Remember those who died in the wars
to keep our democracy safe
BACA RECEIVES HIGH MARKS FROM THE NATIONAL HISPANIC LEADERSHIP AGENDA

Rep. Baca scored a 100% on the latest National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) Congressional Scorecard. The NHLA score is based on ten important votes during the second session of the 106th Congress, covering issues such as civil rights, immigration, education, and economic opportunity.

"Today's scorecard is bigger than the individual scores received. It's about taking care of all Americans, not just a privileged few," said Rep. Baca. "That's why I will continue my support for immigration fairness, economic opportunity for those at a disadvantage, and a public education system that provides a bright future for all of our children."

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) is a coalition governed by the chief executive officers of the 31 largest national Hispanic organizations. Founded in 1991, NHLA purpose is to provide the Hispanic community greater visibility and a clearer, stronger voice in our nation's affairs. To that end, following every session of Congressional Scorecard, which provides a measure of Capitol Hill's effectiveness in responding to the needs of the Hispanic community.


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19 MILLION CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND IN BUDGET VOTE

"A Sad Day for America's Children and Public Schools"

"At least nineteen million children are left behind in the federal budget approved in the federal budget approved in the House and Senate," said NEA President Bob Chase. "This budget drops every penny of increased education funding approved in the House and Senate, including targeted funds for special education. It is a sad day for America's children and public schools."

The final budget approved in the House Wednesday and in the Senate today negates legislation approved just last week by the Senate to fully special education and Title I. "This is a classic case of bait and switch," said Chase. "At a time when more is demanded of students then ever, this action in unconscionable. Education reform without resources simply won't produce results."

In context, while providing no increase beyond inflation for education budget conferences supplied $1.27 trillion dollars for tax cuts. This budget provides $1 billion less than next year than President Bush's education budget. "NEA will keep fighting through the rest of this Congress on ESEA, appropriations, and the tax bill, to obtain the resources needed for reform," said Chase.

For the 2002-03 school year, the impact of dropping from the budget conference report just one of the measures approved in the Senate is as follows:

- 350,000 fewer students served in Title I
- 115,000 fewer students served in afterschool school slots
- 100,000 fewer teachers served through mentoring and professional development programs
- 50,000 fewer kids served in Head Start
- 16,000 fewer teachers hired to reduce class size
- 100 fewer crumbling schools repaired

The National Education Association is the nation's largest professional employee organization, representing 2.6 million elementary and secondary teachers, college faculty, education support personnel, school administrators, retired educators and students preparing to become teachers.
INTERPRETING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

An increase in the Spanish speaking population in the Inland Empire, as well as in Southern California, means that there is a continuing need for working professionals who are bilingual. RCC’s Moreno Valley campus offers a program that helps individuals enhance their bilingual abilities and earn a certificate or Associate of Science Degree in Community Interpretation in Spanish.

The program, which began in 1995 under the direction of Lisa Conyers, Dean of Instruction, fills a need for skilled Spanish speaking interpreters.

“When I came to the college in 1992, one of my goals was to build occupational curriculum for applied languages,” Conyers says. “I was an interpreter at one point, and I knew that there was a tremendous need for a training program in this area.”

Students in the program develop interpretation and translation skills that are readily adaptable to the workplace. Upon completion of the program they are able to work as interpreters in institutions that deal primarily with Spanish-speaking clientele, serve as full-time staff interpreters for public agencies, or find work in the legal, health care, and business private sectors. Some students choose to enroll in the program to complement existing professional skills or to fulfill professional continuing education requirements.

The program certificate is awarded upon completion of three semesters of study. In addition to classroom work, students participate in field observations, visiting hospitals and clinics, courtrooms and businesses.

Instructor George Gage sees the program as being beneficial to students on two different levels.

“First, if people are already working in a medical or professional position, this helps them to enhance their vocabulary skills and techniques,” he says. “Other students will decide to become professional translators or interpreters. This program acts as an introduction and prepares them for the additional required education and training.”

Program graduate Raquel Jones is grateful for the skills she developed in the interpretation classes although her career path has taken a slightly different turn.

“Sometimes I find that the skills I learned help in many areas of my life today. I’m now working on my Master’s Degree in guidance and counseling and as a long-term substitute teacher at Sunnymead Middle School. Being part of the program was a wonderful experience.”

