

LULACnews

SUMMER 2022

IN FOCUS

The LEGACY of LULAC

Fighting for our mission & community

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS!

PUERTO RICO: ISLA DEL ENCANTO



LULAC news

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Domingo Garcia



DEAR LULAC FAMILIA,

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to share in reading the stories in this edition of LULAC News. As you will learn in this issue, there is much happening, and every day brings with it some tough fights for justice LULAC is waging for the more than 60 million Latinos in the USA and Puerto Rico.

The recent tragedy in Uvalde, Texas, reminds us of the growing deadly trend in our country of mass killings with the use of firearms. LULAC was on the scene at Robb Elementary School within the first 24 hours to support the victims' families and community. Also, we are taking a very active role in demanding gun law reforms, including raising the minimum age to 21 for purchasing firearms, deep background checks, and liability for gun manufacturers in civil lawsuits.

Another priority for LULAC is the implementation of the Brandon Act and the Vanessa Guillen, for which I vigorously fought. We succeeded in get-

ting President Biden to sign this measure as part of this year's National Defense Authorization Act. LULAC will not rest until both laws are in effect at American military installations worldwide. These historical measures can help protect our Latino service men and women and every other service-member for years to come, a legacy of which I am very proud.

LULAC is achieving other historic victories that empower our community and give us great reason for hope and the will to keep the struggle for civil rights going forward. In the courts, we defend our right to vote after anti-Latino politicians passed new laws in Texas and other states to prevent lawful voters from exercising their constitutional right. Another important area we are working hard on is ensuring that undocumented immigrant military veterans are not deported after serving in uniform to protect our country.

We collaborate with other community-based organizations to disseminate the word of new resources online that military families can apply

to bring home their deported loved ones. LULAC continues to advocate for millions of Latino essential healthcare workers, hospitality services, restaurants, and construction workers. These brave men and women are reporting to their jobs without a break, even as the pandemic lingers on with new coronavirus strains. We will press state and federal agencies to ensure that Latinos are included in the new wave of boosters and other health-related services for those whose health or work may place them at a higher risk of infection or death.

LULAC is enjoying record media coverage at numbers never seen in its 93-year history. In the last three months alone, LULAC achieved more than 7.6 billion media impressions and 3,776 news stories mentioning the work LULAC and you, the members, are doing where you live and work. More than 70 percent of all coverage about LULAC is local or regional activity at the council level. This visibility is a testament to LULAC councils and why our organization has endured for more than nine decades.

Thank you, LULAC members, our friends, and corporate sponsors. May we continue to advance towards a fairer and fuller fulfillment of the promise of America for all. Thank you for the honor of serving as your president, and may we continue our work together into 2023.

Hasta La Victoria!



LULAC National President

“WE ARE WORKING
HARD ON [THIS]
ENSURING THAT
UNDOCUMENTED
IMMIGRANT MILITARY
VETERANS ARE NOT
DEPORTED AFTER
SERVING IN UNIFORM
TO PROTECT OUR
COUNTRY.”

a message from the CEO

Sindy Benavides



DEAR LULAC FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

I am thrilled to extend my warmest and heartfelt welcome to you for this exceptional issue of LULAC News. Who could have ever imagined the magnitude of the events we are witnessing daily this year, throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Across the nation, we are witnessing the growing threats to our community in terms of voter rights, health care challenges facing essential workers, safety for our military service members, breaching the digital divide, the effects of pandemic-related isolation on our seniors, access to quality education for our children, equity for Latinas in the workplace, representation in the boardroom and gun violence in our communities. From Puerto Rico and its diaspora, we hear the undeniable crescendo of millions of U.S. Latino citizens being denied the equal treatment, rights, and opportunities they are entitled to, and that are afforded to citizens on the mainland. They are still fighting for long-overdue statehood recognition. These challenges, and how we overcome them, promise to impact us both now and well into the future.

We also mourn the tragedy that directly impacted our community in Uvalde, Texas, at the end of May, and are called to action to not only support the grieving families and local community, but also to advocate for common-sense gun reform to

stymie the gun violence epidemic in our country. We have called upon the White House to create a Summit on Hate and Violent Extremism to address the increasing racial and ethnic xenophobia in this country and prevent tragedies like we saw in Buffalo, El Paso, Charleston, and the Pittsburg synagogue shooting. We continue to call on Congress to enact legislation to reduce gun violence such as universal background checks and setting a minimum age of 21 to purchase any and all firearms.

Yet, when times get tough, LULAC councils get tougher and confront the needs of their communities by showing up and taking action. Members, allies, and corporate sponsors are coming together as we begin to emerge from the pandemic. I am proud to report unprecedented LULAC outreach through our various national programs to reach every member of Latino households. We have focused on Latina mothers as the guiding voices in our culture to help get their entire families vaccinated. Also, seniors have been given special attention to ensure they are not isolated because of COVID, making them susceptible to depression and health emergencies alone. Similar attention is being given to the needs of youth, many of whom have suffered academically because of the lack of broadband access during the pandemic and mental health issues.

Ahead is a summer filled with activity for LULAC, the highlight of which will be the 2022 LULAC National Conference and Exposition, July 25-30th at the Puerto Rico Convention Center in San Juan. The convention committee on the island has been hard at work for months planning every detail and ensuring that all is ready for the arrival of thousands of attendees for this historic event. LULAC is proud to celebrate with our brothers and sisters en la isla del encanto because we know that united we are stronger. Their resilience and spirit remain strong even in the face of natural disasters and roadblocks in Congress to the mandate of a public referendum on statehood.

We look forward to convening with our LULAC family, friends, and corporate partners in San Juan. We envision the next era that builds upon our 93-year history but also looks ahead to a new generation of Latino voices and leadership. I invite you to enjoy reading LULAC News and hope to see you soon in Puerto Rico!

Together We Rise,



LULAC National Chief Executive Officer

“...WHEN TIMES
GET TOUGH, LULAC
COUNCILS GET TOUGHER
AND CONFRONT
THE NEEDS OF THEIR
COMMUNITIES BY
SHOWING UP AND
TAKING ACTION.”

LULAC *Grows* PROGRAMMING

by Ed Hamilton Rosales
President SW WA LULAC Council 47013

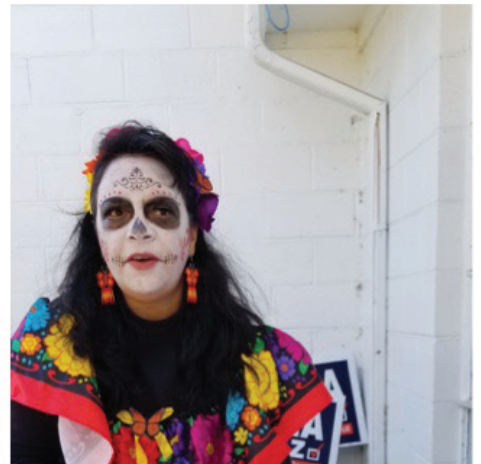
The Southwest Washington League of United Latin American Citizens Council 47103 (SW-WA-LULAC) established a new local/regional market (“Mercado”) for Emergency Food Aid distribution. We buy produce from local and regional farms and provide no-barrier access to fresh food for hundreds of families, along with nutrition education and healthy eating options not otherwise available to them. Our permanent Mercado facility will ensure both farmers’ and families have consistent and cost-effective access to outlets for local crops, thereby boosting economic viability, nutritional diversity, and food sovereignty.

LULAC Grows’ three pillar program objectives, (I) expand production capacity and acreage for produce sourced from currently participating farms and new sources, including three incubator farm sites; (II) expand the market that provides several hundred families with culturally-appropriate specialty crop varieties, along with nutritional knowledge; and (III) offer education and training activities taking place at Mercado, participating and incubator farms, and the 25-plot community garden for families. Grant and donors will help support our comprehensive range of essential training topics for new/beginning, aspiring, and seasoned farmers—covering whole-farm business management skills for market competitiveness, and sustainable crop production (crop planning, new site preparation, agroecology, safe handling, harvest, and packing for distribution). Focused on socially disadvantaged producers, farm workers, next generation farmers, food insecure families, youth, and communities of color, we are fulfilling otherwise unmet and long-standing needs. LULAC Grows

whole-system solutions will help to ensure a more resilient future for diversified produce farming in this rapidly urbanizing and under-served region.

LULAC Grows [I] establishes more land access for more farming; [II] ensures the market infrastructure required to improve access to nutritional knowledge and consumption of specialty crops by food insecure communities; and [III] provides the wide array of technical knowledge needed to support agro ecologically resilient and economically viable farm enterprises that supply the fresh produce to families.

LULAC Grows provides solutions to long standing food system injustices and farming resource inequities, which are compounded by the pandemic, food supply disruptions, growing food insecurity, and the climate crisis. SW-WA-LULAC’s food distribution events fully launched in Summer 2021, after a pilot Mercado (market) in October 2020. We help solve several problems. Food banks and pantries do not serve the populations we do. Hundreds of families have no viable access to other food assistance due to a range of barriers. Whereas mainstream and “alternative” food system programs—from hunger relief to agricultural production support systems—are not meeting local low-income family or farming sustainability needs, LULAC Grows is designed to fill the gaps. Research confirms that farms here are especially challenged by rapid farm turnover, urban development pressures, and under-resourced support institutions (Wait, 2021). Diverse specialty crop production farming and consumer access urgently need support. Innovative grassroots-led solutions hold the most promise, as experience and examples from other regions inform our initiatives. Given the leadership of LULAC Grows’ whole-system solu-



tion strategies, focused on otherwise marginalized farmers and families, an innovative model designed to improve specialty crop competitive advantage is feasible. LULAC Grows' local grassroots-driven suite of programs combine to provide pathways out of intergenerational poverty, health outcome disparities, and nutritional deficiency traps. We are fostering living wage careers in farming and honoring diverse cultural heritage, thereby improving health outcomes for especially vulnerable populations. LULAC Grows is driven by direct experiences of Hispanic/Latinos, and contextual barriers for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and other minority communities.

While we have allies, supporters, and partners, our attempts to resolve problems through existing institutions only reinforces our resolve to implement LULAC Grows solutions. Research assessing the agroecological resilience of food farming—centering on commercial farming operations producing vegetables, fruit, and/or nuts for local direct-to-consumer markets—confirms the vulnerabilities of small-scale specialty crop production, and the need for a whole suite of solutions (Wait, 2021). Additionally, our extensive knowledge of local food system reform models, across the PNW and USA more broadly, particularly those focused on empowering historically underserved and minority communities, confirms our need for locally developed adaptations. While we collaborate with many agencies and organizations, LULAC Grows provides several missing pieces unfulfilled by others, even the most supportive.

Diversified vegetable and fruit farming systems are among the most complex and vulnerable, even in the more favorable contexts. Furthermore, cultural and language obstacles, while surmountable, require different kinds of partnerships and resources not currently available to our Communities of Color here. The 2017 Census of Agriculture (USDA, 2019) shows an overall increase (by 27%) in the number of farm operators who are not White in Clark County, in a County where 68% of all farm operators identified as new and beginning. LULAC Grows offers the nec-

essary direct and systemic solutions to the challenges for these otherwise underserved producers. Information provided, preferably in locally-adapted workshops, training, expert exchanges, and educational materials need to be accessible to people for whom English is not their first language, for example. LULAC Grows offers significant opportunities to enhance local/regional markets for producers, and to increase the knowledge and consumption of specialty crops—through incubator farms, aggregation and distribution, and education for farm workers, operators, owners, youth, and families.

LULAC Grows will increase the availability of crops, including offering more participation to existing producers, and establishing new production capacity and acreage, to include incubator farm sites, as new/beginning and aspiring farmers and gardeners establish plots for growing. Mercado is offering a long-term market solution. We have planned the strategic activities (education, technical assistance, training, and applied research) essential for supporting farmer's market competitiveness aligned with resource conservation and climate resilience.

