

**First Annual Hispanic/Latino Faculty UNC System Forum**  
October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
NCSU Friday Institute

The Governor of North Carolina, Beverly Perdue and the President of the University of North Carolina System General Administration, Tom Ross, called a meeting of Hispanic or Latino Faculty in the UNC System to address the growing population of Hispanic students and faculty. The meeting was scheduled on Saturday, October 6, at the William C. Friday Institute on the Centennial Campus of North Carolina State University. There were seventy in attendance, including special speakers and guests from non-UNC campuses. María Correa (NCSU), Dr. José E. Hernández (UNC-W), Dr. Edelmira Segovia (UNC-W), and Mr. Jorge Zeballos (Guilford College) served as organizers, coordinators, and facilitators for the forum. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a focus for recruitment, retention, campus climate, and collaborations among Hispanic Faculty.

The meeting began with a welcome from Dr. María Correa (Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, North Carolina State University). Immediately followed with introductions of Dr. Susanne Ortega, UNC System Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Louis Martin-Vega, Dean, College of Engineering, North Carolina State University. Each expressed their gratitude to each of the participants for their attendance at this meeting.



**Figure 1 Dr. María Correa**

The first speaker was Mr. Carlos Flores Vizcarra, Consul General of Mexico for North and South Carolina. He provided compelling information on the growth of the Hispanic/Latino population in the Carolinas, especially having the purchasing power that contributes to the States' economy. The entire "Hispanic population of the United States has Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that is greater than all but 14 nations in the world! That trade with Mexico sustains 6 million jobs in the United States."



**Figure 2 Consul General of Mexico, Carlos Flores Vizcarra**

Mr. Vizcarra's presentation included the status of Nafta's impact on North Carolina:

- North Carolina's exports to Mexico have increased 261% in comparison of 118.1% to the rest of the world.
- Mexico is the third largest market for goods from North Carolina.
- North Carolina is ranked 18<sup>th</sup> as an exporter to Mexico.
- During the year 2011, North Carolina's export to Mexico had reached 2 billion dollars, and increase of 1,322,000 dollars from 1993.

He proudly mentioned Mexican companies as global partners that have locations in the Carolinas. These include: Cemex (the third largest cement manufacturing company in the world); DAK (major manufacturers of polyester fibers operating in Fayetteville and Wilmington); Groma (located in Goldsboro) and Bimbo Bakeries of Mooresville, and Olé Mexican Foods in Charlotte.

Dr. Nolo Martinez from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, presented a North Carolina perspective on the Hispanic/Latino Faculty. He showed graphs from the 2000 and 2010 Census indicating the showing the growth of the continued growth of the Hispanic population in North Carolina. He emphasized the "economy of knowledge" that is necessary in order to make North Carolina competitive. An educated workforce is necessary for the jobs being vacated by the Baby Boomer generation.

"Although 16% of students enrolled in colleges in the United States are Hispanic., things could be better to open the door together.



**Figure 3 Dr. Nolo Martinez**

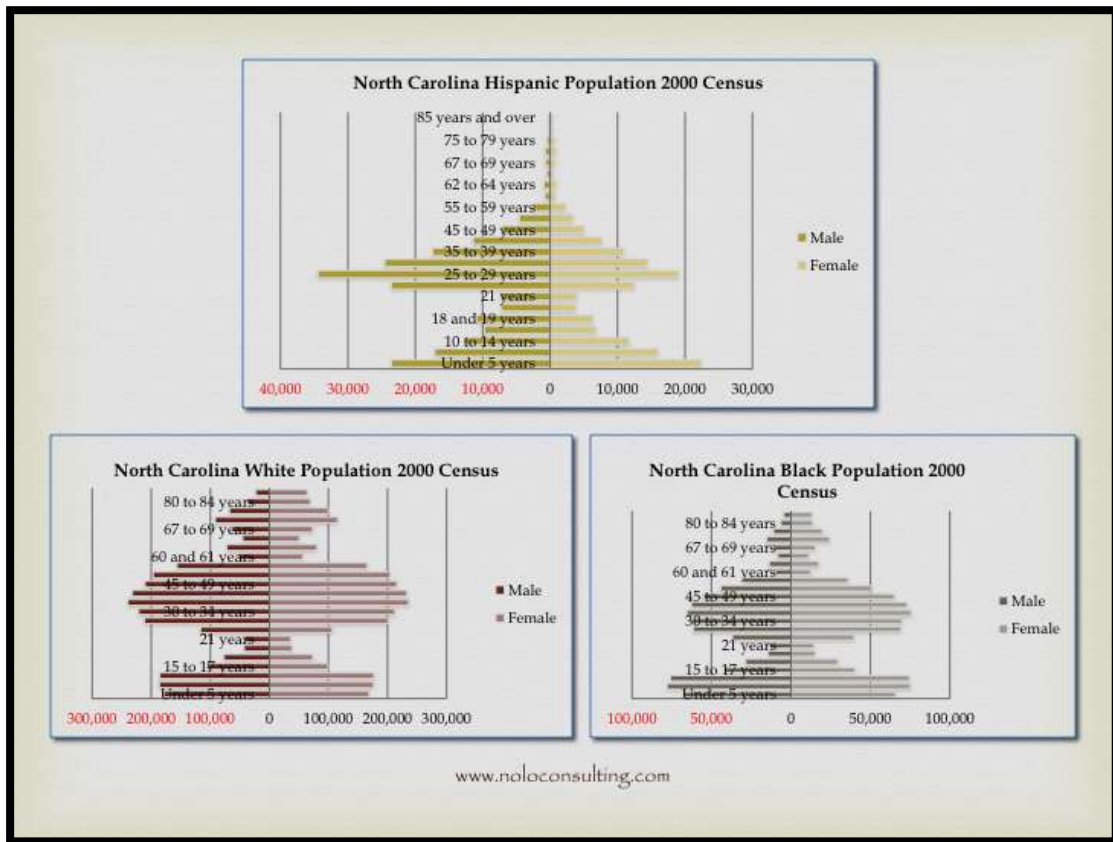


Figure 4 A PowerPoint slide from Dr. Martinez's presentation with the status of the Hispanic population in 2000.