For more information about the Community Interpretation in Spanish program, call 909/571-6162.

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BUDWEISER AND MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAMS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR LATINO STUDENTS

For the third consecutive year, Budweiser, teaming up with select Major League Baseball teams around the country for the benefit of Latino students.

The Budweiser Homerunazo! Program is an innovative scholarship campaign in which Budweiser makes a contribution to the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) and/or other local charities for every home run hit during home games this season by the following participating teams: Chicago Cubs, Detroit Tigers, Florida Marlins, Houston Astros, Los Angeles Dodgers, New York Mets, New York Yankees, Philadelphia Phillies, San Diego Padres and Texas Rangers.

Additionally, Anheuser-Busch regional offices and distributors located in and around the participating teams’ cities provide key support for the program. As part of Budweiser’s donation to the program, local Budweiser distributors or regional offices will match the company’s contributions in their regions, dollar for dollar, to benefit the fundraising effort.

“Like the ballplayer who dreams of making it to the big leagues, many deserving Latino students are just hoping for a chance to attend college,” said Jesus Rangel, vice president of Corporate Relations, Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. “Budweiser is proud to sponsor the Homerunazo! Program and help make students’ dreams come true.”

Budweiser is a leader in meeting a critical need for Latino students by providing financial resources and additional means of support. In fact, since 1982, Budweiser has partnered with the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the nation’s largest Hispanic scholarship organization to provide over 16,000 HSF scholarships totaling more than $18 million.

Last season, the “King of Beers” teamed up with several Major League baseball teams to raise $80,000 for HSF through the Budweiser Homerunazo! program.
YOU WANT HEROES?
By Frosty Troy

The Inland Empire Hispanic News publishes the above article in recognition of teachers throughout the United States that have a philosophy that every student is capable of learning and is committed to have students learn to their fullest capacity.

"Where are the heroes of today?" A radio talk show host thundered.

He blames society's shortcomings on public education. Too many people are looking for heroes in all the wrong places. Movie stars and rock musicians, athletes and models aren't heroes, they're celebrities. Heroes abound in public schools, a fact that doesn't make the news.

There is no precedent for the level of violence, drugs, broken homes, child abuse, and crime in today's America. Public education didn't create these problems but deals with them every day.

You want heroes?

Consider Dave Sanders, the school teachers shot to death while trying to shield his students from two Neo-Nazi youth on a bombing and shooting rampage at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado.

Sanders gave his life, along with 12 students, but other less heralded heroes survived the Colorado blood bath. You want heroes?

Columbine special education Teacher Robin Ortiz braved gunfire, moving from classroom to classroom, shouting at students and teachers to get out of the building. His action alone cleared the east side of the high school. No one will ever know how many lives he saved.

You want heroes?

For Ronnie Holuby, a Fort Gibson, Okla., middle school teacher, it was a routine school day until gunfire erupted. He opened a door to the school yard and two students fled past him. A 13-year-old student had shot five other students when Holuby stepped outside, walking deliberately toward the boy, telling him to hand over the gun. He kept walking. Finally the boy handed him the gun. Holuby walked the boy to the side of the building, then sought to help a wounded girl.

You want heroes?

Jane Smith, a Fayetteville, N.C., teacher, was moved by the plight of one of her students, a boy dying for want of a kidney transplant. So this pretty white woman told the family of this handsome 14-year-old black boy that she would give him one of her kidneys. And she did. When they subsequently appeared together hugging on the Today Show, even tough little Katie Couric was near tears.

You want heroes?

Doris Dillon dreamed all her life of being a teacher. She not only made it, she was one of those wonderful teachers who could crouch the best out of every single child. One of her fellow teachers in San Jose, Calif., said, "she could teach a rock to read." Suddenly she was stricken with Lou Gehrig's Disease, which is always fatal, usually with five years. She asked to stay on the job and did. When her voice was affected she communicated by computer. Did she go home? She is running two elementary school libraries. When the disease was diagnosed, she wrote the staff and all the families that she had one last lesson to teach that dying is part of living. Her colleagues named her Teacher of the Year.

You want heroes?

