Centro Hispano
HISPANIC LATINO CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015
THE VISION
Centro Hispano will be the necessary resource for UNCW to become the university of choice for Hispanic students, faculty and staff.

MISSION
The mission of Centro Hispano is to nurture students into becoming strong leaders, representative of all the core values of UNCW, through the promotion of academic excellence, cultural representation and leadership development. Centro Hispano serves as a link between students and all available resources needed for their academic growth, as well as for their development as future professionals. We focus on embracing and nurturing diversity, on student leadership development and on best practices and use of resources for academic success. Our emphasis on diversity is exemplified by our goal of increasing the representation of the diversity within the Hispanic culture through students, faculty, staff, campus events, curriculum and community engagement. Our focus on student leadership development provides students with enrichment opportunities such as leadership conferences, leadership seminars and certificates, as well as leadership roles within our campus and community.

OUR GOAL
The goal of Centro Hispano is to support the rapidly growing number of Hispanic students applying, attending and completing degrees at UNCW. We promote opportunities that broaden understanding and appreciation of diverse Hispanic cultures and offer resources, such as support networks, that maximize the success of each student. Our initiatives include establishing local service-learning internships and volunteer opportunities, linking students with professional mentors, and most importantly, providing a place where every student feels at home while striving for success.

HISTORY
Centro Hispano originated through the efforts of a distinguished faculty member who saw the need to increase diversity on campus, particularly the Latino demographic. At that time, Centro Hispano had no budget, office or staff. Today, Centro Hispano serves close to 1000 Hispanic/Latino students who attend UNCW, and reaches out to the local community with several initiatives, mentoring programs, cultural events and special outreach programming.
WHAT CAN CENTRO HISPANO DO FOR YOU?

Centro Hispano, part of UNCW’s Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, creates a responsive educational, scholarly and social environment for Hispanic/Latino students, faculty and others interested in Hispanic culture. The center supports the research, teaching and service components necessary for the training and preparation of global citizens. It also informs, guides and champions UNCW’s engagement with the region on issues critical to Hispanic constituencies.

FOR OUR FACULTY AND STAFF:

Provide training for you, your colleagues and your staff on education and population trends regarding Hispanics/Latinos.

Recruit a higher number of Hispanic/Latino students to create a more diverse student body for UNCW.

Complement the academic mission of your class by partnering with you to develop co-curricular activities (e.g., speakers, films, roundtable discussions) that will further your students’ depth and appreciation of topics covered in classes.

SUPPORT YOUR RESEARCH THROUGH:

• Networking with other universities as part of the Consortium of Hispanic/Latino Higher Education Professionals.

• Connecting you to faculty and staff interested in your research areas.

• Providing you with materials. Our office has books and films on Hispanic/Latino culture and issues, available from our lending library.

FOR STUDENTS:

Provide a welcoming space where you can connect with other Hispanic/Latino students and Centro Hispano staff, and be a part of the UNCW Hispanic/Latino family.

Organize multicultural events on campus.

Connect you to student organizations such as Ritmo Latino and Centro Hispano Embajadores.

Provide a mentoring opportunity with MI CASA.

Guide you toward accessing campus resources.

Fully develop your leadership skills.

Participate in many social and community service activities.

These opportunities are open to all; you do not have to be Hispanic/Latino to come to Centro Hispano or use our resources.

These are just a few of the resources Centro Hispano has to offer. Please contact us at centrohispano@uncw.edu or 910.962.7785 for more information, to share ideas or to partner with our office.
MI CASA (Mentors Initiating Community Action, Support and Advocacy) mentoring project at the University of North Carolina Wilmington is an innovative program designed to provide access to higher education to Hispanic/Latino high school students in North Carolina.

The goal of this two-year program is to identify high-achieving Hispanic students from local high schools, including students from rural counties with high migrant labor populations, who wish to further their education at universities like UNCW. During this college preparatory process, high school mentees and UNCW mentors foster a stronger sense of community.

MI CASA’s mentoring project involves UNCW faculty members as well as graduate and undergraduate scholars. The program is designed to encourage the highest level of education for selected Hispanic high school sophomores who demonstrate promise, determination, discipline and need. MI CASA serves as a comprehensive support program that provides mentoring, college preparation seminars, tutoring, community service and cultural enrichment activities in order to help high school mentees become compelling candidates for college admission and scholarship awards.