LULAC Grows' Objective I is to expand land access in SW WA, starting at incubator farm sites where socially disadvantaged and new farmers, and family gardeners, are offered opportunities to grow specialty crops and access the necessary skills and infrastructure. Crop and site planning, demonstrations, and crop trials, will prioritize culturally appropriate specialty crops adapted to this climate and incubator sites. We plan to increase land under production by 5-10 acres periodically, until we reach 20-30 acres requested at the urban Farm centrally located in Vancouver. Four additional farming sites are under consideration on public and private land in Clark County. We plan to introduce and/or integrate specialty crop varieties more attuned to the cultural heritage and dietary preferences of Communities of Color. LULAC Grows supports the development of new production capacity, alongside enhanced cultivation and/or the expansion of existing farm operations to include new fields.

LULAC Grows' Objective II is to establish a dedicated physical space to scale up current Mercado operations and maximize our ability to store and distribute fresh produce with extended shelf life, along with other shelf-stable nutrient dense and culturally relevant food. To expand Mercado further, LULAC Grows also will establish partnerships to distribute specialty crops to institutions for elders and children. These facilities, and several low-income neighborhood retail stores featuring Latino products, lack access to fresh produce. We will also provide producers, aggregators, and handlers with the food safety training and GAP planning necessary to ensure specialty crop distribution market competitiveness. Besides free food distribution, the Mercado facility will grow to be a food hub and farmers' market, with extensive access opportunities not currently provided by any other venues. We will also offer farmers access to shared infrastructure, tools and equipment, and other farmer-governed Cooperative resources.

To meet Objectives I and II, LULAC Grows' Objective III encompasses education and training for families and farmers. For families, youth, and interns—at bi-monthly Mercado distribution events and gardening sites—we offer specialty crop nutritional knowledge, skills-sharing, sampling, and demonstrations in healthy food consumption, preparation, and safe handling from field to table. LULAC Grows serves as a Farm/Food Information Navigation Network (FINN) hub for training, technical assistance, and funding development support regarding (A) Specialty crop farming practices, resource conservation, and production/handling food safety, and (B) Agricultural business skills to enhance economic viability, marketability, market channel assessment, crop and business planning,

food safety, and funding support for essential farm infrastructure. In addition, LULAC Grows' core network of 5 fruit farmers and 7 vegetable farmers will comprise two affinity groups, in order to share strategies and pursue collective knowledge and resources, such as pest management, weather risk abatement, quality control, growing for markets, season extension, storage, Organic practices, and value-added opportunities.

This project already directly benefits more than 20 existing specialty crop producers. Unique-

LULAC GROWS SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PRODUCTION CAPACITY, ALONGSIDE ENHANCED CULTIVATION AND/OR EXPANSION OF EXISTING FARM OPERATIONS TO INCLUDE NEW FIELDS.

ly, Mercado purchased directly from the farms at commercially competitive retail prices more fair to the farmer than wholesale prices. LULAC Grows will also help existing local farms improve their businesses and share their expertise, as they secure more stable markets we are facilitating. We are serving 4 new young farmers, and will encourage many aspiring growers. We are providing career opportunities for 6 interns per semester and several young people on an ongoing basis. We include the hundreds of families who access free food. We reached more than 300 consumer families in 2021, and expect that to double and triple over the next two seasons. Nutrition education

will reach 12-30 people each month. Each producer-oriented training will benefit 8-25 participants, depending on the topic.

Through Mercado, we estimate benefiting 30 specialty crop producers and 10 additional industry members. More than 20 farms supplied Mercado in 2021, including a dozen local LULAC Grows participants in our core network. Looking across the specialty crop industry, increasing the supply of specialty crops meets a growing and unmet “consumer” demand. We hope to double the locally sourced produce, from existing and new farms. We plan to scale-up the production volumes and varieties from farms, the number of farms, and the number of outlets. We plan to reach beyond the free food outlets to include more commercial markets serving marginalized, at-risk, low-income neighborhoods, and Communities of Color. Additional markets accessed via Mercado distribution center will improve competitive viability and the numbers of beneficiaries.

Mercado prioritized sourcing from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) farms, including several local and regional Hispanic/Latino producers. The diverse local farmers identify variously as socially disadvantaged, young, beginning, new, Indigenous, small-scale diversified, Latino, women, Communities of Color, and BIPOC. The local farms market their products through a range of other channels, primarily direct-to-consumer, such as CSA, U-Pick, farmers’ markets, on-line ordering, farm stands, festivals, educational events, and farm tours, as well as wholesale and direct-to-retail. In 2021, 20 farms directly contributed to feeding more than 300 families through our new market channel. Two wholesale distributors also supplied produce from several farms. Mercado additionally shared the bounty with 11 free food outlets. Starting as a “pop up” market in October 2020, Mercado is now an institution that farmers can rely upon. Therefore, we can plan ahead and stabilize the market. LULAC Grows is offering immediate and ongoing support for 11 local farms to scale up production of crops that meet consumers’ nutritional and cultural needs. Other local farms are

being invited to participate as we grow. As producer education and technical assistance is needed across the SW-WA food system, LULAC Grows will benefit hundreds of producers, as we leverage resources and expertise for our underserved County. Even as we reside in both Washington State and the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan region, Clark County hosts many gaps to fill in support of specialty crop agricultural production enhancement. LULAC Grows will have a ripple effect, from the grassroots to the whole regional food system.

This is an innovative model to empower Communities of Color to be beneficiaries of specialty crop production, including farmers as well as consumers, in order to build an equitable food-oriented development (EFOD) approach for the specialty crop industry in our region. While focusing on disadvantaged growers and consumers, we also fill gaps in the whole regional food system. LULAC Grows supports the future of farming in several ways. As LULAC Grows honors food production farmers and distributors, we encourage and offer opportunities for career pathways in farming, gardening, and other specialty crop associated food system enterprises. Families include farm workers, front-line workers, vulnerable, BIPOC, multi-generational and multi-cultural community members, immigrants, and residents of very low-income neighborhoods with food and basic needs insecurities.

We are mentoring the next generation of food system leaders and farm operators. SW-WA-LULAC has 5-6 interns each year who are also University or Community College students in Education and other fields. LULAC Youth, at a broad range of educational levels, are very involved in Mercado, LULAC Grows, and other Latino groups.

Mercado has been a success, and now officially qualifies with WSDA as a Farm-to-Food Pantry project prioritizing local sources (pending grant agreement with Harvest Against Hunger). In 2021, Clark County farms in our network (11) earned \$16,844 supplying 8,450 lbs of produce. Along with 9 other farms (3 BIPOC) and 2 food distributors, the

total specialty crop expense was \$30,067 for a total of 36,503 lbs. The cost/lb for the total was \$.82/lb overall, and \$1.99/lb for Clark County farms. In addition, produce was donated by veterans with Partners in Careers' grown at their Heritage Farm 2-acre fields, several of the same Mercado-serving farms, additional farms, and gleaners. Well over 2,500 lbs of produce was donated. Ten of the farms feature BIPOC operators and/or owners. At least 2 more BIPOC farmers agreed to participate in 2022-2023; 12 already signed on to participate in Mercado and the overall LULAC Grows' Farm/Food Information Navigation Network and Distribution Center, including farmer-farmer-led education to help train new and aspiring farmers.

On October 2020, 225 families were served. June-Oct, 2021, on average, 250 families were served fresh produce at each twice-monthly Mercado event. The trust from the community built over the months. We started our first event with less than 100 families but built up to 300 families by the end of summer. In addition, 4,800 food boxes from "We FEED America" were distributed, July-Oct. About half of the families who come to Mercado pick up for multiple households. For example, on October 30, 2021, 150 families came

to Mercado in person, while 300 additional food boxes and 30 bags of produce were delivered to home-bound people.

The 2017 Census of Agriculture reported over 60% of farm principal operators in Clark County as other than White. LULAC Grows prioritizes the farmers in these categories.

In addition to the current new/beginning farmers, LULAC Grows encourages and offers opportunities for career pathways in farming, gardening, and other specialty crop associated food system enterprises. Families invited include farm workers, front-line workers, vulnerable, BIPOC, multi-generational and multi-cultural community members, immigrants, and residents of very low-income neighborhoods with food and basic needs insecurities. The 2017 Census of Agriculture reported more than 1,000 new and beginning farmers, so LULAC Grows has a significant audience for building a more equitable and viable production.

To cultivate new farmers, we are also mentoring the next generation of leaders and workers. SW-WA-LULAC has 5-6 interns each year who are also University or Community College students in Education and other fields. LULAC Youth, at a broad range of educational levels, are very involved in Mercado, LULAC Grows, and other Latino groups. **LN**

▼ *River City Church 2400 E Fourth Plain Blvd in Vancouver, WA.*



FOOD INSECURITY AND THE BROKEN FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

by Ed Hamilton Rosales

President SW WA LULAC Council 47013



With an estimated population of over 100,000 in Clark County, the SW Washington area has had a population increase year over year of the Hispanic Latino community; both in high birth rate as well as transient movement and migrant worker influx, that has left our community hungry, malnourished and underserved by the current food supply systems in place. Hunger in Washington reflects 10.4% of our population in need of basic food support and reflects the disparities in the Hispanic populations in the graphic shown.*

The 2020 exposure of the COVID-19 Pandemic to our community has been devastating and the gaps in food access; food deserts and lack of affordable nutrient dense produce has had a startling effect on those with comorbidities such as diabetes and Cardiovascular disease, profound in our Latino community.

Because of this, we have sought short term solutions by providing locally grown, nutrient dense produce to our most vulnerable in Clark and Cowlitz counties by purchasing seasonal produce and distributing it through pop – up food distribution sites across the corridor known as East Fourth Plain Blvd – the International Corridor.

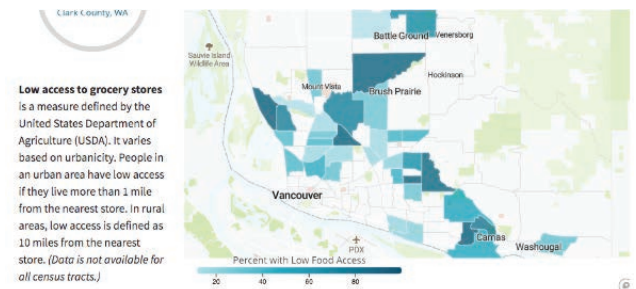
WHAT IS THE WHY THAT WE SEEK? In Clark County, the food distribution is limiting due to many factors:

1. Since 2010 the County has diminished the need for agriculture based businesses and has limited the support of family based small farms. This in spite of the fact that the Willamette Valley is some of the richest soil for production in the US. Clark County sits at the northern tip of the valley and is enriched by the Greater Gorge of the Columbia River. In Oregon, the same valley is producing approximately \$3000 per farmed acre to Clark County’s \$300 per farmed acre – but has the same soil composition.

Households Receiving Basic Food, by Census Tract (2014-2018)

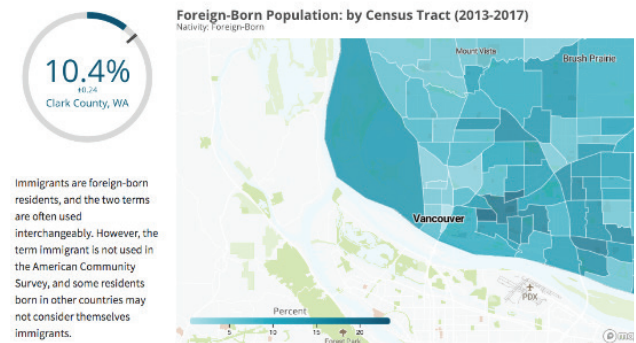


Among households receiving Basic Food in Clark County:



Why this matters: The distance between where one lives or works, and their nearest grocery store can be a primary barrier to consistent access to nutritious food. Between limited time, budget, and access to transportation, many have a difficult time reaching their nearest store. Additionally, grocery stores in more rural communities, or stores in low food access areas often have more expensive groceries and/or lack a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables.

