all Latinas who come from different backgrounds and we learn from each other because of that. In the next five years I hope to see myself working in my field but in a work environment where I'm also helping many or at least contributing to communities. I also aspire to help continue the growth of LLI for all future Latina Leaders out there". *Eva Sandoval*

Greater Des Moines
Latina
LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

This curriculum incorporates the skills and talents that are already part of the Latino culture and links them to traditional American leadership models. It takes into account how migration and immigration have shaped those talents and the experiences that history has engrained in Latinas, making them one of the fastest growing segments of business owners and community influencers. *LLI's website*



2013 Latino Heritage Festival

The Office on Latino Affairs and the Commission on Latino Affairs were present at the annual event. Commissioners and their families volunteered once again at the Latino Affairs both.

Commissioner Alejandro Pino and his beautiful family volunteering at the Latino Affairs booth. Thank YOU and Gracias!

"I have the longest time of service with the commission and different administrators and different CAS administrators or executive officers and this has been the period of the most activity…"

Chair of the Commission comments during the 2/18/2014 commission meeting. Chair Alaniz has served in the commission since August of 2006.

Iowa Code **216A.13**

4. Recommend legislative and executive action to the governor and general a assembly.

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

January 9, 2013

Honorable Governor Branstad,

The Commission of Latino Affairs and I learned via the Des Moines Register on December 27Ih, 2012, that the Iowa Department of Transportation had made the decision to not issue Driver Licenses to those beneficiaries of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

The article mentioned that this decision was made in consultation with the Governor's office. This decision, according to the article, was made based on the DOT's interpretation of their rules and the interpretation of the DACA Executive Order. However, this decision directly violates the Federal Real ID Act of 2005, H.R.1268 Section 202(c) (2) (B) (viii). Furthermore, the decision violates Iowa's Administrative Code - 12/26/2012 Transportation Department [761] Chapter 601.5(1) e.

"A State shall require, before issuing a driver's license or identification card to a person, valid documentary evidence that the person-- has approved deferred action status." Federal Real ID Act of 2005, H.R.1268 Section 202(c) (2) (B) (viii). "To establish identity and date of birth, an applicant must submit at least one of the following documents. The department may require additional documentation if the department believes that the documentation submitted is questionable or if the department has reason to believe that the person is not who the person claims to be. An unexpired employment authorization document issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Form I-766 or Form I-688B)." Iowa's Administrative Code - 12/26/2012 Transportation Department [761] Chapter 601.5(1) e.

This decision has a significant impact for Latinos in Iowa. It prevents approximately five thousand Latinos in the state of Iowa who work in our diverse industries from safely driving to and from work. It prevents approximately five thousand Latinos in the state of Iowa from safely driving to and from their learning institution as they prepare to become our future workforce.

The Commission of Latino Affairs consists of seven Iowans appointed by your office whose job, in part, is to make recommendations to the Governor's office on issues that impact the Latino population of Iowa. We were disappointed in the fact that we were excluded from the conversation that will significantly affect several thousand Latinos in the state of Iowa.

We would like the opportunity for two or three of our commissioners to meet with you and your staff to discuss how we can serve your office more proactively in the future - especially when government agencies are preparing to make decisions that profoundly affect our communities.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and are eager to hear your response.

Respectfully on behalf of the Commission of Latino Affairs,

Sal Alaniz
Chair

Commission of Latino Affairs

Lucas State Office Building, 321 East 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 | 515-242-5655 | Fax 515-242-6119 | www.humanrights.iowa.gov

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

Latino Affairs Commission – May 2013

Support of Sensible Immigration Reform

A Call to Iowans and Iowa Elected Officials

The Commission of Latino Affairs is a body of Governor appointed volunteers to serve Latinos and Iowans alike. One of our duties is to study the opportunities for and changing needs of the Latino population in Iowa. Immigration status is one of the barriers faced by a number of Latinos living in Iowa. The Commission of Latino Affairs believes and supports sensible and humane immigration reform and we are asking you to do the same.

Immigration is one of the most defining issues faced by our community. The Latino population in Iowa according to the Iowa Data Center 158,014 as of July 1 2011 and it is projected to be 430,344 by the year 2040.

In recent history Iowa has suffered from population decline which debilitates our workforce and as a consequence it debilitates our economy.