Bob House, a teacher in Gay, Georgia, tried out for Who Wants to Be a Millionaire. After he won the million dollars, a network film crew wanted to follow up to see how it had impacted his life. New cars? Big new house? Instead, they found both Bob House and his wife still teaching. They explained that it was what they had always wanted to do with their lives and that would not change. The community was both stunned and gratified.

You want heroes?

Last year the average public school teacher spent $468 of his own money for student necessities work books, pencils supplies kids had to have but could not afford. That's a lot of money from the pockets of the most poorly paid teachers in the industrial world. Public schools don't teach values? The critics are dead wrong. Public education provides more Sunday school teachers, more current religion than any other profession. The average teacher works more hours in nine months than the average 40-hour employee does in a year. You want heroes?

For millions of kids, the hug they get from a teacher is the only hug they will get that day because the nation is living through the worst parenting in history. Many have never been taken to church or synagogue in their lives.

A Michigan principal moved me to tears with story of her attempt to rescue a badly abused little boy who dotted on a stuffed animal on her desk—one that said "I love you!" He said he'd never been told that at home.

This a constant in today's society—two million unwanted, unloved, abused children in the public schools, the only institution that takes them all in.

You want heroes?

Visit any special education class and watch the miracle of personal interaction, a job so difficult that fellow teachers are awed by the dedication they witness. There is a sentence from an unnamed source which says, "We have been so anxious to give our children what we didn't have that we have neglected to give them what we did have."

What is it that our kids really need? What do they really want? Math, science, history and social studies are important, but children need love, confidence, encouragement, someone to talk to, someone to listen, standards to live by.

Teachers provide upright examples, the faith and assurance of responsible people. Kids need to be accountable to caring parents who send well disciplined children to school. These human values are essential in a democracy—anything that threatens them makes our whole society a little less free, our nation a little less strong.

These values can be neither created nor preserved without continuous effort and that effort must come from more than teachers who have students only six hours of the day.

Despite the problems, public school teachers laugh often and much. They have the respect of intelligent people and the affection of students who care. You can bet that homeless little Jesus would have found a warm public school reception, hot food and a hug if he'd grown up in America.

Teachers strive to find the best in their students, even where some see little hope. No other American bestows a finer gift than teaching—reaching out to the brilliant and the retarded, the gifted and the average.

They leave the world a little bit better than they found it, knowing if they have redeemed just one life, they have done God's work.

They are America's unsung heroes.

Frosty Troy writes for the Oklahoma Observer.
The California Chicano News Media Association hosted its 13th Annual Scholarship and Esperanza Awards Dinner at the University of Redlands Orton Center on May 18, with Master of Ceremonies Mark Acosta, CCNMA-Inland Chapter, president, welcoming the guests.

Carlos Cortes, Professor Emeritus of History of the UCR, was the keynote speaker. Cortes, author of his recent book, “The Children are Watching: How the Media Teach About Diversity” spoke on perception of the media in presenting a distorted printed distortion of the Latinos in the United States and Latin American countries.

The Esperanza Awards, an annual recognition of individuals that are active in their respective communities, were presented to Jorge C. Hernandez of Riverside and Ediberto and Gloria Flores of Redlands.

Jorge C. Hernandez, a Riverside attorney, a graduate from Riverside North High School and UCR, received his law degree from UC Hastings College of Law.

Hernandez has contributed many hours to the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association, giving legal aid to persons unable to hire traditional legal services. Since 1994, he has been a presenter at the UCLA Raza Youth Conferences and at the UCR Chicano/Latino Youth Conferences and is an instructor at Mt. San Jacinto College, teaching Chicano Sociology and Chicano Contemporary issues.

He has also hosted Radio Aztlan at KUCR and organized Radio Aztlan Music Festival and Chicano Radio Music Conference.

Hernandez has been recognized for his activities and received numerous awards. He states that he is giving back to the community and hopes to continue his volunteer efforts as long as possible.

Hernandez and his wife, Veronica, have been married since 1984 and are the parents of four boys, ages 8 to 15. Gloria and “Ed” Flores have been actively involved in helping to improve the lives of the residents of the Northside area of Redlands.

Flores organized La Escuela de Vecindario for elementary age students, who were tutored by University of Redlands students. At that time, during the 1960’s, he also provided legal services, outreach programs and theatrical and recreational activities.

