

Second Annual Hispanic/Latino Faculty UNC System Forum

Professional Advancement, Campus Initiatives And Leadership Roles in the University

September 13 - 14, 2013 - UNCW McNeill Hall

Overview

The Second Annual UNC Hispanic/Latino Faculty Forum was held on September 14th, 2013 in McNeill Hall on the campus of UNC Wilmington. There were fifty people in attendance including speakers and guests from non-UNC campuses. The First Annual UNC Hispanic/Latino Faculty Forum was hosted by NCSU last year. Consecutive forums are set to rotate among the other UNC campuses yearly. The hosts for the next three forums will be UNC Charlotte, Appalachian State University, and UNC Greensboro. The forum was open to all faculty, including faculty of Hispanic/Latino heritage, as well as those whose areas of research are tied to Hispanic studies, and/or Hispanic populations. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss professional advancement, campus initiatives, and leadership roles of Hispanic/Latino professionals in the UNC system.



The forum began with a welcome from Dr. Edelmira Segovia, UNCW's Interim Associate Provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, followed by a welcome from Dr. Denise Battles, UNCW's Provost. Dr. Battles' introduction presented facts on how Hispanic students are now the largest minority at four-year institutions nationwide, the buying power of the U.S. Hispanic market now tops \$1.2 trillion, and the field of higher education continues to be a strong supporter of immigration reform through national organizations such as the ACE and APLU, including advocating for DREAMERS and a streamlined green-card system for STEM graduates and all international students with doctoral degrees. She also sent the message that future of the nation will be affected by the education of Hispanics.



Dr. Edelmira Segovia welcoming forum participants.

Professional development Opportunities: AAHHE, HACU, NCORE

Dr. Edelmira Segovia from UNC Wilmington and Dr. Samuel Lopez from UNC Charlotte presented on professional development opportunities: AAHHE, NCORE, and HACU. Dr. Segovia emphasized the value of the Pew Research Center, “a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.” Pew Research Center has many useful tools for instance downloadable tables and charts, interactive maps, and scholarly articles. The American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) is a cross-disciplinary, higher education organization primarily focused on the need to develop Latino/a faculty and senior administrators as well as serving as a leading research and advocacy group for Hispanic higher education issues. AAHHE upholds the critical beliefs that higher education should address the needs of Hispanics, and that institutions of higher education can be more effective in meeting the needs of the changing U.S. demography. Their next Annual National Conference is on March 6 -8, 2014 in Costa Mesa, CA.

The Hispanic Association of College and Universities (HACU) represents more than 400 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, Spain and Portugal. In order to qualify for HACU membership, the Hispanic student population must reach 25%, and to qualify as an associate member the Hispanic student population must reach 10%. Institutional membership depends on the size of the campus. In North Carolina, Duke University and Meredith College are both partner institutions of HACU. They offer annual conferences, and paid internships and scholarships for members. The National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE) is a disciplinary event designed to provide a significant forum for discussion, critical dialogue, and exchange of information as institutions search for effective strategies to enhance access, social development, education, positive communication, and cross-cultural understanding in culturally diverse settings.

The NCORE National Conference is May 27 – 31, 2014 and is open to student leaders and faculty. They offer student scholarships to attend the conference. They can also provide student organizations with up to \$1000. Furthermore, SACNAS, the Society for the advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science is a society of scientists dedicated to fostering the success of Hispanic/Chicano and Native American scientists, from college students

to professionals, to attain advanced degrees, careers, and positions of leadership in science. They conduct year round programming including: leadership development, chapter activities and regional meetings, and conference programming. The date for the SACNAS national conference is October 3 – 6, 2013. Currently NC State University has a SACNAS chapter.

Campus Initiatives Panel: UNC Charlotte, ASU, UNCW

Mr. Carlos Mendez, Assistant Director Latino Student Services at UNCC and Dr. Samuel T. Lopez, Director Multicultural Academic Services at UNCC began this panel presenting on the efforts to develop Latino Student Services at UNCC. Mr. Carlos Mendez was hired as the first Assistant Director of Latino Student Service in July 2013. Their goals include supporting the Latino community on and off campus, creating awareness and gaining community support, as well as crafting an inclusive student oriented space.