Governor Branstad and Lieutenant Governor Reynolds have four ambitious goals for their administration over the next few years: 200,000 new jobs for Iowans, a 15 percent reduction in the cost of government, a 25 percent increase in family incomes and to again have the nation's best schools.

To support immigration reform helps accomplish the success of Iowa and the goals of the administration.

As it relates to our US Congressional Delegation and other influential policy leaders from Iowa:

Immigration policy and the lack of standard procedures are negatively impacting the Latino community in Iowa. The separation of families that may be in this country without documentation from their U. S. born children has caused much grief and despair too many Iowans during the recent years.

In crafting this essential legislation, we urge you to be mindful that as a nation of immigrants, how we treat new immigrants reflects our commitment to the values that define us. Specifically, we urge Congress to:

- Create a realistic path to citizenship for the 11 million aspiring citizens who call America home. Small details could have major consequences for millions of these aspiring citizens. We need to ensure a fair process when drafting legislation that takes into consideration who these new Americans are, and what they contribute to our country.
- Preserve the unity of families, traditional and nontraditional. Family unity plays a critical role in student success. Yet growing numbers of public school students live in fear that our nation's immigration policies will break up their families, forcing them to choose between their country and their loved ones — mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers. Family-based immigration is essential to keeping America strong.
- Incorporate and expand the DREAM Act and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Many of the more than 50,000 undocumented students who graduate from U.S. high schools are unable to pursue higher education simply because they are unable to afford it. Under current law, undocumented students can be denied access to in-state tuition, federal loans, and health benefits. Addressing these issues is a top priority for America's educators.

We look forward to working with you to make comprehensive immigration reform a reality at last. In addition we look forward to your vocal support for this overdue change in US policy.

If you would like to visit with our commission we would be more than happy to oblige. Please find our contact information attached.

Sincerely on Behalf of the Latino Affairs Commission

Commission of Latino Affairs

Lucas State Office Building, 321 East 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 | 515-242-5655 | Fax 515-242-6119 | www.humanrights.iowa.gov

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

2013-2014 Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs
Public Policy Priorities

The Commission of Latino Affairs held a meeting on November 14th of 2013 where the following statement was discussed and approved by the commission and in accordance with the Iowa Code **216A.13.** which reads:
Commission of Latino affairs — duties: The commission shall have the following duties:

4. Recommend legislative and executive action to the governor and general assembly.

Latinos in Iowa comprise 162,894 of the entire state population – 2013 Iowa Data Center

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES – COMMISSION OF LATINO AFFAIRS

1- **Immigration – Support of Sensible Immigration Reform.** The Latino Affairs Commission respectfully requests the support of the legislature on statement drafted by the Latino Affairs Commission in 2013 in support of federal reform. The statement titled Latino Affairs Commission – May 2013 Support of Sensible Immigration Reform A Call to Iowans and Iowa elected Officials reflects our position on the issue. In addition to your support we ask that you take this statement into consideration when reviewing and voting for state laws that come before you so that Iowa laws are welcoming to Latinos in the state.

2- **Iowa Civil Rights Commission (ICCR).** Discrimination in the workplace is the highest inquiry to the Office of Latino Affairs. The Commission of Latino affairs highly encourages, supports and is willing to engage the Iowa Civil Rights Commission to enhance education for Latino employees and education for Iowa employers to prevent growing discrimination in the workplace that directly and negatively affect Latinos. https://icrc.iowa.gov/sites/files/civil_rights/documents/Annual%20Report%20FY13%20final.pdf

3- **Iowa Department of Education -** The Commission of Latino Affairs strongly encourages in state tuition for beneficiaries of Deferred Action Childhood Arrival – DACA. This will provide access to education to many Latino youth that will contribute to the economic development goals set by the Governor.
In addition, the Commission of Latino Affairs supports the position proposed by the Iowa Division of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning (see enclosed). This document presents solutions to the **Disproportionate Representation of Latino Youth and other minorities in the Judicial System**.