In the 1970’s, Flores and his wife, Gloria, founded El Centro de la Gente for young girls to prevent gang involvement, in addition to provide teenage mothers with pre-natal and health care services. Social clubs, drill teams and karate activities were also available to the youth.

In 1990, the couple organized the Northside Impact Committee with Gilberto Gil. The NIC advocated fair representation for residents of Redlands’ northside. The NIC founded the Navidad Del Pueblo, a food delivery program at Christmas time, provided scholarships and currently are lobbying for a full-service library in that part of the city.

Gloria Flores is director of the Somos Hermanas Unidas since 1993. The school provides GED, ESL, citizenship classes, vocational training, summer jobs and child care.

The Flores’ have been actively involved in the Redlands community for 27 years and have had a lasting impact in the quality of life for many of the residents of the city.

Vanessa Diaz, Lys Mendez, Jennifer Medina and Consuelo Lopez were the recipients of CCNMA’ Scholarship Awards.

Vanessa Diaz, a senior at North High School, Riverside, will be attending New York University in the fall. Diaz has not decided on a career goal, however, she is committed to help the Latino community and realizes the importance of having media represented in the community it serves.

Lys Mendez graduated from Rubidoux High School, Riverside and is finishing her sophomore year at UC-Santa Cruz. She has written for Hispanic publications, student newspapers. Her goal is to work in the Spanish-language broadcast media and feels the importance of writing on the positive side of the Hispanic living instead of the negative writing that is prevalence in many publications.

Consuelo Lopez started writing at an early age and write a writing contest at age 10. Lopez is attending California Baptist University, Riverside.

She has written for the Press Enterprise, Inland Empire Hispanic News, Inland Catholic, Bloomington Christian School and the Hispanic Lifestyle Magazine. She states that journalists should listen to the voices of the Hispanic community and thus hear the voices of all the people.
The San Bernardino Sheriff's Department and San Bernardino Valley College sponsored the Sixth Class Session Graduation Ceremony at Rialto High School on May 12.

Twenty students representing Eisenhower High School, Rialto High School and San Bernardino High filled the Rialto High School auditorium, supporting and cheering for their sons and daughters on their accomplishments. Captain Greg Kyritsis, Commander of the Public Safety Training Center, welcomed the parents and congratulated the students for their commitment to complete the program.

Keynote speaker San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputy Chief Jim Nunn spoke on his personal challenges; poverty and economic barriers he overcame to acquire an education and success in his career goals. He told the graduating students that there are many barriers that stand in a person’s life and overcoming those barriers makes an individual stronger in facing other problems in life.

The PSIAP was organized in 1994 when members of the Sheriff’s Training Center recognized the shortage of qualified law enforcement applicants, specifically in the areas of literacy skills (reading and writing) and history of narcotics and criminal activities.

In February, 1995, President Clinton held an educational roundtable at San Bernardino Valley College. The emphasis was formation of "school to work" programs. The PSIAP director and class president spoke on his personal challenges: poverty and economic barriers he overcame to acquire an education and success in his career goals. He told the graduating students that there are many barriers that stand in a person’s life and overcoming those barriers makes an individual stronger in facing other problems in life.

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GOVERNOR ALLOCATES $15 MILLION FOR SENATOR NELL SOTO PARENT/TEACHER HOME VISITATION PROGRAM

Governor Gray Davis singled out Senator Nell Soto's Home Visitation Program in his May Revise Budget released today. He earmarked $15 million to continue the popular program that oversees teacher home visits.

"Right now over four hundred schools statewide are using this program and the increase in test scores justify the Governor's appropriations", says Soto. "Children have a better chance when their parents get involved with their education and teachers can make a difference when they see first hand obstacles some children face at home."

The Home Visitation Program is listed in the Governor's One-Time Expenditures on education programs. It is one of the major new expenditures in the May Revision for education. Last year the Governor allocated the same amount in his budget for his program.

Senator Soto (D-Ontario) is author of SB 33, which asks for $30 million to establish the Home Visitation Program as a five-year program. It is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

"I will continue to pursue SB 33 because I believe for the long term it is essential" says Soto. "The Governor's stamp of approval demonstrates to my colleagues how vital this is for our children's education."

The Governor's revised budget will now go through a series of public hearings.

