

NEWS AND PROFILES CONNECTING THE LATINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA

January 2015 / Issue 335
Latino
American
Today
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**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

2015

¡PRÓSPERO AÑO NUEVO!

Latino American Today Supports Education Reform in Minnesota



By Publisher, Rick Aguilar

Latino American Today will feature a series of articles that support education reform in Minnesota. In this issue we'll take a look at School Choice in Wisconsin and how the Wisconsin Latino community embraces parental choice in schools for their children. This has proven to be successful for Latino graduation rates in Wisconsin (see pages 3 & 4).

A persistent achievement gap has impacted Latino students in Minnesota for too long. In one example, only 23% of Latino students are proficient in reading as highlighted by the 2014 Minnesota Education Summit. The inability of antiquated policy structures to meet the needs of our Latino students is clear and unacceptable.

As the 2015 legislative session kicks off, there's never been a more important time to have a robust discussion about how to improve education in Minnesota. Latino student's lackluster results implore state leaders to take bold and necessary steps to improve public education for our students.

It's time to repeal outdated laws that prohibit school leaders from keeping the most effective teachers in Minnesota's classrooms. We know that teacher quality is the most important in-school factor affecting student achievement.

We must prohibit students from being assigned to an ineffective teacher for consecutive years. An ineffective teacher generates 50% less learning over the course of a single school year than an average teacher. Our kids deserve better.

The Latino community should support legislation eliminating teachers' seniority protections during layoffs, often referred to as "last in, first out." We should put an end to the teacher-tenure law. It's important we keep the best teachers in front of our students and let the school districts have the flexibility to determine which teachers get laid off. It should not be determined by which teachers have been there the longest.

Get involved. Contact your legislators and let them know they need to stand up for Minnesota's students.



On The Cover
Happy New Year! ¡Próspero año nuevo!

Latino
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Hispanic Parents Like School Choice Program in Wisconsin

By Aaron Rodriguez

When state legislators say they oppose expanding the school choice program, they're sending a message to Hispanic parents that they're not smart enough to decide which schools are best for their children. Allow me to explain.

Numerous surveys published recently have indicated an overwhelming support for the school choice program among Hispanic voters. According to a 2012 report published by the American Federation for Children — a pro-school choice advocacy group — 91% of Hispanics in Florida, Arizona, New Mexico, New Jersey and Nevada support school voucher and scholarship programs. In Texas, a survey published earlier this year by Braun Research showed that 80% of registered Hispanic voters support school choice.

If you're not a fan of surveys, let's try some different numbers.

St. Anthony School in Milwaukee is now the largest private school to participate in a school choice program across the country. It wasn't always this way. From 2002 to 2011, the school's annual student enrollment ballooned from 400 to 1,700 students. The rate of growth is impressive; but underscoring that growth is the statistic that 99% of St. Anthony's student body is Latino. St. Anthony's expansion and demographics corroborate what surveys have been telling us: There is a strong demand for school choice among Hispanics.

The state Legislature should keep two things in mind when considering the expansion of school choice. First, the Hispanic community is the fastest-growing ethnic group in the country, quickly becoming an important voting bloc in American elections. Second, many of the areas targeted this year in Wisconsin for expanding school choice have growing Hispanic communities. Let's briefly look at three of the nine areas in Wisconsin targeted for school choice expansion: Green Bay, Kenosha and Beloit.

Green Bay's Hispanic population density is twice the state average. Hispanic population growth there has doubled the past 10 years and quadrupled in the past 15 years. Kenosha's Hispanic population is now approaching three times the state average and has grown 79% in the past 10 years. Beloit's Hispanic population is almost three times the state average and has grown 94% the past 10 years. Opposing the expansion of the school choice program in cities where Hispanics are quickly growing is playing political chicken with an increasingly important voting bloc.

A recent op-ed submitted by a group of public school teachers argued that voucher schools are not accountable to taxpayers and have not increased student achievement beyond public schools. I won't get into the weeds on some of the particulars, but I will point out something that seems to be ignored by the anti-school choice crowd. A five-year longitudinal study published by Patrick Wolf of the University of Arkansas showed that students in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program were 7% more likely to graduate high school and 4% more likely to enroll in college than their Milwaukee Public Schools peers.