How many Clark County residents are immigrants?



* <https://www.livestories.com/statistics/hunger-in-washington/washington/clark-county-food-insecurity>
<https://www.livestories.com/statistics/hunger-in-washington/washington/clark-county-food-insecurity>

2. The Clark County Food Bank, a part of the Oregon Food Cooperative, is not in a position to support the LatinX community and focuses more on the non-Hispanic White population as described by the management of the bank, indicating that the county serves less than 10,000 of the 100,000 families in need in the BIPOC populations.
3. With no central hub for distribution for the small farms that still produce, the turnaround on locally grown produce is limiting and requires the utilization of local farmers markets, generally not accessible to our marginalized Latino community.
4. Hours of availability of the food banks and pantries are limited by volunteer availability and daylight hours; generally, not available to the working poor of our LatinX community.
5. Culturally relevant produce is not an option to the farms or the pantries.
6. Shelf stable foods (canned and dried) are nutrient lacking and generally not a part of the food culture of our people.

WHAT IS THE HOW THAT WE SEEK? There are several “goals” to this plan.

Our hope is that by building a more sustainable food distribution chain that supports our community through sustainable agriculture practice, healthy alternatives to the small bodegas that currently supply produce to the community, we will improve the health of our community that normally sees a higher risks of comorbidity such as diabetes and Cardiovascular disease.

Then, by seeking land grants to allow our people to move from the farm worker to the farm owner we will be helping sustain the food supply chain more equitably and will have the bonus of creating generational wealth to help eliminate the barriers to this.

HOW WILL WE KNOW IT WORKED? Historically underserved families continue to provide feedback for us to improve the produce available for distribution. We don’t ask for documentation or information but we do keep a database of affected families in need of other funding and support, and invite them. We have counts for the event to understand the bi-weekly participation. Our goal is to serve a minimum of 100 families every other week. In the end, our efforts have shown an improvement and a desire in the community for more effective sustainable support of our community in food sovereignty. This is our measure in the short term. Increasing access to food programs in existence and the building of new programs that are sustainable will give us the measure of success we all seek.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO DO? We want to create a parallel food supply chain that is built by/for our Hispanic population and the communities of color that exist in the SW Washington area.

To do so we must create a pathway that begins with land access to create opportunities to learn growing practices that are both sustainable and prosperous.

We need to create a center built for pantry services and distribution such as a warehouse to house produce for donation and for cooperation in the small farm spaces.

Then we need to educate individuals and families on better practices in agronomics, ecology, soil conservation and permaculture that creates a flourishing natural ecosystem as we continue to fight and be negatively impacted by climate change. 🌱

THE VOICE FOR THE UNDERREPRESENTED

by Richard Perez, Sr.
President of San Benito County Council 2890

My council's story is one of resilience, love, patience, and strength. The ability to overcome remarkable obstacles has become a council hallmark and one that was tested under unimaginable adversity. When the pandemic first started in 2019 fear and uncer-


tainty became entrenched in the Latino community, especially with our dedicated farmworkers. As one of the most essential work forces during a global pandemic they were never the first consideration when it came to things like PPE or Vaccinations.





Our council vowed to never let that be the final answer. Humanity, respect, and love for these hardworking families created a need for a task force who would address these shortcomings and expect better from our government. With the help of the UFW, Council 2890 led an effort to collectively call out the disparities in care and consideration given to farmworkers. Leading the way with food, clothing, and health information drives to help this often-forgotten group of warriors.

The goals of the council became one of dedication to be the voice for the underrepresented. But this has always been the way of Council #2890. Since its formation in 1987, Council #2890 has become the much-needed consciousness of San Benito County. Led by members who have dedicated their lives to public service and equality, 2890 for over 35 years has held a special place in the community. Countless youth and young adults have come through educational programs and activities sponsored by Council 2890. Gaining not only valuable leadership skills but personal and cultural awareness. Which continues to serve them in many ways as they forge their own positive marks upon society.

Today, Council 2890 continues to lead the way through partnerships and opportunities for many in the Latino community. Offering career certification programs in collaboration with Google and LULAC Institute is the latest to help bridge the disparities currently facing that industry. Hopefully bridging the large gap in a workforce who remains at an unacceptable 3% of Latinos. As San Benito County Council #2890 continues to grow, both as a voice for change and one of unity. Our youth, veterans, and seniors continue to receive our dedication and loyalty to improving the quality of life for all Latinos. Being the Stallworth's of a credo whose truth remains as prevalent today as when it was created 93 years ago "All for One and One for All". 

LULAC STOCKTON COUNCIL 2060

ESTABLISHED IN 1974

by Michael Perez

Director Youth Eagles Aviation & Aerospace Education,
LULAC Council 2060




▼ Youth Eagles Aviation and Aerospace Education - Stockton Metropolitan Airport, Hangar E6
L to R: Michael Perez (Director) and students Isac Dimas & Allen Rodriguez.
Photo credit: David Varella

LULAC Stockton Council 2060 was established in 1974. It serves the population of San Joaquin county in the state of California. The council provides an annual Youth Educational Conference, at San Joaquin Delta College. A day where 1600 students come to the conference and listen to distinguished keynote speakers and participate in career workshops. During the year the council raises money for scholarships, which are presented in August at the annual banquet to deserving students. During the holidays the council also provides Christmas food baskets to families in need. Approximately 1500 food baskets are distributed. These events have been promoted by the council for many years. Along with these events the council also has a signature program that has been around for 7 years. The Youth Eagles Aviation and Aerospace Education program is STEM driven (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). It's an afterschool program where students can come to the Stockton Metropolitan airport. Activities include underwater robotics, High Altitude Balloon launches, and aviation and aerospace education.

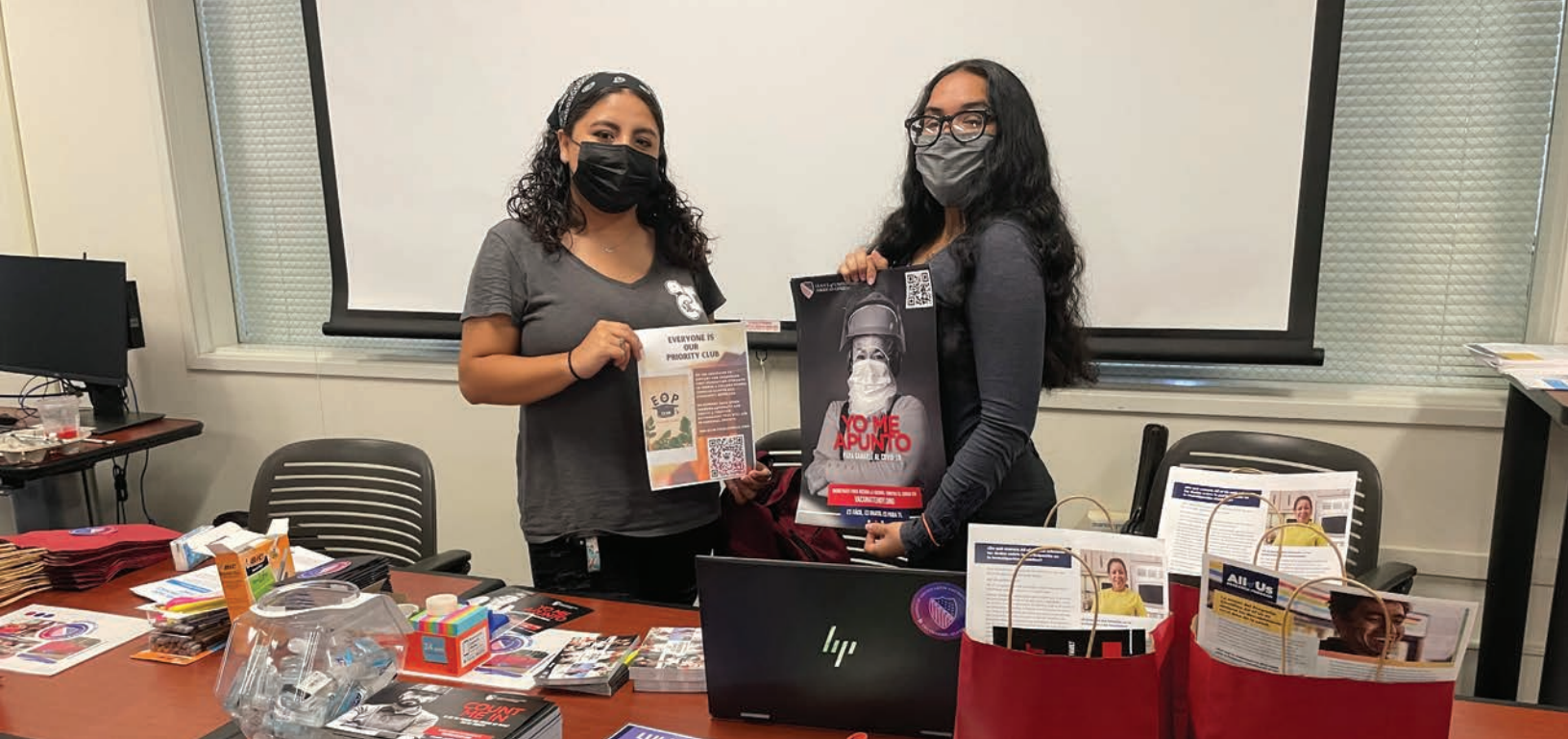
The mission is for the students to be exposed to these STEM fields. Over the next 20 years, 612,000 new pilots are projected to be needed to meet commercial operator demand. Over the next 20 years, 626,000 new maintenance technicians will be needed to meet operator and maintenance, repair and overhaul demand. Over the next 20 years, 886,000 new cabin crew will be needed to meet airline demand. The program has an aircraft, a Cessna 150. Along with two aircraft simulators, and numerous educational materials. Students are introduced to the basic foundations of aerodynamics and flying. Students participate in lab classes and have

“Students participate in lab classes and have an opportunity to learn to fly in the program’s aircraft.”

an opportunity to learn to fly in the program’s aircraft. Students that want to explore this career opportunity and want to acquire their pilots license take a required ground school course and 40 hours of flight training.

Today, factors including exposure to flying, education, funding, and a lack of a support network are the main barriers keeping Hispanic from becoming more involved in general aviation, both as pilots and in industry jobs. The flight deck of U.S. airlines remains a predominantly white male landscape. The most common ethnicity among airline pilots is White, which makes up 89.4% of all Airplane Pilots. Comparatively, there are 5.1% of the Hispanic or Latino ethnicity and 2.1% of the Unknown ethnicity*. LULAC Stockton council 2060 continues to strive to change the landscape for our Hispanic students.* 

* Zippia 2021




LULAC FORMS THE PANTRY PROJECT COMMITTEE

by Jazmin Guajardo
LULAC Council 3291

Being a part of LULAC has helped me become a better student and leader! Last year was my first year as a college student, and I along with 10 amazing friends started our CSU Channel Islands Council and I couldn't be more proud of what we've been able to accomplish within the past year! I contribute my eagerness to start a council with the councils I have been a part of prior to college. LULAC inspired me to join 6 additional clubs with 7 officer positions on campus, be a part of my school's Student Government, and serve on campus committees to represent our Latino/a population. I couldn't imagine my time at CI without LULAC and knew I had to share this opportunity with students who are committed to community service.

Within the past year we have been grateful to have the support of 3 local councils, CIHS #2102, RMHS #2103,

and #3289 VC Young Adults, to form the Ventura County LULAC Pantry Project Committee. Our council has been able to participate in 3 donation drives; one with our campus's Basic Needs Program, a collaboration with the Pantry Project Committee for OUHSD Students, and to a Women and Childrens Shelter.