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ASSEMBLYMEMBER JOHN LONGVILLE ANNOUNCES ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, REAPPORTIONMENT AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE HEARING TO BE HELD IN SAN BERNARDINO

The Assembly Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee is holding a series of public hearings for the purpose of ensuring public input into the process of drawing new lines for California's Assembly, Senate, Congressional and Board of Equalization Districts.

Assemblymember John Longville (D-CA), Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Elections, Reapportionment, and Constitutional Amendments has announced that one of the hearings will be held in San Bernardino on July 6, 2001 at 11:00 am in the San Bernardino County Government Center Board of Supervisors Chambers, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino. The public is encouraged to attend. For further information please contact District Director Robert Armenta at 909.388.1413.

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Riverside Public Utilities, is proud to once again be the presenting sponsor of Riverside Wednesday Night. This great family oriented street fair and farmers market brightens up Downtown Riverside every Wednesday from Spring to Fall. This sponsorship opportunity not only allows us to give back to our community, but it gives us a chance to get up close with our customers and provide them with valuable information on our energy conservation programs and water and electric services. "It's great to have a title sponsor that cares so much about the community and helps us to run a successful event each week," says RWN manager Erik Redmond. To find out more about Riverside Public Utilities Sponsorship Program, call 826-5745.

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MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY TO HOST MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

The Mountain View Mortuary and Cemetery, 570 East Highland Avenue, San Bernardino (corner of Highland Avenue and Waterman Avenue), is hosting the Annual Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday, May 28, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Colonel Joseph C. Rodriguez, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient and born in San Bernardino, is keynote speaker. The program includes Ronald Green, vocalist, singing the National Anthem; the Blue Eagle Honor Guard from Edwards Air Force Base will present the Colors; Martin Luther King Middle School Band will entertain with military music; Ray McKeehan, U.S. Navy veteran, Pearl Harbor survivor, will speak on his experiences during the Pearl Harbor attack by the Japanese; the Leonard Armstrong VFW Post 744 will direct the Missing In Action ceremonies; and the White Wing will release the 21 dove salute. Assemblyman John Longville has confirmed his attendance at the event.

Colonel Rodriguez, than an enlisted man, was sent to Korea in 1950 and his unit immediately became engaged with the enemy. In one of many engagements, the unit’s objective was to capture an enemy hill, which was concentrated with heavy machine gun cover. He personally attached the hill and was successful in the elimination of the enemy. A week later, Rodriguez was wounded in combat and was sent to Japan to recuperate. After three months, he requested to be returned to his unit, however, the recommendation for receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor was approved and he was flown to the United States. President Harry Truman presented the award on January 21, 1952. He continued his military career and rose through the ranks, retiring as a colonel after a 30-year military tenure.

For information regarding the Memorial Day ceremonies, contact Tony Bocanegra at (909) 882-2943.

Employment Tip of the Week
By Employment Review and BestJobsUSA.com

In just a few years the marketplace has turned around from an employer’s market to a candidate’s. However, this doesn’t negate the need for applicant’s to have what most companies are looking for today. Whether you’re entering the job market for the first time or seeking employment with another organization here are some qualities hiring managers maybe looking for:

- Flexibility
- Good relationship-building skills
- A team player
- Highly motivated
- Forward thinking

Is your house weather tight? Is your home properly insulated? Are your windows energy efficient? If the answer to any of these questions is “No” then you’ve got some work to do. But don’t worry, Riverside Public Utilities now offers a variety of cash rebates for its residential electric customers who take the time to install energy saving measures in their homes.

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CALTEACH HONORS TEACHERS DURING STATEWIDE DÍA DEL MAESTRO CELEBRATIONS

Ethel Phillips Elementary School students gathered to congratulate their teachers on Día del Maestro (Teacher Appreciation Day), as part of the California Center for Teaching Careers (Cal Teach) statewide activities to diversify the teaching force and encourage individuals to become teachers. Pictured from left to right are Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education Member Manny Hernandez, 2nd grade teacher Suzen Holtemann,. 4th grade teacher Stephanie Gregson, Ethel Phillips Elementary School Principal Mary Greeson, and 6th grade teacher Don McCarthy. Día del Maestro is a cherished Latin American tradition that formally recognizes educators. For more information on a career in teaching, call 1-888-CAL-TEACH or visit www.calteach.com.

