



MEDIA ALERT

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Latinos in Delaware making their voices heard

Wilmington, DE - As the Latino population in Delaware continues to grow, so do the needs and issues that affect this sector of the community. La Esperanza, The Latin American Community Center and Voices Without Borders - three leading organizations serving the Latino community in the state - are pleased to announce the first Latino Gubernatorial Debate that will take place on Wednesday, July 30, 2008 at Dover Downs Conference Center in Dover, Delaware.

The goal of this Debate is to learn the stance of all registered gubernatorial candidates on issues relevant to the Latino community, as well as some of the goals that they hope to accomplish. In addition, we seek to educate Latinos about the importance of being politically active and making informed decisions as voters. We would also like to raise participants' awareness of issues affecting the state's Latino population.

The importance of the Hispanic community in Delaware cannot be understated. By 2030, the children of Spanish-speaking immigrants will comprise a greater share of the state's workforce. The National Research Council, in its report *Multiple Origins, Uncertain Destinies: Hispanics and the American Future* revealed that at 68 percent, Latinos had a higher workforce participation rate than any other ethnic group in the country in the year 2000.

While in today's global economy Latinos are well represented in the workforce, their collective performance in secondary education trails that of other groups. According to a report released by Delaware State Treasurer's office titled *Delaware Facing Forward: a Look at Delaware's Demographic Future*, only 42 percent of Hispanic students graduate from high school in four years, compared to 68 percent of white students. Closing this gap is just one of the many approaches necessary to level the playing field for Hispanics in this country in general, and for those living in the state of Delaware in particular.

The Debate is scheduled to begin promptly at 7 p.m. and is open to the public.

Media are advised to call in order to arrange coverage.