

Second Annual UNC Hispanic/Latino Faculty Forum
September 13-14, 2013
Welcoming remarks: 9:30AM 9/14/13 McNeill Hall 1051

Good morning.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of UNCW, I welcome you to the 2nd annual UNC Hispanic/Latino Faculty Forum, sponsored and supported by the UNCW Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion – Academic Affairs, and the Office of the University of North Carolina Vice President for Academic Affairs. We are pleased to have with us representatives from 11 sister institutions and from UNC GA, including Dr. Suzanne Ortega, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. I hope that many of you, including those who were here yesterday for the Faculty Research Poster Session, attended and enjoyed the Salsa Fiesta last night. You have a full schedule for today, and the topics to be covered are timely and important in light of UNC's increased emphasis on student success and our mutual commitment to diversity in our faculty, staff and student communities. As you probably know, Hispanics are now the largest minority at four-year institutions nationwide, and we are committed to increasing the pipeline of Hispanic faculty in higher education. (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2013/05/09/hispanic-high-school-graduates-pass-whites-in-rate-of-college-enrollment/>) Clearly the future of the nation will be affected by the education of Hispanics. As President Obama stated in renewing the White House Initiative for the Educational Excellence of Hispanics:

“At more than 54 million strong, Hispanics constitute the country’s largest and fastest-growing minority group. They have had a profound and positive impact on our country through ... their community’s strong commitment to family, faith, hard work and service.... Our country was built on and continues to thrive on its diversity, and there is no doubt that the future of the United States is inextricably linked to the future of the Hispanic community”.

And that includes our economic future. The buying power of the U.S. Hispanic market now tops \$1.2 trillion.

(<http://www.terry.uga.edu/news/releases/hispanic-consumer-market-in-the-u.s.-is-larger-than-the-entire-economies-of>) [N.B. at UNCW about 1/3 of our Hispanic students are connected to the Cameron School of Business (pre-business included).] One of the major issues confronting us as a nation (a nation composed primarily of immigrants whether recent or centuries ago) is our response to those now wishing to join us. 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. We have a particular interest in this because North Carolina continues to make headlines in Hispanic population/demographic reports. Three metro areas in NC are listed among the top 60 in the nation:

Charlotte is ranked 40th
Raleigh is ranked 43rd
Greensboro/Winston-Salem is ranked 53rd

(<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2013/08/29/hispanic-population-in-select-u-s-metropolitan-areas-2011/>)

[N.B. UNC-Charlotte is set to host next year’s Hispanic faculty forum.] Each of you as individuals has experiences, observations, and ideas which can improve the lives of students, faculty, staff and community members across the state and beyond. Sharing those experiences, observations and ideas strengthens you and the services you all work to provide. Thank you for coming and for all that you do to provide and develop the leadership and programs essential for our mutual success.