7 OUT OF 10 WOMEN THINK DESIGNATED DRIVERS ARE SEXY.
THE HISPANIC BORDER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE: BRIDGING TO COMMUNITIES

By Paul Rodriguez

The Hispanic Border Leadership Institute (HBLI) Scholars Program is an emerging network of educators, academics, expert practitioners and administrators who support the mission of the HBLI and are resources for doctoral Fellows and workshop participants. A major focus for the HBLI is to systematically change how societal institutions look at the issues related to minority education that will influence public policy. Its mission is dedicated to improving the education of Hispanics.

On May 4, 2001, the institute gathered to engage and discuss with the community at UCR on thoughtful dialogue and important educational issues facing Hispanics. Dr. Leonard Valverde’s presentation focused on the current state of Hispanic students in higher education. His statistical information enlightened the audience to the disproportionate number of Hispanic students in higher education. Though there has been an increase of Hispanic students in higher education, the increase was due primarily to the growth in enrollment of Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander students.

Dr. Paul Ruiz’s eloquent delivery focused on the issue of organizing Latino communities for educational change. There is a strong need to encourage and support Hispanic leaders. In so doing, Hispanic leaders create collaborative efforts to change public policies that inadvertently discriminate against Hispanic and other under-represented students. Additionally, Hispanic communities are encouraged to politically involve themselves, and participate in the democratic process of voting on politically important issues. With Hispanics becoming the major in the population of California and the USA, it is pertinent that Hispanics voice their influence. Dr. Ruiz enunciated that Hispanic leaders be supported and placed in key positions of political influence.

A major theme was the increasing economic gap between the have and the have-nots. This rift has been growing dangerously broad and its impact increasingly callous. However, we can prevent this catastrophe from devastating America’s prosperity, and influencing the lives of thousands. The most effectual restraint is to invest in the excellence of education at all levels of the learning cycle—especially for our youngest and fastest-growing ethnic population—Hispanic Americans.

An educational gap exists between Hispanic workers and non-Hispanic white workers. This difference has grown almost 30 percent since 1973. The major explanation for this economic difference is that Hispanics fall behind in education and technological skills.

The HBLI strategic approach is to improve the education of Hispanics from pre-kindergarten to doctoral studies by creating systemic changes through:• Preparing a cadre of change agents to assume executive roles in K-12 schools, community colleges, higher education, state departments professional associations, and the federal government.
• Developing leadership skills of elected school board members, community college trustees, and university regents.
• Helping state legislators to shape state laws through research and seminars.
• The outcome is to build a network of colleagues that will continue to provide support and insights so as to confront issues and make decisions affecting the children and adults of Hispanic communities.

Paul Rodriguez is Assistant Principal at Bloomington High School, Colton School District and currently on an Organizational and Management Leadership Doctorate Program at the University of La Verne.
It was through the support of CHC Learning Disabilities Professor Kirsten Colvey that Salazar gradually gained self-confidence. Colvey, who has been an instructor at CHC for more than 20 years, believes it is important for people to know that being learning disabled has nothing to do with a student’s intellect. She emphasizes that learning disabled students must accept their disability and the hard work necessary to achieve their goals.

Among the most important services the Learning Disabled Students Office provides is access to teaching assistants and special tutors experienced in helping students who have learning disabilities.

According to Salazar, learning disabled students are often not able to retain information as well as others, requiring them to dedicate more time to their studies.

"In the learning Disabilities Program, you acquire new ways to learn, whether it’s writing a sentence 10 times or doing a math problem five times,” Salazar said. “The program doesn’t make studying easier, but it makes you understand better.”

Salazar, the single mom of a three-year-old, points out that it is not easy to balance her time between her studies and her child, but the effort is worth it to make a better life for him. She likes the fact that, at a very young age, her son is observing her studying and reading.

Salazar advises other students having trouble with learning to check the Learning Disabled Office for testing and assistance. Among the learning disabilities that can go undetected are auditory processing, auditory and speech deficits, and higher-level organizational skills.

"Going to the Learning Disabled Office was the best thing I ever did,” she said. "If they put forward the effort, learning disabled students can achieve anything, just like everyone else.”

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Experience: Two years secretarial and word processing experience using personal computers. Experience with spreadsheet application highly desirable.