4- **Iowa Department of Human Services. Latino Children and Youth**
The Latino Affairs Commission respectfully presents following recommendations for the improvement of the lives of Latino children, youth and families in Iowa:

a- The Commission of Latino Affairs supports the replication of bilateral agreements with Latin consulate general representatives of the Latino population in Iowa. (http://www.iowadatacenter.org/Publications/latinos2013.pdf):

México (Agreement already in place-see link below or document enclosed), El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador, Puerto Rico). To read existing agreement with the Consulate of Mexico in Omaha go to this link: http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/policyanalysis/PolicyManualPages/Manual_Documents/Master/17-C3%20T12.pdf

b- Strengthening adherence to the federal requirements on culturally competent services: http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/news/2008/discrimrace.html

c- The commission fully supports the **Early Childhood Counts** Legislative Priorities:
Quality Early Learning and Development
Child Health and Well-Being
Family Economic Success
http://www.cfpciowa.org/documents/filelibrary/ecc/2014_ECC_Legislative_Prioirities_46763714149B6.pdf

d- We recommend the Iowa Department of Human Services to regularly disclose the numbers of Latino children currently experiencing out of home care to stakeholders and consumers.

5- **Iowa Secretary of State - Civic Engagement Education –** The Commission of Latino Affairs highly encourages, supports and will gladly engage the Iowa Secretary of State in enhancing their current outreach and education to Latino voters in Iowa.

2013
First Latin American Consular Meeting in Iowa

First Latin American Consular Meeting in Iowa

Friday August 16th, 2013
Des Moines, Iowa

Iowa Department of Human Rights
Office of Latino Affairs

Iowa Distinguished Guests

Argentinean Consulate General
The Honorable Marcelo Suarez Salvia

Colombian Consulate General
The Honorable
Joseé Fernando Gómez Mora

Dominican Republic Consulate General
The Honorable Gisselle Castillo-Veremis

Ecuadorian Consulate General
The Honorable Silvia Ontaneda

Salvadorian Consulate General
The Honorable Patricia Maza-Pittsford

Mexican Consulate General
The Honorable Jorge Espejel

Peruvian Consulate General
The Honorable Agustín De Madalengoitia

Venezuelan Consulate General
The Honorable Jesus Rodriguez Espinoza

Photos of several meetings held by the Consulate Generals from Latin America in 2013.
The distinguished guests visited with Governor Branstad, Iowa Department of Human Rights Director San Wong, Latino Media and Iowa Businesses.

Office on Latino Affairs collaborates with state agencies and non profit organizations to foster and strengthen local and international relationships.

LATIN AMERICAN CONSUL GENERALS MEETING WITH IOWA BUSINESSES

The Greater Des Moines Partnership, The Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Iowa Department of Human Rights are honored to invite Iowa businesses to meet with Consul Generals of Latin America.

The purpose of this roundtable is to introduce Consul Generals of Latin American countries gathered in Des Moines to build Relation ships and discuss trade opportunities. There will also be an opportunity for the Consul Generals to meet with citizens of their respective countries currently living in Iowa and the general public at a Meet & Greet afterwards.

THE greater DES MOINES partnership

IOWA economic development

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Special thanks to the Asociación Consular Iberoamericana de Chicago.

ACIC Asociacion Consular Iberoamericana

Consul Generals from the following countries are confirmed:

Argentina
Colombia
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Mexico
Peru
Venezuela

AGENDA

Friday, August 16th
Greater Des Moines Partnership
Arthur Davis Conference Room

3:00—3:45 PM

3:00 PM	Welcome by Ryan Carroll—Peggy Kerr
3:05PM	Remarks by Consulate Generals of the Dominican Republic Giselle Castillo-Veremis
3:10 PM	Consulate Generals Introductions and Trade Opportunities
3:30 PM	Q & A

Latin American Consul Generals Meet & Greet

Friday, August 16th
Greater Des Moines Partnership
Arthur Davis Conference Room

3:45-4:30 PM

Welcome by Ryan Carroll
Remarks by Consulate Generals

Special thanks to all that made this event possible: The Honorable Consulate Generals, Asociación Consular Iberoamericana de Chicago, Consulate Generals' staff, Governor Brandstad's staff, the Grater Des Moines Partnership, the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the Consulate of Mexico in Omaha, Radio La Reina, Radio La Ley, the original organizing committee in Des Moines, businesses, guests and the Office of Latino Affairs staff.