Nationally, Hispanic students are three times more likely to drop out of high school. Knowing that the choice schools excel precisely in the areas where Hispanics have the greatest academic deficit strengthens the argument to expand school choice into Hispanic communities.

Over the last decade, St. Anthony School in Milwaukee accepted on average more than 100 additional low-income, low-performing Hispanic students a year. For any school to expand that quickly is a risk because first-year, low-performing students will inevitably drop the schools' average test scores.

St. Anthony accepted the risk and met the community demand. As a result, it is graduating 93% of its first senior class with a 96% college enrollment rate. St. Anthony is a good test case showing that a school consisting of 99% Latino students from low-income homes can buck the national trend, exceed the state's high school graduation and college enrollment rates and corroborate peer-reviewed studies of the program with real results.

Like public schools, the school choice program is not without its flaws. Just saying that a school participates in the school choice program doesn't make it a good school. We should advocate closing any school that continues to perform poorly because our kids deserve it; however, we also should balance the interest of accountability with the growing demand for school choice in populations of need.

It's nearly impossible for good private schools in the voucher program to expand when they continue to receive a fraction of the per-pupil funding as public schools. St. Anthony was able to expand because it scraped together the resources; but not all schools in the program have the resources. Per-pupil funding for the school choice program must increase, especially for schools offering a secondary education.

Legislators should be encouraged by the Hispanic community's desire for education reform. Hispanics like the school choice program and want it in their community. To deny them a choice among a broader marketplace of schools is no different than telling them they don't know what's best for their children.



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Hispanics for School Choice



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HFSHC was formed because education is the single most unifying issue of the various Hispanic communities in Wisconsin. Hispanics overwhelmingly support Educational choices in all its forms, Public, Choice, Charter, Virtual and Home school.

Wisconsin and specifically the city of Milwaukee have been national leaders in school reform over the past 20 years. Created in 1990, the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) is the nation's largest and oldest school voucher program for low-income families; this initiative has included many children in the Hispanic community. Milwaukee boasts a successful charter school network as well as a network of sought after public schools. We believe that having these choices leads to better outcomes for students and families now and in the future.

HFSC was set up as a grassroots organization for the purposes of informing and representing the Hispanic Communities of Wisconsin on the issues of Educational Choice.

HFSC is not just an organization for those with Hispanic heritage but open to anyone who would like to advocate for educational options on behalf of the children and parents of Wisconsin.

Please join our Free Membership today to receive updates and important information on the issues and our local events. See more at: <http://www.hispanicsforschoolchoice.com/#sthash.OX4QMxGp.dpuf>

Mission Statement Hispanics for School Choice exists to represent and inform the Hispanic Communities of Wisconsin on the issues of Educational Choice and to advocate for the removal of any restrictions on the parental right to choose. - See more at: <http://www.hispanicsforschoolchoice.com/#sthash.bUyLMG7K.dpuf>

Latino Pilot Project Update

By Rick Aguilar

A reception/networking event was held on December 3, 2014 at the Boca Chica to update interested attendees on the progress of the Latino Achievement Gap Pilot Project, that was launched at the Latino Education Summit on September 27, 2014. Over 50 attendees listened to speakers Antonio Sacin, President of the Society of Professional Hispanic Engineers and Andres Reza, President of ALPFA Twin Cities. Both groups are members of the Pilot Project effort. Carmen Robles and Jovenes de Salud members also attended the event. In other pilot project activities, Jovenes de Salud members Manny Hernandez and Carrisa Ontiveros were awarded the La Familia Hispanic Heritage award and Harding Latino youth leader, Isaac C. Marquez recently joined the Minnesota Army National Guard. Congratulations to these youth leaders. The Pilot project is on track.