- MI CASA serves a total of 29 high school mentees paired with 37 UNCW student mentors.
- Three Saturdays in October, MI CASA offers SAT prep sessions for MI CASA high school participants.
- MI CASA organizes “Seahawk for a Day,” where mentees in the MI CASA program have an opportunity to experience UNCW as they become college students for one day.
- MI CASA organizes academic activities and parent meetings with bilingual presentations throughout the year, as well as family celebrations to recognize the success of the participants at the end of each semester.
- MI CASA arranges mentor retreats with the guidance of Seahawk Adventures and five mentor trainings in collaboration with the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement.
- On April 20, 2015 the MI CASA program was featured in Hispanic Outlook magazine, the sole Hispanic educational magazine for the higher education community for more than 25 years, in an article titled, “Mentoring Creates Path to College” by Frank Di Maria.
- MI CASA mentees have been accepted to Yale, Princeton, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNCW Wilmington, Duke, Barry University, Brown University, Cornell University, NC State, Appalachian State, UNC Charlotte, East Carolina University, Dartmouth College, Meredith College, George Washington University, Georgia Tech, Hawaii Pacific University, Coastal Carolina Community College and Cape Fear Community College.
- MI CASA organizes visits to the UNCW Center for Marine Science where high school students have the opportunity to explore and discover marine habitats in a hands-on, inquiry-based classroom, field and lab activities.
**Centro Hispano Embajadores** is a UNCW student organization dedicated to motivating young students to pursue a higher level of education and to positively influence their communities through their contributions and achievements. Embajadores focuses on informing Hispanic/Latino youth about various post-secondary education opportunities while fostering leadership development within the Embajadores student membership.

**HIGH SCHOOLS VISITED**
Isaac Bear Early College High School

**MIDDLE SCHOOLS VISITED**
Pender County Middle Schools
Williston Middle School

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS VISITED**
Castle Hayne Elementary School
Wrightsville Beach Elementary School

**CONTACT**
President: Rachel LeCates
Email: rl5385@uncw.edu

**Ritmo Latino** is a UNCW student organization dedicated to the dance culture of Latino America. Students strive to learn more about Latin cultures through diverse Latin-style dances such as bachata, cumbia, merengue, salsa and banda. Join Ritmo Latino for a good time learning many Latin dances.

**2014/2015 EVENTS**
Latino Festival (Wilmington community)
UNCW International Festival
UNCW Dance Company Showcase
UNCW Hawk It Out Annual Dance Competition
Islands Performance
PG Showcase
5001 Lounge Performance

**CONTACT**
President: Victor Mancha
Email: vmm2312@uncw.edu
### Demographics 2014

#### UNCW Hispanic Student Enrollment

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<td>2013/2014</td>
<td>880</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014/2015</td>
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#### Degrees Conferred to UNCW Hispanic/Latino Students

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>2010/2011</td>
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<td>2013/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014/2015</td>
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</table>

#### Top Majors Among Hispanic/Latino UNCW Students 2014

- Pre-Business - 6%
- Business - 7%
- Psychology - 5%
- Marine Biology - 6%
- Biology - 5%
- Other Majors - 73%

#### Residencies of Hispanic/Latino UNCW Students 2014

- Local Counties NC - 26%
- Other Counties NC - 59%
- Other States - 12%
- Other Countries - 3%

#### Hispanic/Latino UNCW Students Gender Fall 2014

- Female - 65%
- Male - 35%

#### Hispanic/Latino UNCW Students Undergraduate/Graduate 2014

- Undergraduate - 92%
- Graduate - 8%
ORGANIZATIONAL TABLE

Centro Hispano Director: The director of Centro Hispano facilitates the Centro Hispano team, which consists of one program coordinator, one mentoring program advisor and four student assistants. Centro Hispano includes Hispanic cultural literacy, heritage and demographic workshops, community outreach, Hispanic faculty and staff network, opportunities for bilingual students, culturally focused pre-college advising, professional networking and student resources including a study area, cultural library and student organizations.