Recently our Pantry Project Committee is most proud to have partnered with our campus during 3 COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics where over 100 students, staff, and faculty were able to receive a vaccine! During these clinics we distributed hygiene kits and school supplies, with a special thanks to to Oxnard Council #3147 for donating over 50 hand sanitizers! The most important lesson I have learned within LULAC is that you can do anything together. You need a strong team to support your community and that is exactly what our Ventura County Councils are! 

PASO POR PASO... JUNTOS ADELANTE

by Jan Futrell and Lydia Boada Clista
LULAC Lifetime Member, Council 390004 Cincinnati

Since 2019, the Sanctuary Asylum Working Group of the Miami Valley Immigration Coalition, including Lydia Boada Clista LULAC Lifetime Member, Council 390004 Cincinnati, has collaborated with us in organizing support for migrants in our area who are in need of a safe and supportive living space in our community. In response to the group's call for sanctuary churches, Lower Miami Church of the Brethren declared sanctuary and agreed to offer housing for a family with the understanding that the working group would help to organize support for daily needs.

On November 1, 2021, Luciano, Karen and their two sons moved into the church's walkout basement, now a living space. They have applied for asylum and are 2 1/2 months into their waiting period for work authorization (likely 6 months). A late fall arrival and cold winter is a shock for a family from coastal Columbia where it is HOT. But, even in this time of COVID-19, they are determined to stay positive and have quickly become an integral part of the church and MVIC communities. The boys have been welcomed into their school and joyfully played in their first snow. Karen and Luciano are taking English classes and focusing on knowledge they need to thrive in Dayton. We often remind each other that huge, tough challenges in our lives call for us to move forward step by step and that we are all in this together. Luciano expresses that as "Paso por paso. Juntos Adelante."



▲ *Luciano, Karen and their two sons*

The Working Group is one part of the Coalition that joins together all who are working for immigrant justice. In addition to our Columbian friends, we are also connected to an asylum-seeking family from Honduras who are currently in Tijuana. We are glad to share more information about organizing support for or sponsorship of an asylum seeking individual or family. **LN**

For more information, contact Jan Futrell at peacepathsteps@gmail.com

Or visit mvicdayton.org/

TEJANO ACHIEVERS

by José M. Gamez
President of LULAC Council 12

▼ Award presented to Monica Salinas by Jose M. Gamez, LULAC Council 12, President (left), and A.A. LIC. Eduardo A. Garza Robles (right), (International Trade)






▲ *Top of page: 25th anniversary of our Tejano Achievers. Group photo of honorees. Above: Award presented to Ana P. Valdez by Roberto Tellez, Texas LULAC State Deputy Director, (Finance)*

Twenty-five years ago, council member Guadalupe “Pitin” Guajardo came up with the idea of recognizing individuals who excelled in their chosen professions. The ordinary citizen who contributes of his time without realizing positive effects to their community, “the unsung heroes who fall through the cracks,” who go about their business without being recognized for their labor. A quarter century has come and gone and it was Pitin’s idea, “Tejano Achievers” that over two hundred individuals have been recognized for their success and contributions to the local community. Tejano Achievers is celebrated during the month of October as part of, National Hispanic Heritage Month, the perfect time, “for recognizing the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States”. Throughout the years, LULAC Council #12 has recognized individuals who contribute their time or monetarily to the advancement of Hispanic Americans. It can be the little league coach, the foodbank volunteer, leaders of different civic organizations, etc...

LULAC Council #12 has been successful in generating funds for local seniors, through this annual event and at the same time is in good standing in our community. It is quite and honor when people approach us and recommend for our council to recognize an individual who has excelled and is in good standing in the community. Consideration is given through a committee who takes a look at the individual accomplishments and contributions.

This year we recognized ten respectable individuals. The event was held at the Laredo Country Club, with over four hundred attendees. Because of this year’s Tejano Achievers success, we will be able to award deserving scholarships to our local graduating seniors. 

GET A FEDERAL DISCOUNT ON YOUR INTERNET BILL SO YOU CAN BE CONNECTED AT HOME

Has your family struggled to afford internet access? **The Affordable Connectivity Program** can help!

The FCC's **Affordable Connectivity Program** brings down the cost of an internet connection with discounts of up to \$30/month (\$75/month on qualifying Tribal lands).

Participants can also get a one-time, \$100 discount on a laptop, desktop computer or tablet (purchased through a participating provider).

WHO QUALIFIES?

Any household with a member who meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Has an income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline.
- Participates in Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year.
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision.
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income program.

HOW DO I APPLY?

1. Go to **ACPBenefit.org** to submit an application or print out a mail-in application. You can also call (877) 384-2575 for assistance.
2. Contact your preferred participating provider to select an eligible plan.
3. Submit the application online or via mail, along with proof of eligibility.

To apply via mail, print and send your application and eligibility materials to:



ACP Support Center
PO Box 7081
London, KY 40742

TO APPLY OR LEARN MORE



VISIT
<https://acpbenefit.org/>



OR CALL
877-384-2575

A MAJOR WIN FOR DENTON, TEXAS!

by Lilyan Prado Carrillo
LULAC Council 4366

Denton LULAC Council 4366 celebrated 40 years in 2021! It's been an organization that throughout its years has created a level of respect and admiration from many people all throughout this county.

Although not huge in numbers, the council is responsible for collecting donations for scholarships for Latino(a) Scholars who are graduates of Denton High Schools. Donations are always welcome! And as you can see from the photograph, we have some beautiful and amazing scholars to support!!

For a little over 2 years now, 3 of the 5 high schools in Denton also have LULAC Youth Chapters! Needless to say, this is an exciting time in Denton! Our Youth is hungry to know their history, to celebrate their heritage, and we are ready for them to take their place as learners, do'ers, and leaders! Not tomorrow, but today! UNT, TWU, and NCTC are also invited to take part in the development of the richness of our beautiful cultura right here in Denton, TX.

Recently I wrote to City Council Members in support of taking off the voter registration requirement to serve on Boards and Commissions in our city. In essence, what this outdated ordinance was saying was that to be able to serve, one should be a United States citizen. I'm sure there are many opinions regarding this, but today I'm simply sharing mine, and celebrating that the majority of council validated and celebrated the endless contributions that immigrants, old and new, provide for the places they reside in.

On January 25th, 2022 the ordinance was amended. It passed 5-2.

I am thankful that through LULAC, we are able to advocate and educate those who did not have the opportunity to work for the place they hold in this country. Most people who are U.S. born take for granted all that they have here. Today I celebrate immigrants, not at the expense of other groups, but specifically because by writing this letter to council, I am reminded of the hunger that we have, to do what is right. We

My name is Lilyan Prado Carrillo and I am a member of Denton LULAC 4366, and have been a resident of Denton for over 35 years.

I am writing in support of taking off the voter registration requirement to serve on boards and commissions in the city of Denton.

For the majority of my life, I was not considered a U.S. citizen, and therefore was not allowed to vote. However, I earned a bachelor's in education and started a Master's degree in Public Administration from UNT, all while only having my residency status. Not being a U.S. citizen has nothing to do with your ability to serve and lend expertise in areas that you are suited for. In fact, having people from different backgrounds and perspectives only enhances the boards and commissions these people may serve on.

For example, I recently served on the Civil Service Commission, and by me being a woman and a person of color and part of the commission, it allowed our group to consider questions that perhaps wouldn't have been asked had I not been allowed to serve. I am a U.S. citizen now, but even if I wasn't, it would not change what I was able to contribute and therefore should not negate others the opportunity to serve and participate in our civic duties/opportunities.

I, along with millions of people in this country, have struggled with the immigration policies here in the United States and the limitations it has, in allowing people to become permanent residents and then citizens. It took more than 15 years for me to become a permanent resident, and then I had to wait a minimum of 5 years to even apply for citizenship. This doesn't even include the thousands of dollars it takes to submit your application and pay attorney fees to apply for such a process. And even with those limitations, I grew in my profession and knowledge as many others undoubtedly do, and would have done a good and thoughtful job of serving on commissions and boards.

Citizenship status has nothing to do with the expertise, background knowledge and diverse views that individuals can bring to boards and commissions, all for the service of Denton residents.

I ask all city council members to vote yes to removing the voter registration/citizenship requirements when the issue comes up.

I thank you for your time and thoughtful considerations on this matter.

In solidarity,

Lilyan Prado Carrillo



have gone without; we know what life could have been like had we stayed in our country. And at great personal risk, we decided, or our families decided to do a once in a lifetime gamble and try our destiny here. I don't say luck because it's not luck that pushes us forward! It's grit, it's determination! I celebrate all immigrants who ready themselves and assume their seat at the table! And I celebrate our champions who currently serve on city council, who are exposed to these unjust ordinances, and who ask... why? These allies bring this to the attention of the public they swore an oath to serve and ask us to show up! And we do! I give a big thank you to our Councilwoman Deb Armintor, At Large Place 5, for years of service and dedication to the Hispanic Community in Denton, Texas. Adelante!! We march forward! And here is to another 40 years of LULAC 4366 in Denton, Texas! ¡Ajuaa!!! 🇺🇸



THE HISTORY OF LULAC COUNCIL 22198

by Brad Veloz
LULAC Council 22198

I am a native son of Corpus Christi, Texas, birthplace of LULAC. My parents were involved with the organization known as the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) founded in Corpus Christi in 1929. I can recall at least a couple of gatherings held at our house and fundraising ideas such as enchilada dinners were main topics to help the organization. On one occasion we helped our neighbor's daughter raise scholarship funds for the LULAC Feria de Las Flores which she won the crown as La Reina de la Feria that year. I was about eleven years old and remember reading and hearing about that event. Later while in high school I was a member of a social boy's club that sponsored fundraising events. At my suggestion our club sponsored a young woman who competed for LULAC La Reina de la Feria and she also won. My father was always involved in local politics which is why our house was usually the only house on the block with political yard signs during election times. We also lived across the street from the Muniz brothers who the eldest, Ramsey, would later run for Texas Governor. During my Federal employment in Washington, D.C. I joined LULAC and participated and supported LULAC at National Conventions. One of my high school classmates was also elected National LULAC President. After 90 years LULAC adopted an LGBTQ+ Plan of Action presented at the 2019 National Convention. The first LGBTQ+ LULAC Council was established in 2006 in Dallas, Texas. And in 2014 I became a founding member of the first LGBTQ+ LULAC Council in San Antonio, Texas and a Board member of the local LULAC LNES. Although I continue to be a part of LULAC as I approach my 74th year of birth and due to health concerns, my volunteer activities are limited. But LULAC has been and will continue to be in my life. 🇺🇸

Brad Veloz, LGBTQ+ LULAC Council #22198, San Antonio, Texas.
210-416-8332.

LULAC HERENCIA COUNCIL 4297's DEDICATION TO THE COMMUNITY

After receiving the state council of the year at the Texas State LULAC convention in the summer of 2021, LULAC Herencia Council #4297 was excited to provide more resources and opportunities for the community of Central Texas, more specifically the Killeen/Fort Hood area.

To date, LULAC Herencia Council #4297 has applied for and been awarded 3 grants for programming for their local community.

LULAC Herencia Council #4297 has been selected as a recipient for the 2022-2023 Google Career Certificates program. In partnership with LULAC National and Google, The Google Career Certificates program aims to create educational opportunities to support efforts to increase economic empowerment and mobility among Hispanic families and communities.

LULAC Herencia Council #4297 will also provide a FREE Adelante America program in partnership with LULAC National and Verizon. Adelante America Program seeks to create a motivational environment for Hispanic high school students that encourages and nurtures them to become leaders in their communities.

This grant will provide an educational leadership program that allows students to develop personal and professional skills and encourages them to think about their college and/career options after




▲ Team members (left to right) Andrea, Daniela, Paula, and Paolo present pitch their idea to the whole group.

Margerid and Roseanie work on a circuit board. ▶

high school. It will also include STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) workshops to help introduce students to that field of study.