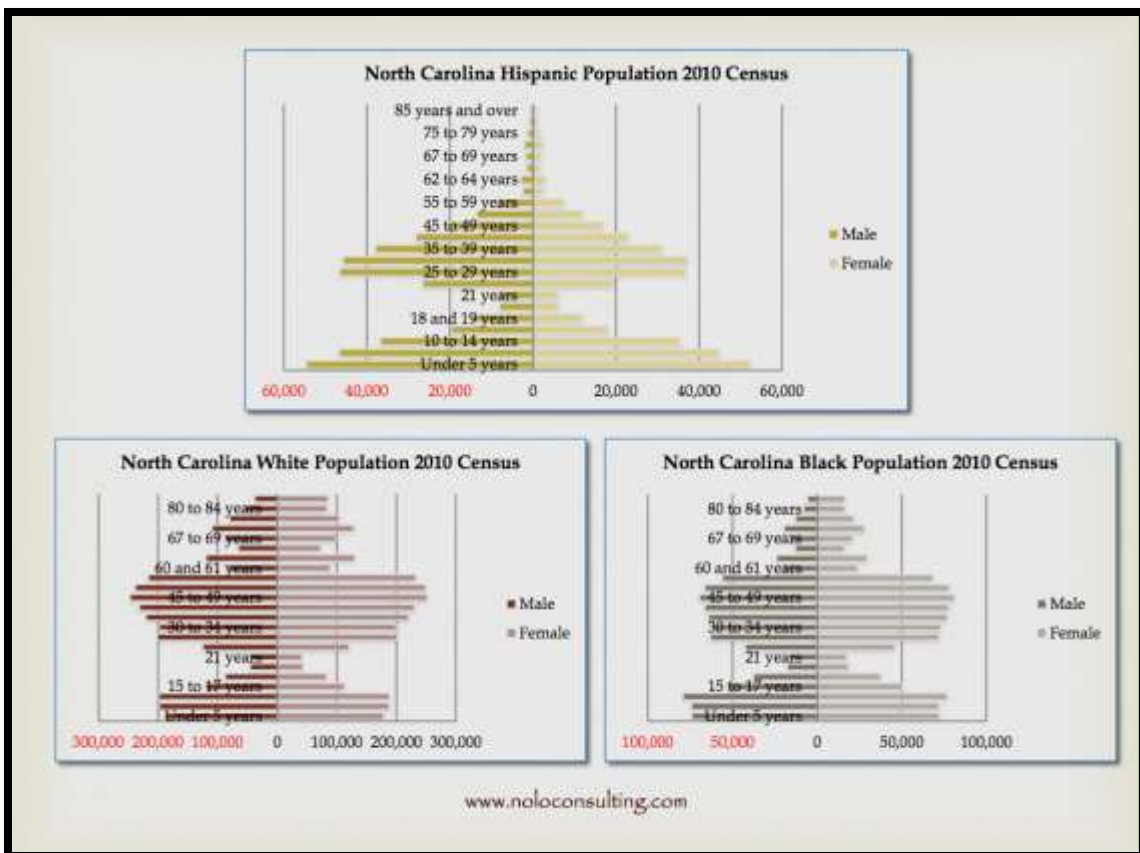


Figure 5 A PowerPoint slide from Dr. Martinez's presentation illustrating the comparative growth of the North Carolina Hispanic Population.

Dr. Josephine De Leon, Vice President for Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer from the University New Mexico reported from a national perspective titled Bringing Them and Keeping Them—Latino Faculty. She started with her personal experiences as a Latina in Academia. She began her career as an assistance professor at the University of New Mexico.



**Figure 6 Dr. De Leon shares her personal experiences in academia.**

Dr. De Leon described the issues she encountered as a faculty member:

- Huge workload caused challenges towards maintaining a quality of life balance—three courses or nine-hours teaching load per semester; committees; mentoring; community activities; research; national work, such as boards; committees, leadership positions, consulting, and joint research.
- The uncertainty of the tenure process—not clear and the lack of reassurance from administrators.
- Departmental culture—competition, collegiality, support, acceptance of research agenda, role as a Department Head and other major university responsibilities.



Figure 7 Dr. Cabral uses poetry to describe her challenging life as an Afro-Uruguayan.

Dr. Cristina Cabral of North Carolina Central University, read poems from her book, *Memoria y Resistencia*. Her poems provide an Afro-Uruguayan perspective on striving to maintain a cultural identity under the dictatorship rule that is presently the government of Uruguay.



Dr. Edelmira Segovia is holding a proclamation by Governor Beverly Perdue declaring September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. This honorary recognizes the culture and contributions

of Hispanic Americans to the State of North Carolina. Ms. Matty Lazo-Chadderdon presented the proclamation to Dr. Segovia on behalf of Governor Perdue.