Jovenes de Salud members Manny Hernandez and Carrisa Ontiveros with Rick Aguilar



Isaac C. Marquez (second from left) with Rick Aguilar and members of the Minnesota Army National Guard



(Left) Antonio Sacin, President of the Society of Professional Hispanic Engineers and Andres Reza, President of ALPFA Twin Cities

Challenges of Latina Women Leaders

By Marci Malzahn

Last year I spoke at the *Latina Women Leadership Program* offered by St. Catherine University in St. Paul, MN. There were about 15 Latina professional women in the group and I was impressed with their level of education and the variety of careers represented in the class. The workshop was very fun to do and I came home energized and excited about all the new connections I had made. I told my husband, “There is more women like me, right here in Minnesota!”

When I said those words, I suddenly realized how much support I have missed by being on my own in Corporate America, navigating the executive positions and the board rooms alone. We all know that being a professional executive woman is lonely... Being a *Latina* professional executive woman is even lonelier—or at least that has been my experience here in the Midwest.

I have to admit, I have not been very involved with the Latino community in Minnesota since I came here 28 years ago. The main reason is that I wanted to “melt in the melting pot” and not be seen as different. But the truth is—I am different. I am unique. I came here with all my values, morals, and my own cultural background, which is a combination of my native country of Nicaragua and Dominican Republic, the country that took my family in for seven years after the revolution in 1979.

Yes, I am different and unique, which is what makes me “me.” And I love that! I am a *professional* Latina woman. At the same time, I’m no different than other professionals—male or female—when you consider what a true professional is.

I just gave a presentation based on James Ball’s book called *Professionalism Is for Everyone*. In his book, Mr. Ball shares the five key characteristics that distinguish a professional: Character, Attitude, Excellence, Competency, and Conduct. You see, it doesn’t matter where you’re from or if you’re male or female, what matters is that you conduct yourself as a professional—consistently. But, is that enough to succeed?

There are three key challenges we face as Latina Women professionals:

The first challenge is the language barrier – Depending on when you arrived in the United States, you may have a strong accent, which makes it difficult to communicate. You can improve in your pronunciation just by practicing but also just embrace your accent and have fun with it. It’s a great conversation point! You must, however, dominate the English language and know it well.

The second challenge is being considered a “person of color.” It doesn’t matter where you’re from, if you’re not from Scandinavian descent, here in Minnesota, you’re considered “dark skin” and “Hispanic.” I had to learn to accept that even though I have very fair skin and get freckles when exposed to the sun, here in Minnesota, I’m dark. Oh well!

The third challenge is that you are a woman. Women across America are still facing the same challenge of pay equity for same types of jobs, or lack of promotions, or simply not belonging to the “boys’ club.”

So what are you going to do about these challenges? What can you do?

Here is how you can help each other and those that are coming after you:

- Find each other! Once you find other professional women, reach out and stay connected.
- Connect other Latina women with those you know and introduce them to people that may be able to give them new opportunities in the future.
- Mentor someone younger and teach them what you’ve learned to navigate the corporate world.
- Sponsor someone. Sponsoring goes beyond an introduction. It is when you put your reputation at risk for that person so they have a better chance of getting a promotion or a specific job.
- Continue your own education. Get your credentials in place so you can compete for higher positions.
- Never give up trying.

Enjoy and embrace being a Latina professional woman. You are unique and you are special. Your contributions are needed right here in Minnesota as well as the rest of the U.S.

Marcia (Marci) Malzahn is a native of Nicaragua. She came to Minnesota in 1986 and started a career in banking. After 13 years in banking, she moved to the non-profit field and switched careers to technology. In 2005 Marci returned to banking, this time to start a new bank. She started as CFO and VP of Operations and was the first employee. In her role, Marci oversaw all the operations areas of the bank, which included Finance, IT, Compliance, Internal Audit, Deposit/Loan Operations, Office Management, and HR. Her last position was Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Risk Officer of the bank.

Starting the bank allowed Marci the opportunity to lead various teams and to work with attorneys, auditors, regulators, vendors, Board of Directors, shareholders, senior management, and employees. Marci has been in management for the past 18 years and 13 of those years in senior executive leadership positions.

