Estimados Colegas,

On behalf of the NCCHC Board of Directors, we extend our warmest greetings and thank you for your membership and continued support of NCCHC. This year, NCCHC is celebrating its 26th Anniversary as an affiliate council of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). NCCHC was established to prepare Hispanic leaders for America’s community and technical colleges and serves as the premier organization for Hispanic leadership development in community colleges. Our mission is to increase the number of successful Hispanic leaders in America’s community colleges through leadership development. We are committed to delivering a quality leadership development experience that provides Hispanics in community colleges with an opportunity to continue their personal and professional growth.

Please join me in extending congratulations to our newly elected NCCHC Board Officers who will assume office on July 1, 2012: President Dr. Richard Duran (Oxnard College), President-Elect Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick (Maricopa Community Colleges), Secretary Dr. Robert Vela (Alamo Community Colleges), and Treasurer Dr. Felix Aquino (Oklahoma City Community College). We look forward to working with our new officers during the 2012-13 academic year.

At our April 21, 2012 NCCHC Board meeting, we discussed the 2012 Leadership Symposium that will be held on September 20-22, 2012 in Long Beach, California. Host Dr. Eloy Oakley (President of Long Beach City College) and Planning Committee Chair Dr. Richard Duran are planning an exciting program for the Leadership Symposium and we encourage you to submit proposals for the various sessions that will be offered. In addition, we discussed the extensive planning efforts that are underway for the NCCHC Leadership Fellows Program that is offered in partnership with California State University Long Beach and coordinated by Dr. Bill Vega, Dr. Leila Gonzalez-Sullivan, and Ms. Peggy Card. Dr. Vega has been successful in securing funding to support the Leadership Fellows Program from the Lou & Rosemary Oberndorf Foundation. Mr. Oberndorf has graciously committed $10,000 per year for two years. We also participated in the “Help Wanted: Community College Leaders” AACC Convention spotlight session with representatives from the National Asian/Pacific Islander Council (NAPIC) and the National Council on Black American Affairs (NCBAA). Close to 200 participants engaged in discussions regarding leadership competencies for community college leaders of the future. Our annual NCCHC Reception at the AACC Convention was a tremendous success—we enjoyed listening and dancing to the great sounds of Tamboro (many thanks to Tracy Newell for her due diligence in securing a top band).

The NCCHC Board is continuously engaged in evaluating new strategies to strengthen our operational infrastructure and regularly seeks ways to increase membership, revenues and resources, and to increase participation in the NCCHC Fellows Program and Lead-
Effective June 1, 2012, Lisandra De Jesus will assume the position of Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Albany Technical College.

De Jesus came to Albany Technical College in 2008 from Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, Florida where she served as District Student Services Coordinator. Since she has been the Dean of Admissions at Albany Tech, De Jesus has been the visionary leadership behind her team of fourteen working together to meet the College’s enrollment goals and Student Affairs objectives.

During her tenure at Albany Tech, De Jesus has increased collaborations between academic and student affairs. She also coordinated train-the-trainer and the customer service training for faculty and staff, and been instrumental in reactivating English as a Second Language classes offered by the Adult Education Division. Community service includes Hispanic population outreach for 2010 Census as part of the ‘Complete Count Committee,’ advisory member for Capitol City Bank & Trust Company, and Girls Inc. of Albany ‘Committee of 100.’ In 2010, De Jesus was named to Georgia Trend magazine’s 40 Under 40.

A first-generation college student and the only member of her family to complete a college education, De Jesus says that education, plus hard work, strong work ethics, and belief, equal dreams becoming a reality and produces positive results for students, families, and communities. Having completed her secondary education in the South Bronx, N.Y., after the family’s relocation from the island of Puerto Rico, she understands the importance of being resilient, as well as the value of education.

In her new role, De Jesus says she plans to continue serving the division of student affairs at Albany Tech by supporting already established services that lead to student success.

“I am looking forward to working with our students, communities, and the citizens of Southwest Georgia to continue providing a well-trained 21st century workforce that helps families and makes a positive impact on our economy,” said De Jesus.

“I believe in our mission and what we do to help students every day,” she added.

De Jesus received concurrent bachelor’s degrees in both Business Administration and Spanish Literature from the State University of New York-College at New Paltz and completed her graduate degree in Education at Norfolk State University. She is on schedule to graduate Summer 2013 with her doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Florida.

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Miami Dade College again basks in the national spotlight as we learn that our College President has been honored with the Citizen Service Award from Voices for National Service.

Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón is the first college president in the nation to receive this prestigious recognition, given annually to individuals who have invested in the civic health of our nation through support of national service. He will be honored along with Jon Bon Jovi at an awards reception in our nation's capital next month, and he joins the distinguished ranks of notable leaders who have formerly received this award, including Caroline Kennedy and Jean Case of The Case Foundation.

Dr. Padrón’s receipt of the Citizen Service Award underscores the important role civic engagement should play in higher education. He has been a leading advocate for academic learning strengthened by service. Also, MDC’s Center for Community Involvement is inspiring social responsibility and driving meaningful change in local communities, while helping students meet academic, social and civic learning goals.

President Padrón’s accomplishments continue to make us proud. Please join me in congratulating him on this special and most-deserved recognition.

Best regards,
Helen Aguirre Ferré
Chair, Miami Dade College Board of Trustees
NCCHC has openings on the Board of Directors for three-year terms beginning July 1, 2012

We encourage NCCHC members in good standing (dues paid; institutional or individual members) interested in getting more involved as well as being of service to NCCHC, to consider running for the NCCHC Board of Directors. You may nominate yourself or someone else.

- Only CEO’s (Chancellors, Presidents, Provosts, Vice Chancellors and Vice Presidents) may serve on the Board.
- Election to the Board requires endorsement and support of the candidate’s campus.
- Board members must attend two regularly scheduled board meetings (April - during AACC and September/October, - during the NCCHC Symposium) and other electronic or telephonic meetings as called by the NCCHC President.
- Each board member is asked to make a $100 contribution to NCCHC each year to assist with the costs associated with our NCCHC Fellows Program.
- The term of office is three year, commencing July 1st.

The deadline for nominations is June 8, 2012. Nominations may be made by email and should include contact information, a brief bio and photo (jpg). Please email all information to Kim Andosca (NCCHC Executive Director) at kandosca@caltel.com.

Thank you!
NCCHC Board of Directors

“We are most appreciative of the dedicated service and outstanding leadership that has been provided by our outgoing NCCHC Board members: Dr. Cecilia Cervantes; Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.; Dr. Lourdes Oroza; and Dr. Raul Rodriguez.”

Sofia Marie Govela, born March 2, 2012

Congratulations to Peggy Card-Govela, National Community College Hispanic Council, NCCHC, Leadership Fellows Program Coordinator.
2012 NCCHC Leadership Symposium
21st Century Vision: Innovation and the New Normal
Renaissance Hotel – Long Beach, CA
September 20-22, 2012

SPEAKERS: You will experience many opportunities to hear from nationally recognized keynote speakers, participate in dynamic sessions that address issues of concern to our Latino community, develop leadership skills, and network with seasoned professionals. We are in the process of confirming keynote speakers. Look for additional details at www.ncchc.com soon. Our preliminary line up includes:

• Implications of the 21st Century Commission Report presented by Dr. Walter Bumphas, President & CEO
• President’s Panel: Growing Latinos in Leadership Roles
• NCCHC Fellow’s Panel: Lessons Learned

REGISTRATION: Go to www.ncchc.com for registration details and additional information including a basic conference agenda. Website will be updated periodically between now and the conference, so keep checking back!

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: We also encourage you to share your knowledge and expertise with your colleagues by submitting a proposal for a presentation at the 2012 Leadership Symposium. Using attendee feedback from past Symposia and current hot topics concerning community colleges and how we impact our students and communities, the conference planning committee has identified the following topic areas for presentations:

• Leadership Support and Development (internal and external relations, mentoring/talent management programs, partnering for success, advocacy and legislation, trustee expectations/communication strategies)
• Strategies for Supporting Student Success in the 21st Century (recruitment, retention, and completion strategies, serving returning veterans, serving immigrant students and assessing student learning outcomes)
• Workforce Training and Development (new program development, green initiatives, biosciences, STEM, health care initiatives and globalizing the curriculum)
• Image Development/Communications (marketing, public relations, and social networking)
• Resource Development/Fundraising/Creative Budget Management
• Strategic Planning Efforts (college-wide, technology, enrollment management, distance education, sustainability, and program specific planning and environmental scanning)

It is easy to submit a session proposal! Please go to www.ncchc.com to complete and download a form for manual completion. Each breakout session will be 1 hour, 15 minutes in length and should allow time for questions and answers at the conclusion. We anticipate 30 to 50 attendees per session. Those presenters chosen will be asked to bring enough handouts for session attendees. Submission of a proposal for a presentation will serve as authorization for NCCHC to post any session content on the NCCHC website for future reference by members. Presenters are expected to register online for the conference. Proposal Deadline: June 15, 2012.