Appalachian State University faculty, Dr. John Craft de Ornes, Mr. Augusto Peña, and Dr. Claudia Cartaya-Marin, presented on the formation of Appalachian@s, pronounced, “Appalachianos.” They mentioned that their Hispanic student population is at 4% with over 500 Hispanic students attending ASU.

Ms. Natalie Picazo, Interim Director of Centro Hispano, finalized this panel by providing an overview of UNCW’s Centro Hispano, one of the four diversity offices under the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. Centro Hispano’s goal is to increase the representation of diversity within the Hispanic culture through their student population, faculty, staff, campus events, curriculum and community engagement. Centro Hispano advises Hispanic student organizations and conducts a mentoring program for high school students. They also provide a student space for all students on campus to experience diversity and through recruitment efforts, aid in creating a diverse campus. Ms. Picazo mentioned that networking and communicating information regarding Hispanic programs throughout campus needed to be strengthened so that Centro Hispano could be a stronger source of information regarding campus programs and opportunities relating to Hispanic culture.



Campus Initiatives Panel: ASU, UNC Charlotte, UNC Wilmington

Creating a Campus Voice

This panel was comprised of faculty from UNC Charlotte. The panelists were Ms. Catherine Blat, Dr. Benny Andres, and Dr. Yvette Huet. They discussed their recent efforts to organize Hispanic faculty at the UNCC campus. They started by identifying Hispanic faculty through word of mouth and meetings to discuss the purpose of the group, membership requirements, as well as establishing goals.

Latinos in Senior Administration: Chief Diversity Officers, University Admissions Officer

This panel was comprised of Dr. Edelmira Segovia and Mr. Marcio Moreno from UNCW, Dr. Samuel Lopez from UNCC and Dr. Claudia Cartaya-Martin from ASU. During this session these chief officers addressed topics such as internal and external pressures, the importance of relationships, and recruitment efforts from the Admissions department. Dr. Samuel Lopez addressed the issues of the increased tension followed by the success of a Hispanic Senior and Dr. Segovia mentioned that sometimes senior officials need to be a shield against racial and stereotypical attacks from the community.

Additionally, Mr. Marcio Moreno, Director of Admissions at UNCW, gave insight on admission recruitment efforts and step-by-step procedure for making connections to Hispanic students within the institution. Moreno presented UNCW's resources such as access to a Live Chat with a counselor (<https://uncw-uga.gotoextinguisher.com/Ext/Livecounselor/welcome>), the convenience of a virtual tour (<http://uncw.edu/admissions/virtualtour.html>), and also gave us a preview of the works of the UNCW's first online brochure.

Student Perspectives – Reflections on Inspiration and Motivation from Hispanic Faculty

At the start of the Student Perspective panel, students from UNCW, UNCC, and ASU shared some of their background information and expressed obstacles they have had to overcome to ultimately be where they are. Many are first-generation college students and showed extreme gratitude to the Hispanic Faculty for serving as role models and opening doors for these rising graduates. They covered topics such as campus involvement, navigational issues, social media influences, and future success. Julian Rivera, a senior majoring in accounting at UNCW addressed the issue of handling non-supporters of Hispanic student advancement. "If 1 out of 20 is against *this* group of people, just remember that 95% are happy, and economics is the best way to respond because the future of NC is with *us*." Jenny Betancur, a graduate student at UNCC shared her appreciation for the faculty by stating that "Our future is bright because of the hard work of this faculty, and as students we are extremely grateful." Comments from all student panelist were reflective and inspiring to the UNC Hispanic faculty audience. They were left reminded of their important role not only to all the students they serve on their campuses, but particularly of their importance to this ethnic minority group of students.



Waleed Jarrad-CFCC, Anaisy Cardo-ASU, Gabriela Lopez Marcicos-ASU, Jose Reyes-UNCC, Jenny Betancur-UNCC, Jessica Duron-UNCW, and Julian Rivera-UNCW provided their reflections.

Special Thanks to

Dr. Suzanne Ortega, UNC Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.



**UNCW Ritmo Latino and
Teodoro Ernesto Ortiz "The Golden Left Hand"**

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