MI CASA Program Advisor: The role of the MI CASA program advisor is to lead high school students into post-secondary education and support Centro Hispano’s programming. Responsibilities include managing all recruitment efforts for MI CASA mentors and mentees, including coordinating efforts with staff and students at participating high schools, and coordinating UNCW mentor recruitment efforts on campus. Additional responsibilities include curriculum planning for mentors and mentees, mentor training, community service development and individualized college/career planning for multiple cohorts.

HISPANIC FACULTY AND STAFF ASSOCIATION (HFSA)

This organization brings together faculty and staff of diverse backgrounds with the purpose of celebrating Hispanic heritage, advancing Hispanic issues in a professional setting, and supporting the growth of Hispanics in higher education.

LATINO ALLIANCE

The mission of the Latino Alliance of Southeastern North Carolina is to build a stronger network among people and organizations that serve the Hispanic/Latino community in the region and to empower local citizens and organizations that serve the Hispanic/Latino community by creating positive change in areas of education, business, health care, safety and community building. Led by the University of North Carolina Wilmington, the Latino Alliance serves as a network and a platform from which to access resources, share information and discuss issues, both of progress and of challenges still to overcome.

EN ESPAÑOL

This year, Centro Hispano began expanding outreach efforts by providing simultaneous interpreting during first-year and transfer orientations, and for key events. Various UNCW websites have also been translated, and the content is currently linked to the Centro Hispano website.
FALL SEMESTER

We welcomed 140 Hispanic first-year students and 114 Hispanic transfer students. Our fall 2014 group totaled 952 Hispanic students (including 67 graduate students).

AUGUST

Raise Your Flag (Aug. 26): Meet-and-greet social for incoming first-year and transfer students to connect with staff and other Hispanic/Latino students at UNCW. Students attached their names to their heritage country’s flag. Food, friends and dancing to Latin American music.

MI CASA Opening Day (Aug. 30): Our fifth year of academic mentoring. Having reached the largest participation of any other year with 29 mentees (high school students in grades 11 and 12) and 37 UNCW mentors, some mentees had two mentors supporting their pre-college and academic experience.

SEPTEMBER

Spanish Film Club Festival (Aug. 28- Sept. 25): UNCW was awarded the Pragda Film Festival grant for the fourth consecutive year. Five films were featured at Lumina Theater throughout Hispanic Heritage Month. The Spanish Film Club series was made possible with the support of Pragda and the additional contribution of Spain Arts and Culture. Co-sponsors included the Association of Campus Entertainment, LGBTQIA Resource Office, Office of International Programs, Upperman African American Cultural Center and Women’s Studies and Resource Center.

Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15): We kicked off our Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations with a cultural fair at the amphitheater during the day, followed by our traditional Salsa Fiesta @ Sundown (Sept. 19). This celebration included music from Orquesta K’che, which provided authentic Latin American rhythms.

Second Annual Latino Alumni Gathering (Sept. 28): Alumni, current students and family members enjoyed great food, music and friends at Hugh MacRae Park. The event was sponsored by Centro Hispano with the purpose of strengthening Hispanic/Latino alumni network and support.

Tami Trio – Tango Dance Workshop (Sept. 29): An internationally acclaimed Argentine music and dance ensemble. The evening started with two tango lessons teaching basic steps. The night culminated with a tango and Latin dance party. Co-sponsored by UNCW Department of English.

OCTOBER

Multicultural Networking Reception (Oct. 1): Students networked with and learned from Wilmington employers and UNCW staff about careers, internships and volunteer opportunities. Co-sponsored by UNCW Career Center.

National Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (Oct. 15): Needle-free testing was provided by Partners In Caring. An information session was available while participants waited for test results. Co-sponsored by LGBTQIA Resource Office.

La Quilombera – Afro-Latin Rock Band (Oct. 16): Afro-Latin rhythms at Kenan Auditorium. After the concert, guests had an opportunity to get autographs and pictures with the band. Co-sponsored by the Association of Campus Entertainment and Upperman African American Cultural Center.

Centro Hispano Halloween Decorating and Dia de los Muertos Art Contest (Oct. 23): Students celebrated one of Mexico’s most iconic and popular traditions while enjoying a stress-free evening at Centro Hispano.

NOVEMBER

Chantel Acevedo (Nov. 4 and 5): Cuban author visited campus for UNCW’s Writer’s Week. She discussed fictional craft writing and writing from the margins. Co-sponsored by UNCW Department of English.

