

# VALHEN – VIRGINIA LATINO HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK



## **2010 Encuentro: Latino Leadership in Virginia Higher Education**

Hosted by VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Petersburg, VA

March 12-13, 2010



The Board of Directors and Members of the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network wish to take this opportunity to express their gratitude and appreciation to President Eddie Moore for his generous support of our mission and for hosting this year's *Encuentro*.

*¡Muchas gracias, Dr. Moore, estamos muy agradecidos!*



**VALHEN** extends its sincere appreciation to  
**Dominion Resources**  
for its support of this event.







March 12, 2010

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to the members of the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network (VALHEN) as you gather together to celebrate your 2010 Encuentro. I would also like to congratulate you on receiving 501c3 status late last year.

Your annual meeting is a testament to the pride you take in your community and in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This event provides a wonderful opportunity to share in a true community environment while addressing the issues affecting Latinos and higher education. VALHEN's support and promotion for Latino success and advancement in education has allowed you to make a substantial difference in the lives of our young adults; there are few endeavors more demanding or more rewarding. You have inspired students to strive for excellence and helped to create an environment where students are engaged in their studies and are encouraged to learn. I commend you for your hard work and dedication.

On this important occasion, I am very pleased to join with your family, friends, and community in wishing you the very best for a fulfilling and successful Encuentro.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark R. Warner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MARK R. WARNER  
United States Senator





February 25, 2010

Virginia Latino Higher Education Network

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Latino Higher Education Network (VALHEN) Encuentro hosted by Virginia State University. I am certain that this weekend's events will be memorable for each of you.

I believe that education is the key to a successful future and the gateway to opportunities for all. Since its creation, VALHEN has been a strong voice of support for the success and advancement in higher education of Virginia's Latino population. The scholarships and services the Network provides enrich Virginia's schools and I would like to commend VALHEN for its proven commitment to serving the needs of our Latino community.

Additionally, I would like to thank everyone who worked hard to make this year's Encuentro a great success.

With warm regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Webb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "W".

Jim Webb  
United States Senator

JW:lg

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# Friday Program

**March 12, 2010 – VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**10:00 AM - 11:30 AM      Registration and Networking      (Jones Dining Hall Lobby)**  
Refreshments, Exhibit Tables and Networking

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**11:30 AM - 12:00 Noon                      Opening Session                      (Jones Dining Hall)**  
Welcome  
    Maricel Quintana-Baker, President, VALHEN,  
    State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)  
Greetings  
    Mirta M. Martin, Vice President, VALHEN,  
    Virginia State University (VSU)  
Introduction of President Moore  
    Mrs. Elisia Moore  
Greetings and Welcome  
    President Eddie Moore, Virginia State University

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**12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM                      Luncheon                      (Jones Dining Hall)**  
VALHEN Scholarship Award  
    Judy Mejia, Scholarship Chair, Secretary, VALHEN,  
    University of Richmond  
Greetings & Remarks  
    The Honorable Gerard Robinson, Secretary of Education,  
    The Commonwealth of Virginia  
Keynote Speaker  
    Deborah Santiago, Vice President for Policy and Research,  
    *Excelencia* in Education

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**1:30 PM - 1:45 PM                      Break Sponsored by ECMC Foundation**

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**1:45 PM - 2:45 PM**      **VALHEN Annual Business Meeting**      **(Jones Dining Hall)**

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**2:45 PM - 4:00 PM**      **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**      **(Engineering Bldg)**

A1: Latinas Leading the Way  
(Room 119)

A2: The Virginia Education Wizard: Planning for Success  
(Room 202)

A3: Promoting College Aspirations of High School Male Latino Students  
(Room 205)

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**4:00 PM - 4:15 PM**      **Break Sponsored by ECMC Foundation**

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**4:15 PM - 5:30 PM**      **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**      **(Engineering Bldg)**

B1: What Everyone Should Know - Campus Threat Assessment:  
The Case of Virginia Tech  
(Room 119)

B2: Taking the Helm - What Every Rising Leader Should Know  
(Room 202)

B3: LULAC-Central Virginia: The Elkhardt Student Outreach (ESO) Project  
(Room 205)

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**5:30 PM - 8:00 PM**      **VALHEN Annual Business Meeting**      **(Jones Dining Hall)**  
Reception with Salsa Demonstration and Dancing

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# Saturday Program

March 13, 2010 - VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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**7:30 AM - 8:30 AM**      **Breakfast and Networking**      **(Jones Dining Hall & Lobby)**

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**8:30 AM – 9:45 AM**      **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**      **(Engineering Bldg)**

C1: Without Papers: The Dilemma of the Undocumented Student  
(Room 119)

C2: Tinted Lenses: Online Education and Hispanic Student Success  
(Room 202)