LULAC Herencia Council #4297 is also providing free STEAM programming through the Latina LEADS STEAM gran for middle school girls. A partnership with LULAC and Spectrum. This program offers students the opportunity to participate in 3-hour STEAM workshops for the entire school year. We will be focusing on the four pillars of Technology, Engineering, Cybersecurity, and Broadcasting.

LULAC Herencia Council #4297 continues to work in our community to help and provide for those in need with our community service and dedication. 



The LEGACY of LULAC

by Rodolfo Rosales, Jr.
State Director of Texas LULAC

My name is Rodolfo Rosales Jr., State Director of Texas LULAC. I am honored and humbled to have been asked to write a brief essay on the lasting impact and legacy of LULAC, the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization. This imprint is not only in the Latino community but also in American society. First, I wish to introduce one extraordinary person. For the last forty-four years since joining the organization in 1978, Rosa Rosales has exemplified for me the core values and activism of the League of United Latin American Citizens. She wears many hats, both literally and figuratively, and has many nicknames, but I like just to call her mom. At the same time, while I know the history of LULAC and the reason for its founding, my intimate knowledge of the legacy of the League is through my mother's commitment and activism as a member and respected leader in LULAC.

The primary goal of LULAC, as established in its founding in 1929 as a volunteer organization, is to serve, protect, and advance the general welfare of the Latino community. Rosa Rosales embodies that ideal through her activism as a member of LULAC

and a citizen of this great country. In the four-and-a-half decades that Rosa Rosales has served as a member of LULAC, she has blazed many trails. She was ultimately elected National President from 2006 to 2010. Along the way, she opened the doors for many others within the Latino community. She did so for women and the LGBTQ community, to name just two. Her foresight and actions have created unprecedented opportunities for our esteemed organization to achieve new heights.

One significant characteristic of my mother is that she has never forgotten her humble beginnings in San Antonio. She was born on the south side of San Antonio in an impoverished area and a modest home. She was third in a family of six sisters. Her parents, Hermiño and Ramona Salazar, were not wealthy yet raised all six daughters and made ends meet. After my mother graduated from high school, she worked as a bread girl at the St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio. She then met Rodolfo Rosales Sr. They would marry and have three boys along the way, myself (Rodolfo, Jr.), Miguel Angel Rosales, and Gabriel Yaotequia Rosales. Soon after we were born, my father whisked all

of us away to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. My mother obtained her degree with high distinction (a 3.8 GPA), and my father earned his Ph.D.

Upon returning home, my mother visited the beautiful, world-famous Riverwalk in downtown San Antonio and saw beautiful new hotels. She also noticed that the Latino community was still highly segregated. Nothing had changed in the barrios on the Southside, Westside, and Eastside, which are predominantly working class and poor. This realization is where my mother's LULAC story begins. She met Angie Garcia, and they began organizing public employees to include all of the community, including the south and west neighborhoods of San Antonio. They also started organizing local LULAC councils and began their rise within a male-dominated civil rights organization.

They did many things along the way, such as housing, educational scholarships, leadership training, and the list goes on and on. Suffice it to say, my mother and her dear friend Angie set a very high standard for the rest of LULAC in San Antonio. While Rosa came from a very humble beginning, she never took no for an answer and saw adversity as a challenge. I am living proof of the doors she has opened as I would become the first-ever openly gay man to become Texas State Director.

Now that I have shared my mother's story, I would like to discuss the three major milestones that have had a lasting impact on our community and nation. The first is Mendez vs. Westminster, filed in Santa Ana, California, under LULAC in 1946, which eventually ended segregation in California Schools and set the key precedent in the landmark decision of 1954 in Brown Vs. Board of Education Topeka. As we all know, this ruling would have a lasting and powerful impact on American society and forever change all our nation's American experience.

Although LULAC is not mentioned nor even referenced in many history books, it is vital that we do not forget Mendez Vs. Westminster set the bar and key

precedent leading up Brown Vs. Board of Education Topeka. Had it not been for the few brave souls in that small agricultural town in California who demanded equality for their children, who knows where we would be today as a society. Had it not been for the men and women of LULAC standing up for their community, where would the Latino community be in American Society? Thankfully, because of the legacy of LULAC and its determination to demand equality, we don't have to wonder about what-ifs; instead, we stand tall and move forward to the next obstacle and next challenge.

Secondly, comes the story of Gustavo Garcia and his powerful and eloquent argument before the Supreme Court. He created the "class-action lawsuit," and many would argue strengthened the 14th Amendment as we know it today. The story and now legendary tale begins in Edna, a small South Texas town in Jackson County. "Pete" Hernandez would be convicted of murder by an all-white jury, with no Latino participation, which had become a systemic problem within Texas and places like Jackson County. Based partly on a movement and pressure on the Census Bureau in 1936 by LULAC, citizens of Mexican descent were counted as "white" starting in 1940. Jackson County's argument was there was no discrimination as Mr. Hernandez was "white" and, therefore, represented in the reflection of the jury pool. Understanding all the dynamics of this case could literally take a lifetime, so to simplify this glaring contradiction, one must understand the evil of segregation and its profound and lasting impact on American society.

Mexican Americans were segregated throughout Texas without legal recourse. LULAC, along with other prominent Latino leaders, naively believed that classifying Mexican Americans as "white" would tear down the doors of segregation. Obviously, this did not happen, and now Texas and Jackson County began using the "white" classification against Mexican Americans to justify discrimination in the jury selection.

This moment was where LULAC and the American GI Forum entered the debate. They assembled a legal dream team which consisted of James De Anda, Chris Alderete of American GI Forum, and Carlos Cadena, John J. Herrera of the League of United Latin American Citizens. They brought Gustavo “Gus” Garcia into this landmark case before the United States Supreme Court. The now-famous argument that Gustavo Garcia argued was a brilliant presentation of “a class apart.” Even though Mexican-Americans were classified as “white,” Garcia asserted that they were treated as a “different class of whites.” Therefore, the argument was, based on their ethnicity, they were not receiving the guaranteed protection of the 14th Amendment.

The Supreme ruled unanimously in favor of Hernandez, thus establishing the “class action” and strengthening the 14th Amendment. The lasting legacy of this ruling can be told in the opinion of Chief Justice Warren “The 14th Amendment is not directed solely against discrimination due to a two-class theory –that is based upon differences between white and Negro.” The court also held that Hernandez had “the right to be indicted and tried by juries from which all members of his class are not systematically excluded.

Thirdly, there is the story of the “Little School of 400”. LULAC members from Council 60 in Houston, Texas, in the 1950s, noticed that Spanish speaking first graders’ failure rate was at 70 percent (these children mainly were of Mexican descent). They quickly realized that it was due to a lack of vocabulary in the English language. LULAC Council 60 then approached one of their members, National LULAC President Felix Tijerina, for financial support. He and Alfred J Hernandez began a program to help these Spanish speaking children pass to the second grade.

Then in 1957, in a twist of fate, a teenager named Isabel Verver learned about the proposed project through an article in Texas Outlook Magazine. She called President Tijerina and convinced him to start the pilot program in her small town of Ganado, Texas, approximately 100 miles southwest of Houston. The

goal was to teach the children at least 400 words to help them get to the second grade. A list of 400 words was provided by a Texas educator named Elizabeth Burrus. She used her years of experience teaching Spanish-speaking children English to develop the eventual list used in the first pilot program. And thus, the program had a teacher, and the list was ready to become a reality.

The pilot program was a success, and 60 students completed the first grade and continued to the second grade. Due to phenomenal success, LULAC expanded the program all over the state of Texas. Governor Price Daniel recognized the program for its success in Sugarland, Texas, on June 23, 1958. However, President Tijerina could not sustain the program financially; then, in 1959, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 51 entitled “The preschool Instructional Classes for Non-English –Speaking Children.” The program was approved and implemented throughout Texas.

Later, President Lyndon Baines Johnson used the “The Little School of 400” as the template for his vision of what we now know today as the Head Start Program. This project continues as the longest-running federal program in the nation and provides early childhood education, health, and nutrition to low-income families. Great thanks for the vision of LULAC Council 60 and two LULAC members, President Felix Tijerina and Alfred J. Hernandez, who would later serve as a National LULAC President.

In closing, I am filled with pride in writing this essay on the long-standing legacy of this genuinely proud organization. May we each appreciate and treasure the profound impact LULAC has made in the Latino community and American society. Special thanks to Alfonso Maldonado, David Contreras, David Cruz, and my father, Dr. Rodolfo Rosales for contributing to this essay. So, I end by paraphrasing President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” Ask not what LULAC can do for you but what you can do for LULAC. **LN**

A globe made of crumpled paper with hands made of crumpled paper holding it.

**HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR
THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF LULAC STANDING UP
FOR THEIR COMMUNITY,
WHERE WOULD THE
LATINO COMMUNITY BE
IN AMERICAN SOCIETY?**

CELEBRATING 93

1929

THE LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS WAS FORMED IN CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS.



1963

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ADDRESSES LULAC MEMBERS IN HOUSTON.



1946

IN SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA, LULAC HELPS FILE THE MENDEZ VS. WESTMINSTER LAWSUIT

THAT ENDED 100 YEARS OF SEGREGATION IN CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE CASE BECAME A KEY PRECEDENT FOR BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION.



1954

LULAC ATTORNEYS ARGUE HERNANDEZ VS. THE STATE OF TEXAS BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT, WINNING THE RIGHT FOR MEXICAN AMERICANS TO SERVE ON JURIES.



1986

LULAC TAKES THE LEAD IN ADVOCATING THE LATINO POSITION WITH THE IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT OF 1986.

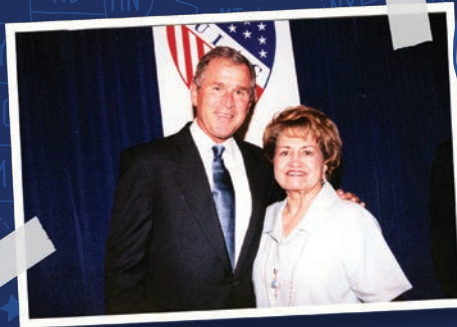
YEARS



LEAGUE *of* UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS

1994

BELEN ROBLES WAS ELECTED THE FIRST WOMAN LULAC NATIONAL PRESIDENT. SHE SERVED 4 YEARS IN OFFICE.



1996

LULAC ESTABLISHES THE LULAC INSTITUTE TO PROVIDE MODEL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS FOR LATINO COMMUNITIES.



2020

LULAC MOBILIZES COUNCILS ON THE GROUND TO PROVIDE COVID-19 RELIEF FOR MORE THAN 75,000 FAMILIES IN NEED.

2004

LULAC LAUNCHES THE LULAC LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE TO REVITALIZE HISPANIC NEIGHBORHOODS FROM WITHIN BY CREATING INNOVATIVE GRASSROOTS PROGRAMS IN OVER 1,000 HISPANIC COMMUNITIES SERVED BY LULAC COUNCILS.



2021

LULAC DEMANDS JUSTICE FOR VANESSA GUILLEN AND BRANDON CASERTA BY MOBILIZING TO PASS THE I AM VANESSA GUILLEN ACT AND BRANDON ACT TO PROTECT THOSE SERVING THE MILITARY.

2009

LULAC WORKS WITH THE NATIONAL HISPANIC LEADERSHIP AGENDA TO PUSH FOR THE NOMINATION OF SONIA SOTOMAYOR AS THE FIRST LATINA U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE.