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NALEO CENSUS STUDY SHOWS LATINOS SIGNIFICANT IN QUARTER OF NATION’S CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Latinos are a significant share of the population in over a quarter of the nation’s congressional districts, according to a study released today by the National Association of Latino Electors and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund. The study, compiled from Census 2000 data, reveals that in 122 of 435 congressional districts, Latinos exceed the national share (12.5%) of the Latino population.

"The congressional districts with significant Latino populations reflect the growth of Latino communities in the nation’s suburbs and the changes in the ethnic composition of our nation’s cities," said NALEO Executive Director Arturo Vargas. "The growth and distribution of the Latino population within our nation’s congressional districts will have important implications for our nation’s political system."

Other interesting facts gleaned from the NALEO Ed Fund study include:
• Among districts with significant Latino populations, 40% are currently represented by Republicans and 60% represented by Democrats.
• There are an emerging number of districts in states not traditionally considered to have a high concentration of Latinos, such as Connecticut, Massachusetts, Nevada, Virginia and Washington.
• The analysis reflects the growth of Latino communities in the Nation’s suburbs, including the largest increases since 1990 in Long Beach, Orange County, San Bernardino and the San Fernando Valley in California and Dallas-Fort Worth in Texas.
• Rapidly growing Latino populations are also changing the ethnic composition of many urban areas, including Brooklyn, Houston, and Dallas.

Still, while the growth of the Latino population in the nation’s congressional districts lays the foundation for greater political empowerment, Vargas warned that for Latinos to realize their full political potential, the community must continue to pursue the effective empowerment strategies of the last few decades. "Both political parties are rethinking their political strategies to reach Latinos," Vargas said, "but our community must also continue to effectively articulate our policy priorities, ensure that immigrants are becoming citizens and most important, like all Americans, exercise our right to vote.

The NALEO Educational Fund is the leading national nonprofit, non-partisan organization that empowers Latinos to participate fully in the American political process, from citizenship to public service. Established in 1981, the organization is headquartered in Los Angeles and maintains offices in Houston, New York and Washington, D.C.
Lt. Governor Cruz M. Bustamante, the NAACP and MALDEF celebrated their victory at the University of California Board of Regents meeting when it voted to rescind SP 1, the existing discriminatory admissions policy.

"I embrace the repeal of SP 1. It is flawed admissions policy that hurts thousands of students every year," Bustamante said. "SP1 and the Tier 1 and Tier 2 admissions policies had been denying opportunity for thousands of students. The regents today took down the 'not wanted' sign."

"It is a beautiful coincidence that 47 years ago tomorrow, our most prestigious UC Regent, Supreme Court Chief Justice, Earl Warren, rendered Justice Warren's decision to end discrimination in our admissions policies. These new guidelines will be in place for students admitted in the fall of 2002. Bustamante currently serves on the UC Regents as an ex-officio member.

Maria Blanco, MALDEF National senior Counsel also echoes support for the repeal. "MALDEF believes that two goals are paramount: the repeal of the resolution SP 1 and the elimination of SP 1's requirement that a certain percentage of university seats be filled through a limited set of admissions criteria," Blanco said.

The action by the UC Regents today ensures that new admissions criteria will eliminate the previous discriminatory Tier 1 and Tier 2 admissions guidelines. These new guidelines will be in place for students admitted in the fall of 2002. Bustamante currently serves on the UC Regents as an ex-officio member.

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- upsetting stomach, diarrhea, and rashes.

Children with lead poisoning can have trouble learning in school and may have behavior problems, as well as other health problems. If your children are one or two years old, you should get them tested for lead poisoning. Also, have your children tested if they are between the ages of one and six years and have not been tested for lead before. A blood lead test is the only way to know if your child has lead poisoning:

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FOURTH GRADERS RAISE FUNDS FOR RED CROSS

Fourth grade students at Simpson Elementary School, Rialto, were motivated by their teacher, Mr. Stephen Lawyer, (in back, middle) to raise funds for the local chapter of the Red Cross during the national recognition month for the relief agency. The class raised $325 and presented the amount to the local Red Cross chapter.