C3: Pathway: Fostering College Access Success  
(Room 205)

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**9:45 AM - 10:00 AM**      **Break Sponsored by ECMC Foundation**

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**10:00 AM - 11:15 AM**      **General Session**      **(Jones Dining Hall)**

**PANEL PRESENTATION:** Latino Leadership in Virginia Higher Education

**Moderator:** Dr. Mirta Martin, Dean, School of Business, Virginia State University

Dr. Nuria Cuevas

Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Norfolk State University

Dr. Jessie DeAro

Office of Science & Technology Policy, Executive Office of the US President

Dr. Mark Padilla

Provost, Christopher Newport University

Dr. Terrance Suarez

President, Mountain Empire Community College

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**11:15 - 12:20 PM**      **Closing Speaker**      **(Jones Dining Hall)**

Dr. Carlos Campo

President-Elect, Regent University, Treasurer, VALHEN

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**12:30 PM - 1:00 PM**      **Adjourn 2010 Encuentro**

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# Overview of Breakout Sessions

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## A1. Latinas Leading the Way

**Presenters:** Marcela Chaván-Matviuk, Ph.D., Martee Saldaña Pierson, and Mavel Velazco, Ph.D.

**Overview:** When it comes to women and leadership, pathways to success seem to be crowded with obstacles. The Latina living in the U.S. faces the daily struggle of maintaining her identity as a Latina and as a woman in a society that implicitly and explicitly discriminates against both. Yet, her Hispanic/Latina origin makes her priorities distinct; her stresses and contributions different from other women's. Our panel seeks to learn from the Latinas who are leaders by virtue of their accomplishments in their fields, how their *Latinidad* influences their leadership and how other women can rise to leadership positions.

## A2. The Virginia Education Wizard: Planning for Success

**Presenter:** Craig Herndon, Ph.D.

**Overview:** The Virginia Education Wizard is a free, online career and college resource that brings together comprehensive and individually tailored information on the breadth of career and educational options to all Virginians. During this demonstration, session participants will learn how the Wizard is reshaping access to higher education in Virginia by providing students and those who aim to serve them with a resource to explore, develop, revise, and execute career and educational planning.

## A3. Promoting College Aspirations of High School Male Latino Students

**Presenter:** George Font, Ph.D.

**Overview:** Community of practice partnerships work to address barriers to higher education, lack of social capital, poor high school retention, and graduation rates among male Latino students. In fall of 2009, the Professor-In-Residence Program

(a James Madison University outreach endeavor to promote the educational attainment and college aspirations of high school students) partnered with Men of Character, a high school program that focuses on presenting positive male role models to promote positive relationship building and ensure access to higher education opportunities.

## **B1. What Everyone Should Know - Campus Threat Assessment: The Case of Virginia Tech**

**Presenter:** Ellen Plummer, Ph.D.

**Overview:** After the shootings of April 16, 2007, Virginia Tech received funds from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools to implement threat assessment and case management services. This presentation and discussion will cover the highlights of how Virginia Tech implemented these initiatives. This is NOT a workshop on implementing the mechanics of threat assessment on campus. This presentation and discussion will inform participants of some of the decisions university leaders made along the path to implementing threat assessment. The presenter served as the Project Director for the effort and has co-authored a book on the subject. Books will be shared at no cost with participants.

## **B2. Taking the Helm - What Every Rising Leader Should Know**

**Presenters:** Dawn McCoy, Emma Violand-Sánchez, Ph.D., Ana Gabilondo, and Jaime Areizaga-Soto, Esq.

**Overview:** Interested in leading? Always curious about what it takes to run for office or to get a political appointment? Not sure about where Latinos and those of like mind are already leading the charge? Come learn the ABCs about what it takes to be at the helm in your community-based organizations or how to seek elective office or a political appointment. Learn from Virginia's top seasoned appointees and political leaders.

### **B3. Elkhardt Student Outreach (ESO) Program**

**Presenters:** Douglas Garcia and Vilma Seymour

**Overview:** Students from Virginia Commonwealth University work with sixth grade Latino students at Elkhardt Middle School on a weekly basis. The partnership of the LULAC 4611 Chapter with the Communities in School of Richmond and VCU promotes post-secondary success among these 6<sup>th</sup> grade Latino Students. The program provides role models for students and engages them in interactive activities to help promote continued academic success. Students greatly benefit from working with an additional positive adult role model and it is expected that the relationship will lead to increased academic performance, self-confidence, and emotional development. The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is excited about embarking this pilot project aimed specifically at Latino youth and will continue its efforts to ensure students are realizing their full academic potential.