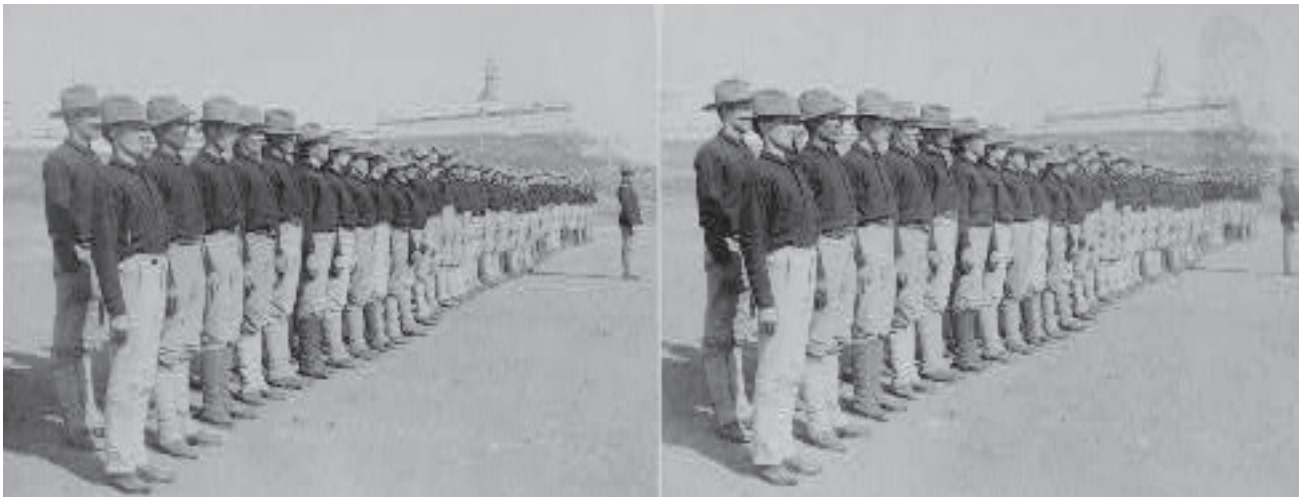


Puerto Rico:

Isla Del Encanto

by Lucas Martinez
LULAC National Senior & Legal Advisor





▲ *Top: First company of native Puerto Ricans enlisted in the American Colonial Army, Puerto Rico Left: LULAC PR- 4/4/22 Department of Interior Meeting*

Thousands of LULAC members will soon descend on the historic city of San Juan, Puerto Rico, to attend the 2022 LULAC National Conference and Exposition. This summer, Puerto Rico is celebrating the 500th anniversary of the founding of Old San Juan, the oldest city in the United States. Rich with history, proud culture, and welcoming citizens, the city will be the perfect site as LULAC members reconnect during long awaited in-person events.

Puerto Rico, with its 3.2 million inhabitants, is a Caribbean island and unincorporated territory of the United States. First populated by a number of indigenous people of the Caribbean, including the Taínos, Puerto Rico was colonized by Spain following the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1493. Juan Ponce de León served as the first governor of the island and La Fortaleza is the oldest governor's mansion in continuous use in the Americas. Puerto Rico remained a Spanish possession for the next four centuries, until it became part of the United States in 1898 following the Spanish-American War; two years before Idaho was admitted to the United States, becoming the 43rd State.

Initially, Puerto Rico was ruled by the U.S. military, until the Foraker Act of 1900 established a civilian government with a governor and an executive council appointed by the President of the United States, a House of Representatives, a judicial system with a Supreme Court and a United States District Court, and a non-voting Resident Commissioner in Congress (appointed by the President). To this day, the Resident Commissioner exists and affords the only non-voting Congressional voice for the people of Puerto Rico. The Jones-Shafroth Act of 1917, granted U.S. citizenship to anyone born in Puerto Rico on or after April 11, 1899 and also created the Senate of Puerto Rico, established a Bill of Rights, and authorized the election of the Resident Commissioner to a four-year term. In 1947, the U.S. Congress passed the Elective Governor Act, allowing Puerto Ricans to vote for their first governor, Luis Muñoz Marín, in 1948.

Puerto Ricans have a longstanding tradition of U.S. military service. In fact, Puerto Ricans participated in the American Revolution, when volunteers from Puerto Rico, along with thousands of Hispanics, fought the British in 1779 under the command



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Google Career Certificates Program

LULAC.org/certificates

In partnership with



of General Bernardo de Gálvez with important efforts in the Carolinas, Georgia, and the final victory in Yorktown, Virginia. Over 235,000 Puerto Ricans have served as members of the US military. The 65th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed “The Borinqueneers”, has participated in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Global War on Terrorism and was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

Also known as the Isla del Encanto (not to be confused with the Oscar Winning movie Encanto), Puerto Rico is celebrated for its pristine beaches, lush tropical flora/fauna, and central mountain range called the La Cordillera Central. El Yunque National Forest located in northeastern Puerto Rico is the only tropical rainforest in the United States National Forest System and the United States Forest Service.

Puerto Rico has three bioluminescent bays which are rare bodies of water occupied by microscopic marine organisms that glow when touched.

The Puerto Rican coqui (pronounced ko-kee) is a small arboreal frog and a cultural symbol of Puerto Rico. The term “coqui” refers to the sound of the call produced by males during mating season.


Puerto Rico has experienced a number of natural disasters that have caused widespread destruction. In 2017 alone, Puerto Rico was indirectly hit by Hurricanes Irma and Jose, while ultimately falling in the direct path of Hurricane Maria. Maria’s destruction was such that it created a dire humanitarian crisis and many on the island were without electricity for 4-6 months after landfall. On

7 January 2020, the island experienced its second largest earthquake, estimated at magnitude 6.4 which caused more widespread damage and economic losses.

These frequent natural disasters have only highlighted the plight of the Puerto Ricans to build and maintain critical infrastructure. Unbeknownst to many is the fact that U.S. Territories, including

Puerto Rico, get less federal funding for all major programs and face disadvantages because it doesn’t have the parity it would enjoy as a state. As a result of decades of underinvestment, the issue of Puerto Rico status has become the subject of heightened national and international debate. In the last decade alone, the people of Puerto Rico have voted

three times (2012, 2017, and 2020), rejecting the current colonial status and reaffirming their desire to be admitted as a state. LULAC was one of the first pan-Latino civil rights organizations to take an internal membership vote in favor of Puerto Rican statehood over a decade ago. Most recently in 2018, our entire national body approved the latest resolution, requesting statehood.

For those attending the National Convention and Exposition, we’re sure that what awaits you is a hospitable and welcoming community of Hispanic brothers and sisters. We hope you enjoy the many events surrounding our LULAC events, but also hope that you get to enjoy the rich culture, food, music and environment that Puerto Rico affords. 

The Jones-Shafroth Act of 1917 granted U.S. citizenship to anyone born in Puerto Rico

LULAC NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMISSION IS ON THE MOVE AND MAKING HISTORY

by David Cruz
LULAC Communications Director





▲ *Top: (L to R) Marcela Salazar, LULAC Media, Ralina Cardona, LULAC VP for the Northeast, Caridad Pierluisi, Assistant to the Governor of Puerto Rico, Domingo Garcia, LULAC President, & Elsie Valdes-Ramos, LULAC VP for Women.*


Latina leaders in the LULAC National Women's Commission throughout the United States and Puerto Rico are setting a torrid pace for progress and tackling some of the most critical challenges today in their homes, communities, and, yes, nationally.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has been a moment of decision for Latinas," says Elsie Valdes-Ramos, LULAC National Board Member and Vice-President for Women. "We were either going to let the effects of the virus slow us down, or we were going to overcome it. We decided there was no choice. Our families need us. Our communities depend on us, and women have always been the heartbeat of their homes and our societies, so there is no way that we have the luxury to sit and wait for others. We became the leaders again who defied the odds and the challenges to press forward," adds Valdes.

That spirit of determination and unstoppable, fierce courage led to very successful, unprecedented encounters of women leaders in key communities throughout Puerto Rico. Community leaders, elected officials, and appointed heads of government agencies, programs, and institutions work together to address critical local and regional needs. They are convening discussion meetings, panels, and forums to explore solutions in housing assistance, access to

health care, educational impacts on children affected by pandemic-related factors, and much more.

Last November, this collaboration model proved to be the formula for success at the LULAC National Women's Commission Conference held in New York City. "The two-day conference was LULAC's first national event in nearly two years," says Ralina Cardona, LULAC National Board Member and Vice-President for the Northeast, where the conference happened. "The event vastly exceeded all expectations for program impact, attendance, and lasting progress on issues critical to Latinas today," she adds.

Our goal, both in New York and in Puerto Rico, is to demonstrate the empowerment of LULAC women as well as our capabilities to organize, mobilize and deliver the programs that serve our communities," says Valdes. "There has been an overwhelming amount of support, including an army of LULAC Women's Commission volunteers in Puerto Rico and so many others ready to pitch in and rebuild the economy of Puerto Rico's families and neighborhoods. There is much more to do, and the need has never been greater, but LULAC Puerto Rico and the LULAC Women's Commission team are dedicated to keep pressing forward. With God's help, we know we can succeed by working together," says Valdes. 

PUERTO RICO LULAC IS IN FULL ACTION ON THE ISLAND

by David Cruz
LULAC Communications Director






The spirit of service to communities is seen daily throughout Puerto Rico thanks to the hard work and dedication of countless LULAC volunteers fanning across cities, towns, and neighborhoods.

For months, organized teams of volunteers are being dispatched to even remote, difficult-to-reach areas taking donated and purchased goods to people in desperate need. LULAC Puerto has been in existence for 30 years, and many of its members have tenure in the League of 32 years. “We are not going to lose even one day without doing everything we can to help our young ones, seniors, or anyone who is facing a crisis as many people on the island are because of the pandemic,” says Elsie Valdes-Ramos, LULAC National Board Member and Vice-President for Women. “Yes, times are tough, but we are tougher, and we are resilient LULAC members who take our responsibility very seriously. We deliver food, daily living necessities, school supplies and make sure people have access to medical care as much as possible. The miracles are our volunteers who come out every time we need them and say, I’ll go. They have, they are, and I am as confident as the sunrise tomorrow across our beautiful island; they will go again and again, wherever needed. Que Viva LULAC!” she adds with pride.

This ongoing need in Puerto Rico is why LULAC members on the island and the mainland continue to advocate for parity on a per-capita basis in allocating federal resources to ensure that local humanitarian needs are being met.

“Puerto Rico LULAC is on the move, even helping repair and rebuild housing for poor families unable to do so on their own,” says Carmen I. Cruz, LULAC Puerto Rico Women’s Commission Representative. Carlos Fajardo, LULAC Puerto Rico State Director, echoes that urgency. “It is important that as an organization, LULAC stands united in urging our elected officials not to forsake the millions of us in Puerto Rico who are U.S. citizens and yet, face third-world conditions,” says Fajardo.

“Truth be told, there is no difference in the heart of a child who longs for an opportunity here from a youngster anywhere else in the United States. Or a senior who is alone on the island and hoping for vital health services that may never come and is left to wonder why? Now is the time for all to see that Puerto Rico LULAC is in action, and we will continue, never relenting in our fight for justice!” adds Valdes-Ramos. 

NATIONAL LULAC LGBTQ AFFAIRS COMMITTEE APPOINTS NEW MEMBERS, GETS READY FOR PRIDE MONTH

by Jesse Garcia
Chair of the LULAC National LGBTQ Committee



Below: Pride Parade LULAC Lambda Council June 2019. Image Right: LULAC Lambda LULAC Lambda 11125 Members in 2019 Capital Pride Festivals



For the fifth year in a row, LULAC's LGBTQ Affairs Committee has been approved by the National Board to advocate within the Latino community for its Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer familia.

Established in 2018 by LULAC National President Domingo Garcia, the committee has helped the largest and oldest Hispanic civil rights organization build bridges with the LGBTQ+ community by implementing the following goals:

- 1) provide our national LULAC office and state leaders with subject matter advice on LGBTQ issues,
- 2) create programming to build awareness of LGBTQ issues within the Latino community, and
- 3) grow LULAC's presence within the LGBTQ Community with the establishment of new councils.

To accomplish those goals, national leaders and state directors have appointed key LGBTQ LULAC members to develop policy and outreach initiatives.

