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Hispanic News

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S. B. ADULT SCHOOL GRADUATION, A BLESSING TO LOCAL FAMILIES

Robert Chacon, Sr., (second from right) poses with his family after receiving his high school diploma at San Bernardino's 2003 Adult Education Graduation Ceremonies at the California Theatre, San Bernardino. Chacon, one of the keynote speakers, stresses education to his children and grandchildren; he is determined to become a role model to his family after a 20 year hiatus and enrolling in adult education classes.

“Throughout my life I felt an emptiness about not graduating. To emphasize the importance of education to my children and grandchildren, I had to be the role model and receive a diploma. So after 20 years, here I am. I know my dad would be glad for me,” he said, receiving a thunderous applause for his accomplishment.

Chacon is planning to continue his education at the college level.

Hermelinda Alvarez, the second keynote speaker, was born in Los Angeles and at an early age, the family moved back to Mexico. At 19, Alvarez moved back to Los Angeles and later to San Bernardino. “I came back to the United States and I couldn’t speak English. This was very hard for me. Willing to learn new things, I enrolled in the ESL classes at San Bernardino Adult School and completed the program, and I didn’t have any more problems communicating with others,” the speaker stated with pride in her voice, receiving applause from the audience.

Personal problems disrupted the continuation of Alvarez’s education and she had to get a job to help her husband. “I had an opportunity to come back to school and here I am. I am happy to have the privilege of standing here today rep-

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AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION/FIESTA FOOD WAREHOUSE PARTICIPATE IN AMERICAN STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

The American Heart Association, in conjunction with Fiesta Food Warehouse, an Inland Empire food market corporation, participated in the American Stroke Awareness Month with a successful campaign by food store employees selling $15,000 worth of heart cutouts to food customers. Fiesta Food donated the collected $15,000 to the American Heart Association in the fight against strokes in the area. According to the AHA, stroke is the number three killer in the United States. Pictured above is part of the campaign committee: front row (l to r) Manny Marin, Evelyn Gutierrez, Lourdes Vizcaino, Dinah Salcido and Maria Martinez. Back row (l to r) Ruben Hurtado, Robert Plaza, Andrew Bequer and Doug Miner. Photo by IEHN

HISPANIC EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS TO INLAND EMPIRE STUDENTS

Chauncey Veatch, 2002-2003 National Educator of the Year, poses with scholarship recipients at the Annual Scholarship Awards Reception held at the Riverside Marriott. Pictured above (not in order) are Raquel Davila, Patricia Espinoza, Angelina Hernandez, Wendy Escobar (Derek Parra Scholarship recipient), Berenicia Camargo and Michelle Regalado. Article on page 2
MAURICIO ARELLANO APPOINTED ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT IN PALM SPRINGS

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HISPANIC EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS TO INLAND EMPIRE STUDENTS

The Hispanic Education Advancement Foundation presented scholarship awards to outstanding students residing in the Inland Empire at the Annual Scholarship Award Reception held at the Riverside Marriott, Riverside. The students were selected from over 48 outstanding applications from Colton High School, San Gorgonio High School, San Bernardino and City of Riverside area high schools.

The Derek Parra Scholarship, sponsored by the Press-Enterprise, was presented for the first year to Wendy Escobar, a Colton High School student. The four-year scholarship criteria requires that a student have a higher than average GPA, with community involvement and demonstrate overcoming tremendous challenges to achieve a high school education. The four year scholarship will be presented on a yearly basis.

Other scholarship recipients included Raquel Davila, Rubidoux High School graduate to attend Riverside Community College, Patricia Espinoza, Arlington High School graduate to attend Riverside Community College, Angelina Hernandez, North High School graduate to attend California Baptist University, Cerence Camargo, San Gorgonio High School graduate to attend the University of California, Los Angeles and Michelle Regalado, Colton High School to attend Riverside Community College.

Chauncey Veatch, 2002 National Teacher of the Year, was keynote speaker for the event. Veatch received state and national recognition for his commitment to migrant students from Coachella High School from 1995 to 2002, and for demonstrating unique teaching techniques for underachieving students.

He spoke with compassion of recruiting students who were at the lowest rung of the educational system. He was able to work with those students and upgrade their respective grades, whereby the majority graduated from high school and enrolled at community colleges and universities. Veatch gave examples of individuals students, both male and female, who overcame tremendous challenges and successfully achieved high grade levels. He received a standing ovation as he finalized his speech.

Veatch is currently a teaching specialist with the Riverside County Office of Education.

HEAF board of directors are Graciano Gomez, president; Ofelia Valdez-Yeager, vice president; Richard Ramirez, secretary, Linda Miranda, treasurer, Roberto Redondo, Resource Specialist, Esther Andrews, Robert Morales and Mary Tenorio, board members.

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FIFTH ANNUAL RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY ACTION PLANNING WORKSHOP PRESENTS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER AWARDS

Dr. David Long, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, announced the winners of the 2003 Outstanding Community Leader Awards to be given Thursday, July 24, during the Fifth Annual Riverside County Community Action Planning Workshop (RCCAP) in Rancho Mirage.