### **C1. Without Papers: The Dilemma of the Undocumented Student**

**Presenters:** Emily Sumner, Esq., and Erin McGrath

**Overview:** Undocumented students face a number of roadblocks that sometimes only become apparent as they approach high school graduation. In this workshop, we will address: 1) facts and figures regarding the U.S. undocumented student population, 2) anecdotal accounts of undocumented students facing high school graduation, 3) an overview of immigration, including the different types of classifications and ways a person can obtain permanent residence, 4) trends in how colleges and universities address undocumented students, 5) The Dream Act, and 6) the future of undocumented students, higher education, and immigration reform. Participants should leave this interactive workshop with a clear vision of who undocumented students are, what challenges they face, and what their future may bring.

## **C2. Tinted Lenses: Online Education and Hispanic Student Success**

**Presenter:** Francine Kemp, Ph.D.

**Overview:** Recently, the SLOAN Institute stated there was a 17.9% increase in online enrollment in 2009. Online university programs often have open enrolment and many of these programs are offered by publicly traded institutions that can provide financial assistance to many if not most of their students. Although universities track the demographics of student populations, there are few studies that compare the success rate of Hispanic and other minority students in online university programs versus traditional in residence programs.

## **C3. Pathway: Fostering College Access Success**

**Presenters:** Kerin Hilker-Balkissoon, Mónica Gomez, Shannon Ingram, and María Nieto-Shahsavarian

**Overview:** Pathway to the Baccalaureate is a highly successful, replicable initiative that addresses barriers to the transition, retention, and transfer of large numbers of at-risk students in Northern Virginia through an effective collaboration among local K-12, community college, and university partners. In 2009-2010, over 3600 students will participate in the Pathway Program, with nearly 45% of those students identifying themselves as Latino or biracial/Latino.

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# Conference Presenters

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***Areizaga-Soto, Esq., Jaime A.*** serves as Senior Advisor to the Virginia Senate Democratic Caucus Chair, Senator Mary Margaret Whipple. Previously, he served as the Principal Advisor for Latino Affairs to the 2009 Democratic candidate for Governor, Sen. Creigh Deeds. In 2007, he served as a White House Fellow, a prestigious program on leadership and public service. Previously, he was an attorney in the Global Project Finance Group of Clifford Chance, structuring and negotiating cross-border infrastructure project finance transactions in Latin America for major U.S. and international companies. He is a U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel serving as a Judge Advocate in the National Guard. After growing up in Puerto Rico, Mr. Areizaga-Soto received his B.S. from Georgetown University and his M.A. and J.D. from Stanford University.

***Campo, Ph.D., Carlos*** is the President-elect of Regent University; he will assume this role effective August 2010. Dr. Campo has served as the Chief Academic Officer since coming to Regent University in 2008. Prior to his position at Regent, Dr. Campo was an English professor in the Nevada System of Higher Education. He also served as dean of arts and letters, and as vice president of academic affairs at the College of Southern Nevada. In 2007, Dr. Campo was recognized as an outstanding academic and received an *Outstanding Educator and Champion of Education Award* granted by both local and national organizations. He holds a Ph.D. in English with an emphasis in dramatic literature from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dr. Campo and his wife, Karen, reside in Chesapeake and have three adult children. He serves on the VALHEN Board of Directors.

***Chaván-Matviuk, Ph.D., Marcela*** directs the Center for Latino Leadership at Regent University. She has extensive experience in higher education, ethics, entrepreneurship, mass media, and community and faith-based organizations. She possesses a rich international experience leading nontraditional educational projects and is passionate about cultures and the success of Latino students. She holds a Ph.D. in Intercultural and International Communication, and a master's degree in both counseling and social communication. Her research includes women's leadership, the impact of leadership training centered on values, and the experience of Latino students in Christian higher education. She chairs the

education committee of the Hampton Roads Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, is the founder and outreach director of the Hispanic Leadership Forum, and the Chair of the Latin American Leadership Program (LALP) at Regent University.

**Cuevas, Ph.D., Nuria** is Professor and Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Norfolk State University (NSU). Previously, as Vice Provost, she was responsible for curriculum management, institutional effectiveness and assessment, accreditation, and academic support services. Dr. Cuevas served as coordinator of academic assessment at San Francisco State University, director of academic services at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, and coordinator of academic support services at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston. She has taught research methods, statistics, and educational and psychological measurement courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels and frequently serves as the methodology member on thesis and dissertation committees. Dr. Cuevas holds a Ph.D. from Kent State University (Ohio), a M.S. from the University of Memphis (Tennessee), and a B.A. from Southwestern Union College (Texas).