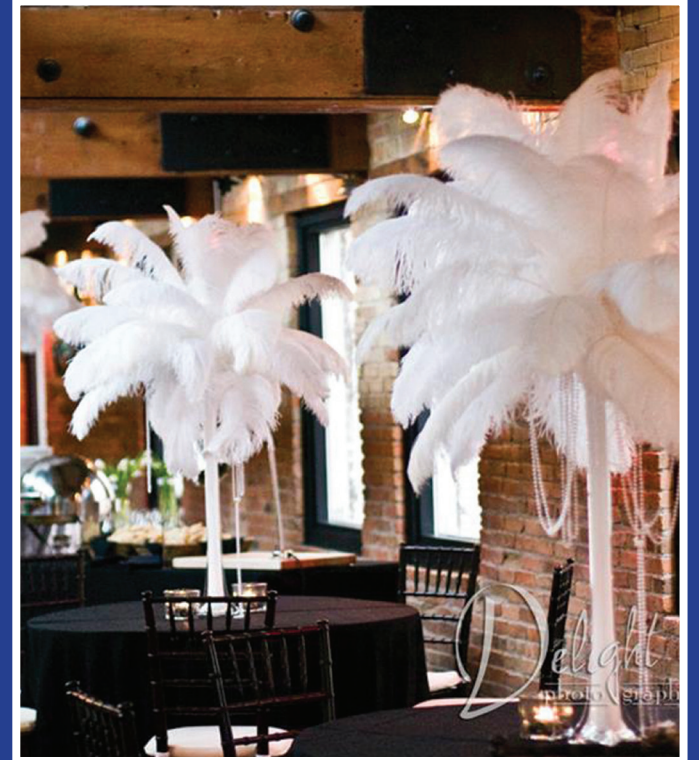
*After almost ten years of growing the bank from zero to \$300 million in assets, Marci decided to start her own bank consulting practice, Malzahn Strategic, focusing on Strategic Planning, Enterprise Risk Management and Talent Management for small community banks. Marci is also a public speaker and author of her book *Devotions for Working Women*. She’s working on her second book, which she hopes to publish in 2015.*



Marci Malzahn



Rick Aguilar; Steve Hark CEO; and Dilque Zea Sales/Operation Manager of The Minneapolis Event Center; Alexandra Nelson; and Nick Lopez.



LATINO AMERICAN TODAY VISITS MINNEAPOLIS EVENT CENTER

By Dilque Zea

Over the years the East Bank of the Mississippi River has been overlooked by most people – we have uncovered a hidden gem.

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AÑO NUEVO, VIDA NUEVA

By Award-Winning Author and Chef Amalia Moreno-Damgaard

Inticipate and always welcome the New Year because it gives me the opportunity to renew in so many ways. Throughout the year, we become accustomed to a routine and, at times, it does not seem to have an end. A break from hard work is much needed and it is healthy for the body and mind.

A fresh start not only in business, but also in other aspects of our life can help us put our house in order, breakaway from bad habits, and make New Year's resolutions. To be successful in our resolutions the goals should be attainable, or we will be frustrated and quit before January is over. This year I will make my goal to complete the research for my second book and will establish milestones monthly. Having a goal (or goals) gives us a sense of purpose in life and it is a way to continue to grow personally.

Another goal of mine will be to make and create new recipes or try new traditional ones. Departing from the old routine of cooking the same thing is fun and wholesome. The kitchen is a therapeutic place for me and I invite anyone to join me for cooking at anytime to create spicy, healthy and delicious food. I enjoy teaching others how to cook, but I am finding even more rewarding teaching my son how to make quick and easy meals that he can create when he is off to college.

How about making it a goal of yours to make a conscious effort to eat and cook healthier this year? You may need some help, but this is the fun part, that you can learn something new while benefiting you and your family's health in the process. You can start by taking a cooking class or two and by doing research on the internet about the benefits of cooking with healthy oils and fats. You can also find many new recipes that teach healthy cooking techniques and tips for lowering calories that support your goals at WebMD and the American Heart Association website.