Five individuals will be honored for their commitment to community service, Long said. Unselfish heroes and heroines were especially sought out. Elected officials were not eligible. The ceremony begins at 6 p.m., July 24, at the Lodge (formally The Ritz-Carlton) 68900 Frank Sinatra Drive in Rancho Mirage.

Honorees include:
- Ms. Doris Adams, Menifee Valley Community Cupboard
- Mr. Jamal Dada, Riverside County Workforce Development Board
- Sister Esperanza Jasso, Sacred Heart Congregation - Mecca School
- Mr. Dalip Singh, Singh Chevrolet
- Mr. Louis Stark, Wildomar

During the upcoming Fifth Annual RCCAP workshop (July 24-26), participants - including educators, community members, police, government leaders, and members of the clergy - will gather to explore community needs and formulate action plans to meet those needs.

Since the first RCCAP Workshop in 1999, participants have worked on improving literacy, mobilizing community members, providing information about county resources, improving public transportation, hosting youth summits and an Education Summit, and motivating students to participate in community improvement projects.

For information call at (909) 826-6642.

WASHINGTON, DC - Minority farmers received historic recognition today, when the House voted in favor of providing critical funding to the United States Department of Agriculture's office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. Established in 2003, the office is a direct response to a 1994 report commissioned by the USDA that highlighted the discrimination and unfair practices against minority farmers by the USDA.

Congressman Joe Baca (CA-43), along with Representatives Bennie Thompson (MS-02), and Frank W. Balance, Jr. (NC-1), authored the measure to seek funding for the civil rights' office at similar levels to existing USDA offices.

"Fixing the civil rights complaint process and properly funding minority initiatives are necessary to permanently end a history of discrimination and earn goodwill with the minority agriculture community," Baca said. "I am deeply concerned about the state of minority affairs at USDA."

Balance said in his Floor speech, "While I applaud efforts in creating the office… I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle not to let this office become little more than window-dressing for a very serious matter."

Eleven class-action racial discrimination lawsuits as well as Latino and Native American farmer lawsuits are pending against the USDA. To date, $800 million in settlements have been awarded, and with more than 2000 cases backlogged in USDA files, that amount is expected to exceed $1 billion.

Assistant Secretary Vernon Parker requested $808,000 for fiscal year 2004. However, Parker's request under the Republican-lead budget slated only $397,000; the same amount appropriated the office for the initial six months of operation. The measure approved today would increase office funding to allow for real start up as well as increased funding to 2501 farming programs and outreach to minority farmers.
INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS 47TH ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is presenting its 47th Annual Awards Ceremony at the San Bernardino Hilton, 285 East Hospitality Lane, San Bernardino, on August 16th, 2003, with no host at 6:00 P.M.

IEHCC announced the recipients for the annual event: Latino of the Year—Luis Fuerte, PBS/KUCR; Latina of the Year—Grace Vargas, Mayor of Rialto; Generational (Lifetime Achievement), Graciano Gomez; Government Service—Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia; Business of the Year—Carousel Mall, Sam Catalano and Tony Valencia; Education—Dr. Luis Gomez, President Emeritus, Crafton Hills College; Organizational Distinguished Service—Diocese of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties; and Individual Distinguished Service—TELACU, David Lizzariaga.

RSVP by July 25, 2003 at (909) 888-2188, $50 per person, mail checks to IEHCC at 320 North "E" Street, San Bernardino, CA 92401.

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CIVIL RIGHTS OFFICE GETS FUNDING; MINORITY FARMERS TO GET NEEDED HELP

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The RFP/RFQ may be obtained through the Internet under the section BUSINESS & JOB OPPORTUNITIES at http://www.scaqmd.gov/RFP.

Persons attending a bidder conference should confirm their attendance by calling the contact person. Bids will not be accepted from anyone not attending a mandatory bidder's conference.

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resenting all of the GED graduates and also receiving a scholarship that will help
continue my education at Valley Col-
lege," she said, as students and guests
applauded her accomplishments.
Alvarez is planning to receive an as-
sociate degree from Valley College and
transfer to Cal-State, San Bernardino.
Her career goal is in the teaching profes-
sion.
San Bernardino Adult School has a
long history in the adult education field.
Young students and adults are currently
striving to receive their basic education
and others in different career fields, ac-
cording to adult education officials.
The adult high school graduates for
2003 included 139 high school gradu-
ates, 207 GED recipients, 21 licensed vo-
cational nurses, 11 meat cutters, 5 bar-
bbers, 6 tile setters/finishers, 2 brickmas-
sons, 43 medical office assist-
tants, 117 certificate nurse assistants, 69
ESL recipients, 27 firefighters/EMT and
others in a myriad of certificated pro-
gams.
Two adult school administrators are
retiring in 2003: George I. Bohn, adult
education principal, with 34 years in the
school district and Rochelle Campbell,
counselor, with 29 years in the school
district.

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