"We got young leaders who are elected officials, seasoned professionals involved with LGBTQ advocacy organizations, and LGBTQ historians who were there from the beginning now serving on the committee," said Jesse Garcia, chair of the National LULAC LGBTQ Affairs Committee. "I appreciate the support the National President and National Board have given its LGBTQ membership. When it comes to civil rights, LULAC walks the walk — equality for everyone."


Joining the National LULAC LGBTQ Affairs Committee this year are the following:

- **Council 04615** Dagoberto De Jesus Acevedo (Fairfax, VA)
- **Council 11125** Javier Aquino (Washington, DC)
- **Council 11125** Nancy Cañas (District Heights, MD)
- **Council 22400** Elias Cantu, Jr. (San Benito, TX)

- **Council 04615** Jonathan Dromgoole (Arlington, VA)
- **Council 11125** Leti Gomez (Washington, DC)
- **Council 15387** Wilfred Labiosa (San Juan, PR)
- **Council 03290** Edwin Millan (Los Angeles, CA)
- **Council 22423** Christopher Muñoz (Lubbock, TX)
- **Council 03147** Micheala Perez (Oxnard, CA)
- **Council 00380** Sergio Perez (Dubuque, Iowa)
- **Council 22399** Deborah Rios (Corpus Christi, TX)
- **Council 02862** Jorge Reyes Salinas (Sacramento, CA)
- **Council 22198** Frankie Saucedo, Jr. (San Antonio, TX)
- **Council 39000** Joseph Ze Soza (Columbus, OH)
- **Council 04871** Jesse Tafalla, Jr. (Dallas, TX)

Committee members are busy preparing for June when our nation celebrates LGBTQ Pride Month. LULAC LGBTQ Councils will participate at the following pride celebrations throughout the nation:

- Pride Corpus Christi, June 3-10, Various Locations
- Dallas Pride, June 4 and 5, Fair Park
- San Juan Pride, June 5, Parque del Indio
- Boqueron Pride, June 10-12, Cabo Rojo
- DC Capital Pride Festival, June 12, Pennsylvania Avenue
- Pride San Antonio, June 25, Crockett Park

For more information about the committee and upcoming Pride Month events, follow the National LULAC LGBTQ Affair Committee on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @LULACPride. To join an existing LGBTQ council or form new one, contact Chair Jesse Garcia at jessegarcia@lulac.org. 



2022 LULAC NATIONAL CONVENTION RULES

1. Only delegates, or alternates replacing a delegate, wearing their certified badges, will be allowed in the voting section. All other persons shall be seated in an observation area designated by the Presiding Officer or Election Judge. The only exception to this rule shall be to accommodate a physically challenged delegate or alternate who desires to be seated in a special area.
2. A member in good standing has the right to ask that non-members be removed from the election area. This shall include the news media.
3. An Election Judge shall be appointed by the National President to conduct the elections. The Election Judge shall be appointed prior to the start of the National Convention.
4. The Election Judge shall appoint at least three (3) Official Observers for all elections for the purpose of: a. serving as counters, as necessary; and b. being present at the time of electronic voting system installation and testing. Testing will include a sample test vote. The Election Judge will report the results of the sample test vote to the National Assembly.
5. Elections shall be by electronic ballot, including voting on amendments, resolutions and runoffs. If electronic ballot is unavailable, then voting shall first be by voice vote. If no clear winner is determined by the Election Judge or successfully challenged by any candidate, then a stand-up vote will be held. If results are still not clear, then a hand count shall be held row by row.
6. No delegate or alternate may have more than one (1) vote in anyone (1) election.
7. Voting in absentia shall not be allowed.
8. A candidate not previously announced, as per the LULAC National Constitution, may run from the floor provided that a written certification endorsement by the total accredited delegations of a minimum of five (5) councils, including the candidate's home council, is made to the Election Judge prior to or at the time of nomination.
9. Each candidate has the right to appoint one (1) observer/counter for the purpose of verifying the count and, if they wish, may be present for the electronic sample test ballot.
10. Each candidate shall have three (3) minutes for speeches. No speeches by unchallenged candidates shall be allowed.
11. In elections in which more than two (2) candidates are involved, and no one (1) candidate receives 50 percent plus 1 majority of the certified votes, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall immediately go into a runoff. No speeches shall be allowed in runoff elections.
12. Challenges to any election must be made issued to the Election Judge before the next election is started. It shall take a two-thirds (2/3's) vote to overturn any final ruling made by the Election Judge or by the National Legal Advisor.
13. The order of elections shall be as follows:
 - a. National President

- b. National Vice President for the Women
- c. National Vice President for Youth
- d. National Vice President for Young Adults
- e. National Vice President for the Elderly
- f. National Treasurer
- g. National Vice President for the Southwest
- h. National Vice President for the Midwest
- i. National Vice President for the Farwest
- j. National Vice President for the Southeast
- k. National Vice President for the Northeast
- l. National Vice President for the Northwest
- m. 2025 Convention Site

14. Presentation of Constitutional Amendments shall follow the procedures set forth in Article XIV, Section 2. Amendments from the floor shall not be allowed. Discussion on amendments shall be limited to two (2) speakers for and two (2) speakers against with each speaker having two (2) minutes.

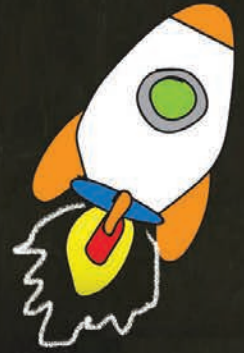
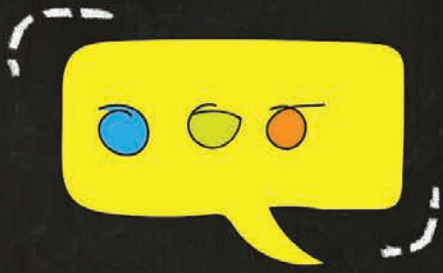
15. All Resolutions shall follow the same procedure established for Amendments. Resolutions from the floor may be permitted but must be type written and submitted in the form provided for in the LULAC website and submitted by a local council in good standing. Resolutions being submitted from the floor must be presented to the Resolutions Committee not later than 5 pm on the Friday before the National Assembly is Convened. The Resolutions Committee shall read the resolved portion of each resolution and make its recommendation to the General Assembly. Discussion on each resolution shall be limited to one (1) speaker for and one (1) speaker against with each speaker having two (2) minutes. Speaker must announce if he/she is speaking in favor or against the resolution in question.

16. Any issue not covered by these Convention Rules will be determined by the proper provisions within the LULAC National Constitution, By-Laws & Protocol, and Robert's Rules of Order (revised) in that order.

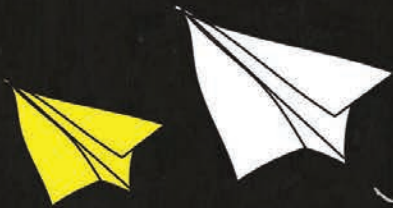
17. These adopted 2022 Convention Rules may be changed by a two-thirds (2/3's) vote of the General Assembly.

18. Delegates, Alternates and Guests must always maintain proper decorum. Whistling and whistles are not allowed.

19. Any individual(s) disrupting the National Assembly business or election proceedings as determined by the Presiding Officer or Election Judge, or that uses profanity or verbally threatens or attacks another member on or near the voting floor will be removed from the voting floor by the Sargeant at Arms and charges to discipline the member(s), including expulsion for "actions contrary to the principles of LULAC" may be brought against the member(s) by the Presiding Officer, Election Judge or any certified delegate at the October Board of Directors meeting. Charged member(s) rights and appeals shall be those outlined in the LULAC constitution such as in Article IV, Section 1. b. (8). ■



Ford Driving Dreams
**GRANTS
PROGRAM**
RETURNS TO ITS ROOTS



by **Melissa Cossio**
LULAC Community & Workforce Development Program Manager

The past two years have brought on a new reality for many students and families across the country. As communities battled against COVID-19, students were greatly impacted by the consequences of the pandemic including delays in learning progression, limited access to academic support, and barriers to learning remotely resulting from lack of technological equipment or broadband connection.


The Ford Driving Dreams Grants program became pivotal in addressing these gaps to support students across the country and Puerto Rico. Through the support of Ford Motor Company Fund, LULAC councils and their educational partners were able to carry out initiatives that brought localized solutions to the unique challenges faced by students in their respective communities.

The initiatives helped stimulate STEAM academic achievement, on-time high school completion, and college enrollment. In addition, a strong focus on students' mental health and wellbeing became critical to help them succeed inside and outside of the classroom. With increased individualized support, students became better prepared to face the challenges and uncertainties COVID-19 brought into their lives. They developed an increased sense of resilience and strengthened their support system through the program.

“The Ford Driving Dreams Grants program encouraged me to do well academically, the program has assisted me in positioning myself as a strong applicant for colleges of my choosing,” shares a student from Waukegan, IL, “In addition, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the assistance my family received from the program reduced my family's financial hardships.”

With many students returning to the classroom in person, students and educators are yet again facing unique challenges to balancing the safety of everyone amidst a pandemic and continuing to provide students with the academic support they need to succeed. In this 'new normal,' LULAC and Ford Fund are ready to step up to the times—as they did back in 2010 when they welcomed the first cohort of program sites—to continue to support students, educators, families, and communities.

For the upcoming cycle of the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program, LULAC and Ford Fund are once again returning to the program's roots to address the greatest and current needs of students and their families. Successful initiatives will feature a program model with a stronger focus on STEAM enrichment, college readiness, non-traditional paths to higher education, workforce preparedness, entrepreneurship, and mental health. The Ford Driving Dreams Grants program will continue to create localized strategies to best support students' education as well as incorporate efforts aimed at long-term recovery for communities most impacted by the pandemic.

To date, the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program in partnership with LULAC has funded 88 high school dropout prevention initiatives across 25 states, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and supported the education of more than 2,981 students. 

Learn more at LULAC.org/ford.



FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND

THE FUTURE OF HEALTH BEGINS WITH YOU

by Jennifer Reyes
LULAC Health Programs Coordinator


It is critical for Latinos to be well represented in medical research to ensure our community benefits from future advances in treatments and prevention strategies that could allow us to enjoy healthier and longer lives. Since 2018, LULAC has helped the All of Us Research Program engage more than 8,000 Latinos across the United States through in-person and digital community events. We've hosted Cafecitos, Loterías, and the All of Us Journey, the program's traveling mobile exhibit.

LULAC recognizes that health research has never felt more urgent than it does right now during the COVID-19 pandemic. So instead of waiting for change, we want to actively be the change. The All of Us Research Program is dedicated to better health, both in the future and today. Throughout the pandemic LULAC and the All of Us Research Program have continued our partnership to ensure the community has reliable resources and information. The program created a way for All of Us participants to help advance COVID-19 research through the COVID-19 Participant Experience (COPE) survey. This survey would help researchers learn more about COVID-19 and its effect on physical and mental health.