Breaking old habits is not easy. It takes 30-40 days to instill any new habit or change in our life. Here is one of my favorite recipes to help you in your new journey, which is not only delicious and healthy, but also super easy to make.

!Feliz Año Nuevo! Happy New Year!



Chef Amalia in the kitchen

SALPICÓN

Beef Salad with Tomato, Mint, and Sour Orange

This scrumptious salad is ideal for entertaining. Traditionally *salpicón* is made with the beef from *Cocido de Res* (aromatic beef and vegetable soup) and served as a side dish along with the soup, rice, and warm corn tortillas. But you don't need to make the soup to cook the beef for this fantastic salad. It is easier to make it this way. Flank steak is a leaner and healthier alternative to the tougher and fattier cuts used in the traditional version of *salpicón*. In Guatemala *salpicón* is made with either sour orange juice or lime juice. A good substitute for sour orange juice is a combination of orange juice and lemon juice.

Serves 4 to 6 people

1 pound flank steak
1/2 teaspoon salt
Freshly ground black pepper
2 to 3 teaspoons oil
1 1/4 cups fat-free, low-sodium beef stock
1/2 onion, halved
2 bay leaves

1/2 cup finely diced onions
1 cup finely diced vine-ripened tomatoes
2 tablespoons finely chopped mint leaves
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed orange juice
1 1/2 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1/2 Serrano pepper, minced (optional)



Adorno (Garnish)
Lettuce
Mint leaves
Grape tomatoes
Blue corn tortilla crunchies or triangles

1. Season the flank steak with salt and pepper. In a hot, medium-size, deep skillet, sear the meat on both sides in a little oil until medium brown, about 4 minutes per side. Add the stock, onion, and bay leaves, and bring to a quick boil. Lower the heat, cover, and braise until the meat fibers separate easily when pulled (about 1 1/2 hours). Check the meat during the cooking time and make sure the liquid stays at about 1 1/2 cups at all times. (Add 1/2 cup of stock or water at a time as needed). When the meat is done, transfer it to a cutting board and let it cool. Discard the onion and bay leaves. Pour the broth into a cup and freeze it for another use.

2. Cut the meat into 2-inch uniform chunks and chop them coarsely in a food processor. Chop the meat in batches, using the pulsing function for better control.

3. Combine the meat with the rest of the ingredients (except the garnishes). Taste and adjust seasonings, if needed.

4. Serve the salad garnished with lettuce, mint leaves, grape tomatoes, and/or blue corn tortilla crunchies or triangles.

Amalia's Upcoming Events 2015

Saturday, January 24, 2015; 5:30pm
Thunderbird Aviation, Flying Cloud Airport
Edina Morningside Rotary Gala

Featuring gourmet dinner by Amalia in a hangar, evening flights, live music and dance, silent and live auction and much more!

More: AmaliaLLC.com (Upcoming Events.)



Minnesota Twins Announce Plans for 2015 Twins Winter Caravan Presented by AmericInn Hotels and Suites

Caravan starts Jan. 12, stopping in more than 40 cities throughout Twins Territory

The Minnesota Twins today announced plans for the club’s 55th annual Twins Winter Caravan presented by AmericInn Hotels and Suites. The 2015 Twins Winter Caravan features stops in more than 40 communities throughout Twins Territory between Monday, Jan. 12 and Thursday, Jan. 22.

The Twins Winter Caravan is one of the longest running and most extensive offseason team caravans in professional sports. It features teams of current and former players visiting schools, hospitals, corporations and service clubs during the day with a traditional “hot stove” program each evening.

Twins Winter Caravan tours will be led by members of the Treasure Island Baseball Network and Fox Sports North broadcast teams including Bert Blyleven, Dick Bremer, Dan Gladden, Cory Provus and Kris Atteberry.

Preliminary 2015 Twins Winter Caravan routes and personalities are below (schedule and players are subject to change). Specific times and locations within those communities will be announced in the coming weeks on www.twinsbaseball.com/caravan.