Hispanic Student Recruitment Fairs (Nov. 8 and 15): Soy Un Lider Conference at Guildford College and the Latino Festival in Wilmington. UNCW Centro Hispano staff and students shared resources available at UNCW, including details on college admission and career planning. Registration and transportation sponsored by UNCW Office of Admissions.

MI CASA Seahawk for a Day (Nov. 11): MI CASA high school mentees spent the day attending UNCW classes. Members of the Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association, other UNCW faculty and student mentors hosted high school students in their classes. Students’ career interests were aligned with appropriate classes.

Fourth Annual Celebration of Cultures (Nov. 24): Faculty, staff and students brought dishes from their home countries for a potluck lunch. Those attending learned about each other’s cultures.

Nano Stern – Chilean Singer and Guitarist (Nov. 21 and 22): Nano Stern presented on the history of Latin American music, from indigenous times through the influence of Spanish conquistadors, and the arrival of African slaves; presentations held at Lumina Theater and Heide Trask High School. He gave a concert in Thalian Hall. Co-sponsored by UNCW Presents.
DECEMBER

120 Days, Film Screening and Discussion with Producer Ted Roach (Dec. 2): An intimate look at the lives of one family whose father faced deportation. Film producer Ted Roach led a discussion after the film. Co-sponsored by UNCW Department of Foreign Languages and literatures.

Successful Latinos Reception (Dec 12): A reception with family, friends and staff was held in honor of Hispanic/Latino students who graduated in the 2014 fall semester. Red cords were given to the graduates to wear at commencement ceremonies. Certificates highlighting students’ heritage flags were distributed. Students had a chance to honor the faculty and staff who made an impact on their education. Verizon Wireless was the sponsor of this event and recognized a distinguished student with the “Verizon te Reconoce Award.”

SPRING SEMESTER

This semester we welcomed our spring admission Hispanic Seahawks!

JANUARY

“Bienvenida” for spring first-year and transfer students (Jan. 15): Centro Hispano staff and students welcomed incoming first-year and transfer Hispanic students for spring 2015. They enjoyed food, music and discussed various campus resources. The event was held at Centro Hispano.


Bladen County College Exploration Day (Jan. 30): Bladen County high school students visited UNCW and participated in discussions led by Hispanic faculty and students, based on their career interests.


FEBRUARY

Reality Series: “Los Jets” (Feb. 2 and 19): Produced by actress/singer Jennifer Lopez, the series documents the lives of the Latino high school soccer players in Siler City, NC. Paul Cuadros, UNC Chapel Hill professor and coach of Los Jets soccer team, joined by two champion former team players led a panel discussion after the final showing. Co-sponsored by Watson College of Education.

Hispanic/Latino Alumni Mixer (Feb. 15): Hispanic/Latino alumni reunited at the Plaza Mariachi Mexican restaurant, where they reconnected with former classmates, new alumni, and staff from Centro Hispano and the UNCW Office of Alumni Relations.

Fundamentals of Rueda de Casino (Feb. 21): This was the first of three salsa workshops on Rueda de Casino. Carolyn Dew from SALSAAtlanta led this workshop, which was open to the entire campus. Co-sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Multicultural Employee Panel (Mar. 2): UNCW Career Center hosted its annual Multicultural Employer Panel for UNCW students to gain valuable insight from local employers while prospecting for potential careers. Co-sponsored by Centro Hispano and the Upperman African American Cultural Center.

MARCH

120 Days, Film Screening and Discussion with Producer Ted Roach (Mar. 18): Second screening this year. This film captured an intimate look at the lives of one family whose father faced deportation. Film producer Ted Roach led a discussion with the audience after the film. Co-sponsored by UNCW Department of Psychology.

Vamos a Bailar! Let's Dance! (Mar. 21): Professional salsa instructor, director and founder of SALSAAtlanta, Julian Mejia led three workshops on Cuban salsa. Students and faculty were able to take their new skills to the evening dance party organized by Julian Mejia to complement the workshops of the day. Co-sponsored by the UNCW College of Health and Human Services.

The Impact of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (Mar. 23): Forum to discuss the significant impact of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Presenters from BB&T, UNCW, a local immigration attorney and a DACA recipient presented information and personal narratives to a community audience. Co-sponsored by the Latino Alliance of South Eastern NC and BB&T.