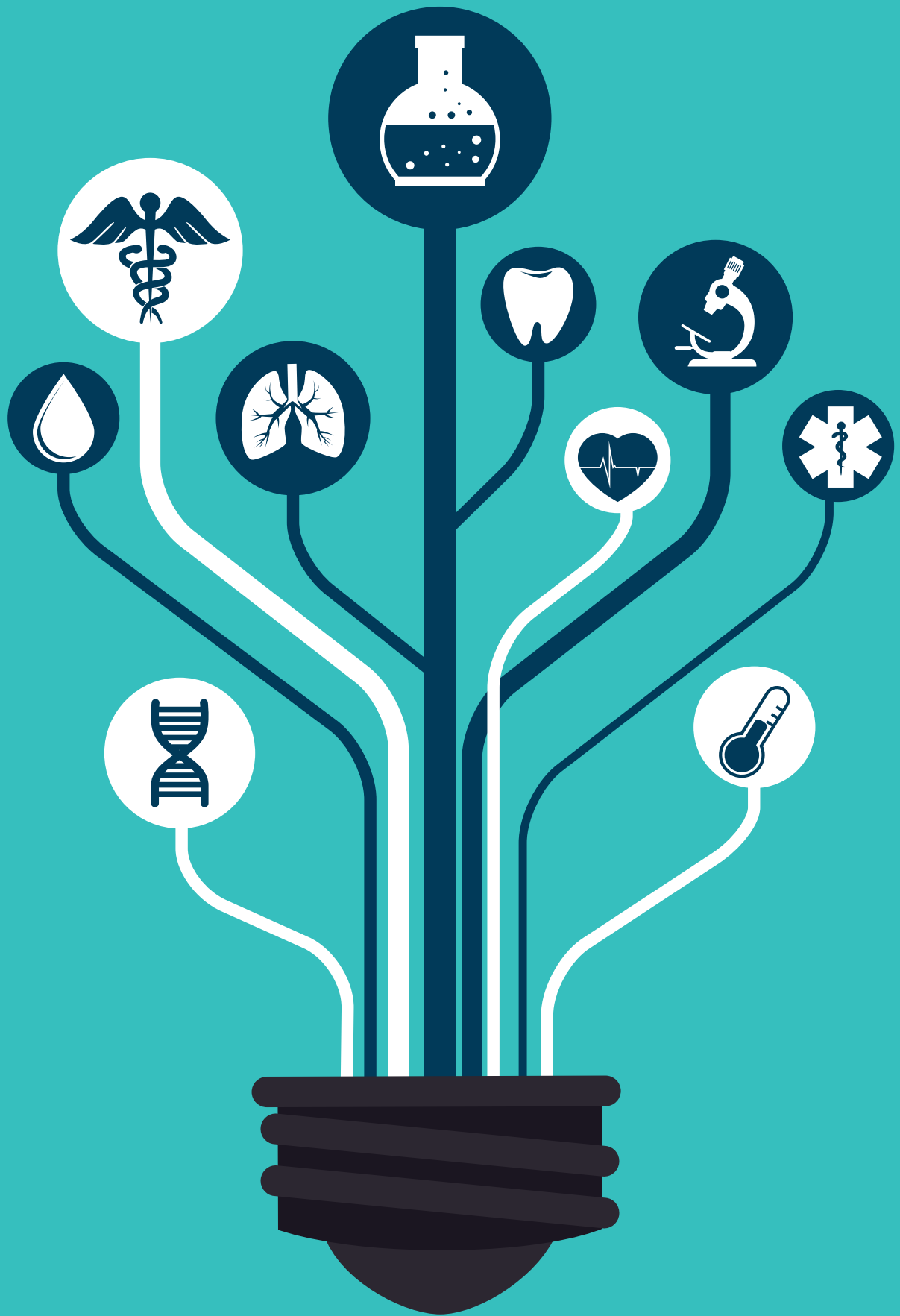
During 2021, LULAC held over 50 vaccination and canvassing events in over 10 states. Our councils held events in community centers, schools, universities, and churches. Through these vaccination events our councils reached over 7,000 people and vaccinated 2,000 people. Through these

efforts 70,800 bilingual flyers were distributed across the country regarding information about vaccinations, HIV, obesity, health research, and internet access.

Additionally, LULAC curated a Lotería game, which is a traditional game of chance played in Latino culture. It is similar to bingo where players are given a card with varying images. With this twist on Lotería, LULAC aims to engage communities and show how we're all different for many reasons. This can be due to genetic, environmental, and lifestyle makeup. With this version of Lotería, we are able to continue the work in helping our communities understand how the All of Us Research Program connects to their everyday life.

LULAC finds it important to provide culturally relevant information to our community. Our intent is to provide information that is easy to understand and accessible. Oftentimes health resources are convoluted and hard for the general public to understand, especially those whose first language isn't English. We want to help our community take charge of their own health by joining the All of Us Research Program. You can learn more and become a participant at JoinAllofUs.org/Together. 





NORTHEAST REGION



Ralina Cardona
LULAC Northeast Regional VP

This year I am proud to say that the Northeast has grown its membership and has continued its work in the community while keeping our members and those we serve safe at the same time.

As Northeast Regional VP I am very proud of all of the Work our state directors and all of the membership have done throughout 2021 and 2022.

While a lot has been done we know that our community is still in need on many levels from health to education and of course our fight for voting rights to name a few issues. The work is not done and the northeast is ready to continue its commitment to the community.

THE EMPIRE STATE - NY

LULAC Concilios Unidos of New York, during Women's History Month, on March 26th celebrated and took part in Women Empowerment 2022.

There were many workshops throughout the day that included:

- **Education:** Forum "Building a new reality" with panelists who handle current issues.
- **Finance:** Topics that included how to save for college, invest for your future and save for retirement.
- **Business & Marketing:** How women can create, market and grow their businesses

▼ *New York women at Women Empowerment 2022.*





▲ Connecticut Zoom meeting.

- **Health & Nutrition:** How to keep you, your family & your community healthy during COVID-19
- **Women's Empowerment:** Strengthening our minds, bodies & souls.

The women of LULAC NY participated in all of the workshops and gave out PPE to the community.

- Aureo Cardona, State Director of NY LULAC

THE CONSTITUTION STATE - CT

The opportunity given by the LULAC Foundation and Coca-Cola Foundation to host the Latina Entrepreneur Academy 2022 in Spanish, through LULAC Council 712 Connecticut, was an absolute success. The purpose of the Academy was to provide professional information and tools to Hispanic entrepreneur women who are seeking to create a successful and legal business in the United States. The entire team, who worked really hard every day for four months to make this happen, is very proud to announce that over 50 Latinas completed the curriculum presented, and received a certificate of recognition for

completion. As a team, we are very grateful for the opportunity to create an Academy in representation of LULAC, we had presenters from various sectors of society, with incredible knowledge and best disposition to help each participant. These companies were: BOC Capital Corp, Kue by Mojavie, InQmatic Centro de Negocios, and Connecticut Small Business Development Center.

The seven-week program began on February 17th, 2022, with 2 hour zoom courses held every week, until graduation on March 31st, 2022. We began by having a workshop on "Writing Your Business Plan", so it could be completed by the end of the Academy with all the information being provided along the way. Each week, we provided different topics on: Branding and Marketing, Generating Sales, Financing and Budgeting, Licenses and Permits, How to Register your Business, etc... Guides were provided in each session, so each participant was able to use the tools shared by each presenter to fill out their Business Plan and use in their business growth.

The dedication, enthusiasm, empowerment and hard work shown by each participant, was the engine to



▲ *DC Mayor Muriel Bowser with Jesse Garcia
Washington, DC State Director*

this program. They were the ones who made this possible, and our motivation to give them our best. We are very proud of all the amazing women who took this opportunity to the next level and we look forward to seeing them succeed in their business. Also, infinite thanks to the most wonderful team anyone could ask for.

- *Erika Echavarria, Program Coordinator*

THE BAY STATE - MA

Council 12113 ended 2021 with smiles on the faces of the children of Boston, MA. For the past 25 years, the council has donated toys to Toys For Tots and participated once again, in handing them out at the annual community event.

“The joy that one feels when you hand a toy to a child has no words. The love that those children give is pure and unconditional. This is the true spirit of LULAC.”

- *Regla Gonzalez*

THE DISTRICT – WASHINGTON DC

More than 50 LULAC members and guests attended the District of Columbia’s LULAC State Convention on April 2. The convention’s keynote speaker was DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, who lauded the Latino community for higher performing scores in DC Schools. Members also heard from National LULAC CEO Sindy Benavides, National Vice President for the Northeast Ralina Cardona, and candidates for LULAC National Office. A Presidential Appointment workshop was held featuring Biden and Obama appointees and how to navigate the application process.

During the business portion of the convention, state delegates passed the following resolutions:

- Resolution in Support of LGBTQ Youth in Schools
- Resolution to Oppose Bans on Teaching American History Accurately
- Resolution in Support of Expanding the Vote in the District of Columbia
- Resolution in Support of Rank Choice Voting in

U.S. Elections

- Amendment 1: District of Columbia Hosts LULAC National Conventions in Presidential Election Years

The state delegation elected the following officers:

- Jesse Garcia (LULAC 11125) for State Director
- Jaime Miguel McCarthy (LULAC 11129) for Deputy Director
- Kevin Bernabé (LULAC 11128) for Deputy Director for Young Adults
- Bettie Baca (LULAC 11041) for Deputy Director for the Elderly
- Marcus Markle (LULAC 11129) for the Deputy Director for Youth
- Gilda Goldental (LULAC 11129) for Deputy Director for Women.

“I am extremely honored to be re-elected as State Director,” said Jesse Garcia. “We are working hard to grow DC LULAC by strengthening our existing councils and preparing to launch new collegiate and youth councils in 2022.”

Garcia appointed Melannie Sandoval (LULAC 11129) as Secretary, along with Alex Rodriguez (LULAC 11041) as Parliamentarian.

Awards were bestowed on the following councils and members for outstanding work in 2021:

- **Council of the Year:** LULAC 11041 - The Originals
- **Members of the Year:** LULAC 11129 Claudia Barrera and LULAC 11125 Javier Aquino
- **Collegiate Council of the Year:** American University LULAC
- **Collegiate Member of the Year:** Georgetown LULAC Martin Moreno
- **Youth Council of the Year:** LULAC 17002 Haynes High School
- **Youth Council Member of the Year:** LULAC 17002 Monica Castro

- **Volunteer of the Year:** LULAC 11129 Tony Hernandez
- **New Member of the Year:** LULAC 11125 Michael Ramirez
- **State Board Member of the Year:** LULAC 11129 Gilda Goldental
- **Amigo of the Year:** Latin American Youth Center
- **Program of the Year:** LULAC 17002 Rock Creek Park Clean Up
- **State Director Awards:** LULAC 11125 Julio Acevedo and LULAC 11129 Melannie Sandoval

To learn more about DC LULAC, follow the organization on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram at @DCLULAC or visit www.dclulac.org.

- *Jesse Garcia, State Director of DC LULAC*

OLD DOMINION - VA

As a young girl I remember very clearly seeing my mother wrap empty boxes with wrapping paper during Christmas. Coming from a low-income background, my mother couldn't afford to buy actual gifts for my sisters and I. Growing up, I promised myself that someday I would provide toys to the children living in my community so that they wouldn't have to go through what I went through. On December 6, 2021, that dream came true.

Virginia LULAC partnered with the Legal Aid Justice Center and the Maids of Arlington to distribute 300 toys to low-income families living in Falls Church, Virginia. We distributed the toys during the bi-monthly food distribution that is hosted by the Legal Aid Justice Center right outside of the Woodrow Wilson Library. The eyes of the children sparkled with happiness as they picked out a toy for Christmas. It brought tears of joy to the eyes of our volunteers to see the excitement.

Giving back to the community.

This is what Virginia LULAC is all about. We serve the Latinx community across the commonwealth



▲ Toy Drive in Old Dominion, VA.

and we are intentional about giving back to the low-income communities that are oftentimes overlooked.

Special thank you to the Virginia LULAC State Board (Mariana, Liz, Eli, Lisseth, Jonathan, Alex, and Karen), our council presidents, council leaders, and our partners for all of their hard work and for always giving back to the Latinx community. We wouldn't be able to do this work without you.

Our hope is to continue distributing toys every year to children across the commonwealth. If you wish to help us out check out www.valulac.org and send us a message.

- Jasmin Chavez, Virginia LULAC State Director

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LULAC National Convention & Exposition PUERTO RICO



The LULAC Convention is an exciting, history-making convention, because it convenes the national delegates of LULAC to discuss issues, set policies, and elect the organization's national leaders. For this reason, the LULAC Convention is covered by national and local media. It is the only convention in which participants representing Hispanic communities from across the country determine the positions and strategies of a national Latino organization.

SCAN HERE



LULAC.org/convention22

▶ July
25-30
2022