Twins Winter Caravan 2015 Schedule

Glen Perkins, Paul Molitor, Gene Glynn, Ryan (Monday and Thursday nights), Rob Antony (Tuesday night), Dave St. Peter (Monday night) and Kris Atteberry

Monday January 12	Tuesday January 13	Wednesday January 14	Thursday January 15
Minneapolis	Cedar Falls, IA	Iowa Falls, IA	Northfield, MN
St. Paul Hot Stove	Cedar Rapids, IA	Mason City, IA	St. Paul Aviation
		Winona, MN	TI/Red Wing, MN

Kyle Gibson, Caleb Thielbar, Dan Gladden and Dave St. Peter (Tuesday night)

Monday January 12	Tuesday January 13	Wednesday January 14	Thursday January 15
Aitkin, MN	New York Mills, MN	Grand Forks, ND	Eveleth, MN
Brainerd, MN	Detroit Lakes, MN	Crookston, MN	Ely, MN
Grand Rapids, MN	Fargo, ND	Bemidji, MN	Duluth, MN

Brian Duensing, Brian Dozier, Jack Morris, Dick Bremer and Terry Ryan (Tuesday night)

Monday January 19	Tuesday January 20	Wednesday January 21	Thursday January 22
Montevideo, MN	Worthington, MN	Faribault, MN	TBA Stop
Marshall, MN	Windom, MN	Owatonna, MN	TBA Stop
Sioux Falls, SD	Sleepy Eye, MN	Chatfield, MN	TBA Stop
	Mankato, MN	Rochester, MN	Diamond Awards

Jordan Schafer, Trevor Plouffe, Cory Provus, Bert Blyleven and Tony Oliva

Monday January 19	Tuesday January 20	Wednesday January 21	Thursday January 22
Little Falls, MN	Wadena, MN	Morris, MN	Ortonville, MN
Alexandria, MN	Staples, MN	Wahpeton, ND	Benson, MN
	St. Cloud, MN	Fergus Falls, MN	Willmar, MN



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Founded in 1931, Our Lady of Guadalupe serves the Latino community and has masses in Spanish on Sundays.

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LATINO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

1516 E. LAKE ST. #201

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55407 • 612-724-5332 • www.ledc.mn.org

Technical assistance to small businesses, community organizing and advocacy

CHICANO LATINO AFFAIRS COUNCIL

60 EMPIRE DRIVE, SUITE 203, ST. PAUL, MN 55103

651-296-9587 • Contact: GLADYS RODRIGUEZ • www.clac.state.mn.us

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council was created by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1978. For more than 30 years, CLAC has served to advise the governor and state Legislature on Latino issues regarding the Latino community, to promote the voice of the community on the policy issues of: Health, Education, Economic development, Housing and Immigration.

IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA

450 NORTH SYNDICATE STREET, SUITE 200, ST. PAUL, MN 55104

PHONE: 651-641-1011 • FAX: 651-641-1131 • www.irlc.org

Their mission is to provide quality immigration legal services, law-related education and advocacy to meet the steadily increasing needs of Minnesota's immigrant and refugee communities.

CENTRO

1915 CHICAGO AVENUE SOUTH, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404

612-874-1412 • www.centromn.org

Centro is a partnership with Latino and Chicano families. Centro is a place where we offer respite from troubles, understanding to solve crises, education and encouragement to make change, nurturing and healing to strengthen families, art and culture to reaffirm our identity and value and resources to build a better future.

LATINO MINISTRY OFFICE, ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

226 SUMMIT AVENUE, ST. PAUL, MN 554102 • 651-291-4400

En la Arquidiócesis de St. Paul y Minneapolis, hay 23 parroquias que están sirviendo a la comunidad Latina. Todas ofrecen la misa en español y varios programas para ayudar al feligrés católico a encontrar una comunidad de fe, a profundizarla y a crecer en su entendimiento de las enseñanzas de Jesús y de la Iglesia Católica.