In celebrating Teachers appreciation Week, the local Red Cross chapter acknowledged Mr. Stephen Lawyer, fourth grade teacher at Simpson Elementary School, Rialto. Lawyer heard over a radio broadcast an announcement to the public to support with time, blood and funds for the nation's leading disaster relief agency during March: proclaimed Red Cross March by the President.

Lawyer shared the information with his class of 34 boys and girls. The class was motivated to respond to the President's call.

During Red Cross Month, the class collected a total of $325 and presented the sum to Red Cross Director Bob Wussler in a special ceremony at the School. "This is wonderful," stated Wussler, "that these youth responded to the presidential call to action to raise funds for the American Red Cross. After all, they are the leaders of tomorrow and the future of our organization."

Lawyer and his student were each presented with a framed certificate of appreciation, an annual membership card to identify them as supporters of the local Red Cross chapter, a Red Cross lapel pin, pencil and bookmark. Judy Ritter, Director of Volunteers at the Red Cross, spoke of the importance of volunteering and that the local chapter is operated by volunteers. Ritter stressed that the local chapter would encourage all the schools in the region to participate in next year's recognition of the Red Cross.

SENATOR SOTO CHALLENGES STATE'S MEDI-CAL RECOVERY POLICY TARGETING THE POOR AND ELDERLY

Current California law allows the state to seize property of the poor and elderly to recover Medi-Cal expenses. Senator Nell Soto (D-Ontario) is pushing legislation that would change the law she says is leaving some of the sick, elderly, poor and their families, homeless.

"We are telling these people we can help them through their hard times, then we turn around and take away their homes to pay it back," says Soto. "This is cruel. They are not even warned of this unjust practice, we just leave them out in the cold. It is time to change this process."

SB 285 passed unanimously out of the Senate's Judiciary Committee today. The bill is designed to bring California into compliance with federal law on estate recovery. Federal law establishes hardship criteria to identify those cases that would pose undue hardship in estate recovery.

The bill is sponsored by the California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform and supported by American Association of Retired Persons. It now moves to the Senate's Appropriations Committee.

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COLTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE MICHAEL J. ARMENTA
GRADUATES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
(USC) LAW SCHOOL

Michael J. Armenta, a 1994 Colton High School graduate, graduated from the University of Southern California (USC) Law School in May 14, 2001 at the USC Alumni Park.

For the past year Armenta has worked for the Law Firm of Cisninger, Grayson, Ritt, Gee & Botterud in the City of Pasadena. He will be taking the California Bar Exam in July and Will continue working for the same firm upon passing the bar exam.

Armenta has been involved with the USC La Raza Law Student Association and currently on the Board of Directors of the USC Law School Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF). PILF is a non-profit organization that seeks to provide legal representation to members of the community that couldn’t otherwise afford legal assistance. Armenta is one of the students who benefited from a PILF grant. After his first year of law school he worked during the summer for the housing division of the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice, which is a non-profit agency that provides services to low-income clients who can’t afford legal representation from an attorney. “Students may be interested in public interest law, but most agencies can’t afford to pay them.” Armenta said. “PILF is able to provide grants for the students so they can gain experience.”

Armenta received a bachelor’s degree in Political Science in 1998 from the University of California, Riverside (UCR) with academic honors. While a student at UCR, Armenta completed an internship as an Investigative Intern for the Riverside Juvenile public Defender’s Office and he worked for the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Legal Aid Clinic at the Riverside Cesar Chavez Community Center during his four years at UCR. He was also active with the service organization, La Union Estudiantil de la Raza, at UCR. Armenta also worked as a field assistant for the 1994 and 1996 congressional campaigns of the late Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. Other activities at UCR included the Moot Court, intramural sports, Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society, and the Golden Key National Honor Society.

“These activities in addition to the experience I gained in my four years of employment with the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Legal Aid Clinic have made me sensitive to the many diverse facets of a community,” stated Armenta. “I have achieved a keen insight to the needs and unique problems of the minority and disadvantaged community and the general population as well.”

Michael Armenta is the brother of Robert D. Armenta, Jr., District Director for Assemblymember John Longville. Robert and Michael have recently founded the Armenta Family Scholarship Fund which will award scholarships to local disadvantaged Latino high school seniors who plan to attend a four-year university. The purpose of the scholarship fund is to enhance the number of San Bernardino County Latinos who achieve academic excellence in higher education.
Inland Empire Hispanic News

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