FARMWORKERS AWARENESS WEEK (MAR. 24-31): UNCW participated in a week of awareness about farmworker issues. Centro Hispano posted daily messages on Facebook and showed the film Cesar Chavez during this week.

Film: Cesar Chavez (Mar. 25): In honor of National Farmworker’s Awareness Week, Centro Hispano and the Anthropology Department hosted a screening of the film Cesar Chavez.

NC Society of Hispanic Professionals – Hispanic Educational Summit (Mar. 27): UNCW Centro Hispano participated in the largest educational conference in North Carolina for middle and high school Hispanic students. More than 10,000 students from schools in more than 50 counties throughout North Carolina have participated in the annual summit initiative since 2000. Registration and transportation sponsored by UNCW Office of Admissions.

Noche del Café (Mar. 31): Students gathered at Centro Hispano to learn about the process of studying abroad while attending UNCW. They shared pizza and refreshments while learning about opportunities to earn college credits in more than 50 countries and 500 cities. Co-sponsored by UNCW Office of International Programs.

APRIL


Salsa Workshop: Leading and Following in Casino Salsa (Apr. 11): This was the final Cuban salsa workshop of the semester with instructor Carolyn Dew from SALSAAtlanta. Co-sponsored by UNCW Campus Recreation and the College of Health and Human Services.

Alberto Abreu Arcia: Literature, Race and Modernity in the Spanish Caribbean (Apr. 13): Cuban novelist, curator and cultural critic Alberto Abreu Arcia visited UNCW classrooms and presented a lecture in Randall Library to discuss the oppressions and uniqueness of the Cuban culture. Co-sponsored by UNCW Department of Foreign Languages and literature and the Upperman African American Cultural Center.

Vivos los Queremos!: Student Solidarity with Ayotzinapa (Apr. 20): Panel discussion explored issues surrounding the disappearance of 43 Mexican college students on Sept. 26, 2014. Panelists: journalist Luis Hernández Navarro, director of the editorial page of the Mexican daily La Jornada; Janina Cuevas Zúñiga from Duke University’s Cen-
ter for Child and Family Policy; Alice Brooke Wilson, a UNC Ph.D. candidate in anthropology; anthropologist and human rights activist Abel Barrera Hernández (via Skype from Mexico). Audience was provided with receivers to listen to Spanish discussions interpreted simultaneously into English. Sponsored by Watson College of Education, Centro Hispano, the Department of Sociology and Criminology, the College of Health and Human Services and the Office of International Programs.

Centro Hispano Beach Photo Shoot (Apr. 26): UNCW’s Hispanic/Latino students came together for the annual “Beach Photo Shoot” at Wrightsville Beach to help provide Centro Hispano with current photos to use in the annual report and new brochures.

Friends of UNCW Grant Award Reception (Apr. 30): Centro Hispano was a recipient of a Friends of UNCW grant. With the award, the Mi CASA program will be able to provide leadership opportunities for mentors.

MAY

Successful Latinos Reception (May 7): A reception was held in honor of Hispanic/Latino students who graduated in the 2015 spring semester. Red cords were given to the students to wear on graduation day and certificates were awarded. Also, students had a chance to honor faculty and staff who made an impact on their education and time at UNCW. Verizon Wireless was the sponsor of this event and recognized a distinguished student with the “Verizon te Reconoce Award.”

AGENCY PARTNERS

American Red Cross
BB&T
Cape Fear Community College
Cape Fear Literacy Council
Catholic Charities
Centro Hispano, UNCW
CEPI
Coastal Horizons Center Inc.
Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, UNCW
Department of Education and Leadership, UNCW
Domestic Violence Shelter and Services
Duke Partners In Caring
East Coast Migrant Head Start
El Puente NC
FOCUS, Regional Planning Initiative
Greater Wilmington Business Journal
Intracoastal Realty
McKinney Immigration Law
MedNorth Health Center
National Park Service
NHC Department of Planning and Inspections
NHC NAACP
New Hanover County Schools
Northwestern Mutual
Office of the District Attorney
Oops Foundation
Pender County Schools Migrant Education Program
QENO, UNCW
Smart Start of New Hanover County
Verizon Wireless
Wilmington Hammerheads
YWCA
and individual supporters not representing an agency