Contacte a la parroquia mas cercana para informarse de las clases de preparación sacramental (bautismo, primera comunión, confirmación, matrimonio), quinceañeras y programas de formación en la fe para adultos, jóvenes y niños. Algunas tienen un grupo de líderes dedicados a los asuntos sociales y están luchando por la justicia por los inmigrantes.

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

481 WABASHA STREET, S. ST. PAUL, MN 55107

651-292-0131 • www.neda.org

The Neighborhood Development Alliance is a non-profit community development organization whose mission is to strengthen the vitality of low income neighborhoods by creating and preserving housing and business opportunities for residents of all income levels. Neda serves all families with a focus on Latino families in the seven county metro area.

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Latino Community Priorities Polling Results



Keith Downey

By Keith Downey, Chair, Republican Party of Minnesota

The recent immigration debate has centered on President Obama's executive order. The need for immigration reform is real, and Republicans believe it is very important to get it right through legislation, passed by Congress and signed by the President so it will last.

However, as the immigration debate moves forward, Latino leaders have recently questioned whether there is an over-emphasis on immigration as the defining Latino issue. Cristina Beltrán, associate professor at New York University, said, "Immigration should be one step in understanding the Latino community... Instead it has become the end-all."

Recent polling confirms her assessment. The issues that consistently rank as the top three priorities for Hispanic voters are education, jobs, and health insurance.

EDUCATION

Let's face it, public schools in Minnesota's urban areas are failing minority students. No statistics can tell the story better than the parent whose child receives a sub-par education and is stuck in a dead-end, failing school. Republicans believe all children deserve better than that—and that includes Latino children.

JOBS

The American Dream was built on the belief that everyone has the opportunity for success if they work hard. Republicans are committed to making the American dream of good jobs and maximum opportunity available to everyone, regardless of whether one's family has lived here for 100 years or 1 year.

HEALTH CARE

Last year, one in eight Minnesota Latinos did not have health insurance. This year, MNsure isn't even enrolling enough people to make the program financially viable. We can do better. Republicans are working for high quality health care at an affordable price. It is possible, and we can do it.

Republicans are advocating for policies that benefit all Latinos – on education, jobs, health care, and immigration. We cannot lose sight of the main issues and solutions that will propel the Latino community, now the largest minority group in the United States, to well-earned success.

We invite you to join the cause. With your help and your input we will make Minnesota a better place for everyone!

Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Announces Selection of Paul M. Ablan, President and CEO