SPONSORS: Finally, we would appreciate your assistance in reaching out to vendors you work with who might potentially benefit from a relationship with NCCHC and encourage them to take a look at the Sponsorship & Marketing Opportunities posted at www.ncchc.com. Opportunities range from a high of $15,000 for a corporate sponsorship to a low of $100 for a business card ad in the program so there’s truly something for everyone.

Nos vemos en Long Beach en Septiembre!
LATINO PRESIDENTS FACE ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES

This article first appeared in AACC’s Community College Times. It is reprinted with permission.

By Ellie Ashford, Published May 5, 2012

Leading a community college is a stressful, demanding job, but it can be even more challenging for Latinos, who say they’ve had to overcome additional layers of obstacles on their paths to the presidency.

Patricia Granados, a member of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) board of directors, said she never imagined that she would be president when she started working at Triton College (Illinois) as a part-time administrator to help cover her tuition 28 years ago.

As the college’s first Hispanic president, Granados had to fight people’s perception that she would be narrowly focused on Hispanics by proving she was inclusive and eager to embrace diversity.

College presidents offer advice to aspiring leaders

Anna Solley, president of Phoenix College in the Maricopa Community Colleges system (Arizona), spent a lot of time building trust and pulling the college together after the chancellor appointed her to replace a well-liked predecessor. That required a lot of listening and engaging people in discussions, said Solley, who also serves as president of the National Community College Hispanic Council (NCCHC), an AACC affiliate.

Carlos Soto thought it was going to be a “cakewalk” when he was named president of the Brandon Campus of Hillsborough Community College in Florida after working at a large university. But there was a “credibility gap” because he didn’t have a similar background to previous presidents, Soto said.

“It was not so easy,” he said. “It took me a while to think like an administrator rather than a faculty member.”
Handling prejudice

Richard Duran—president of Oxnard College (California), a member of the AACC board of directors and president-elect of NCCHC—moderated a discussion on these issues at a session during the recent AACC annual convention. He asked panelists how they deal with prejudice.

Click here for information on AACC’s 2012 Leadership Programs, which begin in June.

Soto said that when he hears something derogatory, “that makes me question if it could be true or if I can ignore it. Is there a reality to that or am I imaging it?”

“I’ve never really seen myself as a Latina,” said Granados, preferring to focus instead on a lesson instilled by her parents: “You are doing a job and you need to do it well.”

But there were times, she said, “when I was introduced as president, and people seemed shocked. That was a bit off-putting.”

“If I hadn’t been Latina, I probably wouldn’t have been hired,” said Solley, noting that the then-president had a commitment to hire more minorities. Now, she has to fight the perception among some Latinos that she is “too Latino,” while others “say I’m not Latino enough.”

When asked how they promote leadership opportunities for others, Soto said he appoints promising colleagues to committees.

“Doing that consistently puts them in a position to be noticed,” he said.

Granados starts at the middle-school level by talking to students about leadership and serving as a role model for them. In addition, she noted that Triton has a year-long grow-your-own leadership academy that serves 25 employees annually.

Phoenix College has a leadership symposium for 500 students and showcases Latino trailblazers in college publications and at an annual celebration, Solley added.

Ensuring diversity

A member of the audience asked the panelists how a college can become “more accepting and appreciative” of diversity in the face of a rapidly increasing Hispanic enrollment “when the institutional culture is not there.” Duran suggested integrating that goal into the college’s strategic plan. Solley added, “Your faculty must reflect the population you serve.”

Sometimes, college leaders face instructors and staff who don’t align with a college’s strategic plan to ensure diversity.

“There are certain attitudes we can’t have in an institution, or the atmosphere becomes toxic,” Soto said. Ninety-nine percent of his faculty love the students and love teaching, “but that 1 percent could become a distraction.”

When that happens, Soto draws the line.

“Sometimes we just have to tell people to get a grip,” he said. “I’m not beyond telling a faculty member, ‘We’ll provide resources to help you deal with it, or you have got to go.’”

Newsmakers

Gina Cortés-Suaréz, president of the InterAmerican Campus of Miami Dade College in Florida, was recently recognized by City of Miami Commissioner and MDC alumnus Frank Carollo for being named a woman of distinction by the Miami Commission on the Status of Women. The organization annually honors local women who have made major contributions worldwide and to the local community, and whose great works are deserving of recognition.

Félix Matos Rodríguez, president of Hostos Community College (New York), will serve as grand marshal of the annual National Puerto Rican Day Parade June 10 in New York City. Rodríguez grew up in Puerto Rico, where he served as secretary of the family, a cabinet-level post. At the City University of New York, he served as director of the Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños/Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College. Matos Rodriguez was named HCC president in 2009.
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