2013

"This event is a direct result of our partnership as I met Cristobal Lohr from the Consulate office in Omaha and asked him to reach out to me if they ever wanted to hold an event about doing business in Mexico here in Des Moines. "

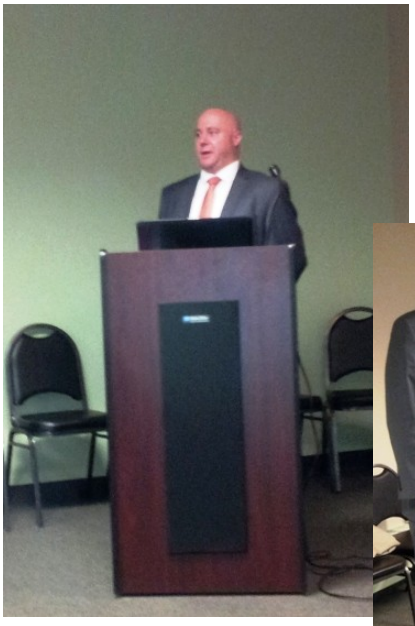
Ryan Carroll
International Trade Manager
The Greater Des Moines Partnership

2014

"Last summer, I had the opportunity to partner with Alba Perez on an event in which we hosted the Consul Generals from eight Latin American countries.
Due to the success of this event, we have strengthened our relationship with Latin America which has lead to further interaction with this region of the world and the potential for business opportunities with Central Iowa."

Ryan Carroll
International Trade Manager
The Greater Des Moines Partnership

2014 Peruvian Ambassador to the United States,
The Honorable Harold Forsyth visits Des Moines Iowa.



Ryan Carroll
International Trade Manager
The Greater Des Moines
Partnership.
←

↑ Jay Byers, CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership.

Jay Byers, CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Ambassador of Peru to the United States The Honorable Harold Forsyth, Executive Officer on Latino Affairs, Alba Perez and President and CEO of EFCO Forms, Mr. Jennings.

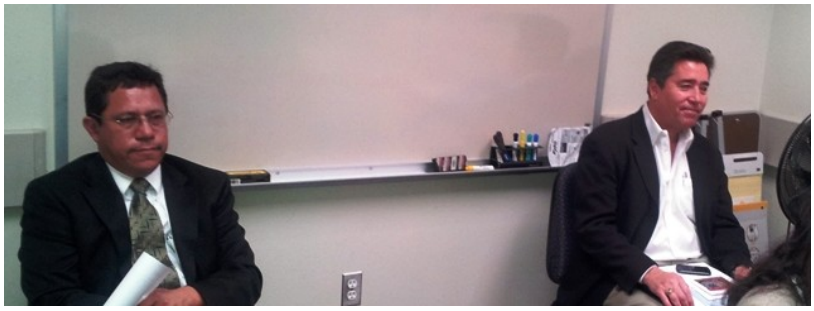
A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on the same day between Iowa and Peru by Governor Branstad and the Honorable Harold Forsyth.

2014 Commission on Latino Affairs meeting
April 10, 2014

Director Wong presenting a Certificate of Recognition to Commissioner Joan Jaimes and Rebecca Jackson. Thank you so much for your service.

President of LULAC Iowa, Joe Henry presenting a Certificate to Joan Jaimes for her leadership in three initiatives voted by the commission to advocate for Latinos in Iowa.

Mr. Lara and Commissioner Alejandro Pino sharing some thoughts about Latinos in Iowa.



Commission on Latino Affairs

First Name	Last Name	City	County	Term Ends
Sal	**Alaniz**	Mt. Pleasant	Henry	April 30, 2016
Rebecca	Jackson	Denison	Crawford	April 30, 2014
Joan	Jaimes	Marshalltown	Marshall	April 30, 2012
Maria	Lara	Carlisle	Warren	April 30, 2016
Alejandro	Pino	Cedar Rapids	Linn	April 30,2014
Juan	Rodriguez	Des Moines	Polk	April 30, 2016
Ramon	Rodriguez	Pleasant Hill	Polk	April 30, 2014

"Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore."

César Chávez

"Thank you to the Commissioners on Latino Affairs who led and supported the work completed in the last two years". Alba Perez– Executive Officer

April 2014

Fun and educational links to videos on Latin America, Latinos, and Latin Culture.
Enjoy!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15jdTQIr7j4 - Latino Culture

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwdxbk-4Sj8 – Habla Texas Carmen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEHP_ATxktY - La Bruja