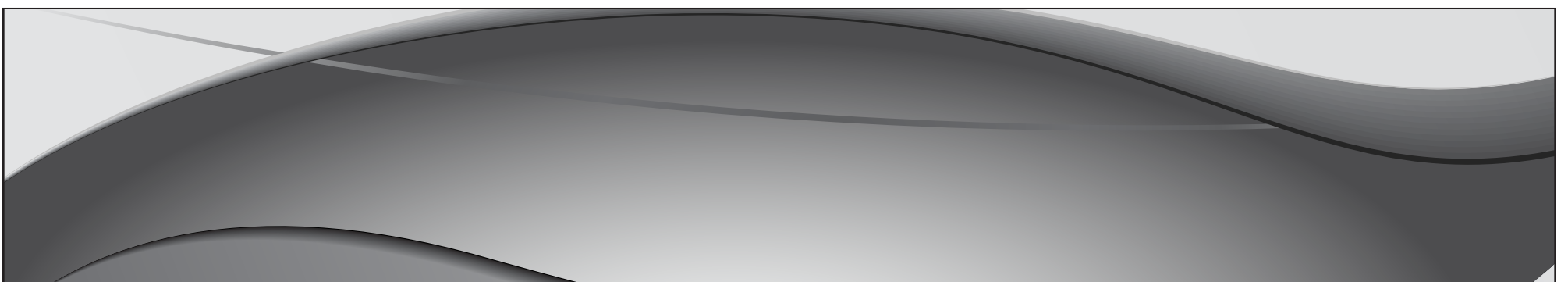
By Patrick Gibbs

Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company (MLM) announced today the selection of Paul M. Ablan as its new President/CEO effective January 1, 2015. Mr. Ablan will join MLM from OneBeacon Professional Insurance, a member of OneBeacon Insurance Group, where he has served as President of the Professional Liability Group since 2005. Prior to joining OneBeacon, Mr. Ablan spent 14 years with The St. Paul Companies (now part of Travelers) where he held a number of management positions including Vice President/Chief Underwriting Officer-Professional Liability. Mr. Ablan succeeds Steve Brady who led MLM for the past decade during which MLM increased its annual premium writings from \$25M to \$36M; assets from \$78M to \$160M and surplus from \$44M to \$75M. Mr. Brady will remain with MLM as a member of the Board of Directors.

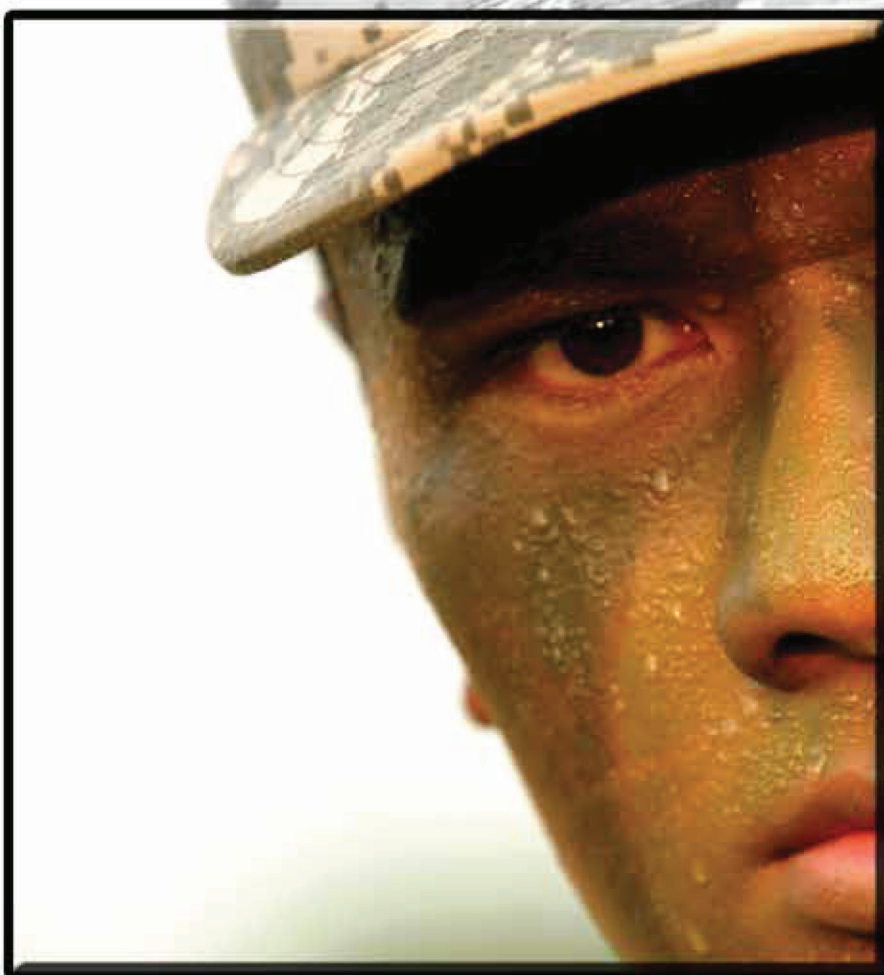
About Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company

Founded in 1982 by members of the Minnesota State Bar, Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company provides lawyers' professional liability insurance and risk management services to its policyholders in 15 states. MLM is committed to being an efficient, accountable and permanent practice management resource to the legal profession, exemplified by an AM Best rating of "A-" (excellent), and consecutive annual dividend payments since 1988.

Editor's note: Mr. Ablan was born and raised on the West Side of St. Paul and is a great supporter of the Latino community.



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Wednesday, March 11, 2015
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