**DeAro, Ph.D., Jessie** was selected in 1999 as a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) after earning her doctorate from the University of California at Santa Barbara. As a PMF she was recruited by the U.S. Department of Education where she managed the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) program. In 2002 she became the special assistant to the Director of Institutional Development and Undergraduate Education Services (IDUES) at the USDOE, then worked as a science program officer for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) before she was recruited to the National Science Foundation (NSF) to become the Program Director for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities-Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP) in 2003. In 2007 she became the Manager of the NSF-wide ADVANCE program, designed to increase the representation and advancement of women in academic science and engineering careers. She is currently on detail to the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to work on science and engineering education, workforce, and diversity issues.

**De Ferreire Kemp, Ph.D., Francine** is an Associate Professor with American Public University System and provider of management consulting services through her consulting firm, Diversity Works! Inc. She is a 1999 Alumna of the National

Hispanic Leadership Institute and has attended the Women in Public Policy Program at Harvard University's JFK School of Government, Center for Creative Leadership and Disney Leadership Institute. She was appointed by Governor Warner to participate in a Women Owned Businesses and Government Procurement Study and was subsequently appointed to Virginia Small Business Advisory Board. She also serves on the Fairfax County Community Business Partnership Board.

**Font, Ph.D., George** is an Associate Professor in the College of Education at James Madison University. The focus of his work is exemplified by research that contributes to the information base of literacy- and technology-related practices affecting classroom instruction. His pedagogy is defined by decisions made about curriculum, teaching, and learning. It is a 21st century learner-centered approach that involves interpretation, negotiation, and re-conceptualization. His professional experience is embedded in a social constructivist agenda using strategies that integrate content, context, and community of practice. His research involves examining instruction that draws on existing funds of knowledge to make connections with cultural tools in studying practices rooted in daily life circumstances of diverse learners.

**Gabilondo, Ana** is the Program/Communication Director for MANA, a National Latina Organization. The non-profit advocacy group was founded in 1974 by Mexican American Women and is headquartered in Washington, DC. Today, MANA is the largest national pan-Latina membership organization, focused on Latinas developing as leaders at a young age. She is originally from Texas, and has a wide range of political experience and community organizing expertise in Arlington, Virginia.

**Garcia, Douglas** serves as Assistant Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth. He promotes the Governor's initiatives in the area of Education and oversees regulations that affect state agencies under the Education Secretariat. During the General Assembly session, he also closely monitors education legislation affecting our educational system. He attended Northern Virginia Community College and transferred to James Madison University where he received a B.A. in Political Science and International Affairs with a concentration in Latin America. Upon graduation he worked with then Lieutenant Governor Tim Kaine, analyzing policy initiatives as well as legislative tracking

during the General Assembly session. When Lieutenant Governor Kaine was elected Governor in 2005, Mr. Garcia was appointed to his current position. Mr. Garcia was born in El Salvador and raised in Alexandria VA.

**Gómez, Mónica** works as a Transition Counselor for the Pathway to the Baccalaureate Program. She is trilingual in English, Spanish, and French. She received her B.A. in Spanish and French from Mary Washington College and her M.A. in Counseling from Trinity College. Ms. Gómez has worked at length with high school seniors and transfer students in the areas of admissions, advising, registration, and financial aid. She also has extensive experience working hands-on with the Latino population, in particular with regards to college outreach and financial aid assistance in Spanish.

**Herndon, Ph.D., Craig** serves as the Special Assistant to the Chancellor and Project Director for the *Virginia Education Wizard* for Virginia's Community Colleges. The Virginia Education Wizard was launched in March of 2009 and has received praise throughout Virginia for the innovative way in which it provides individually tailored career and educational information to Virginians. Herndon previously served on staff at the State Council of Higher Education where he worked in student learning assessment policy, university research policy, and college transfer policy. Herndon earned a doctorate in educational policy at Virginia Tech, where he studied the economic value of higher education.

**Hilker-Balkissoon, Kerin** is the Director of the *Pathway to the Baccalaureate* Program at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC). She earned a B.S. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and a M.S. from Johns Hopkins University, and is trilingual in English, Portuguese, and Spanish. Her diverse professional background includes experience in high school, non-profit, and university settings with diverse student populations, including immigrant, minority, and under-achieving students as well as students with disabilities. In 2005, she was selected by NVCC to develop and implement the Pathway to the Baccalaureate Program (PtB), and has since been invited to share the program model throughout the country.

**Ingram, Shannon** works as a Transition Counselor for the Pathway to the Baccalaureate Program. She earned a B.S. from The Pennsylvania State University in State College, and a M.A. from Marymount University. In addition, she is a National Certified Counselor who has been working with disadvantaged youth for

over 10 years. Ms. Ingram has a strong background working with individuals from a variety of at-risk populations in both clinical and academic settings. She has presented at a number of conferences across the nation on topics related to assisting high school students' transition from high school to college. She has also designed numerous academic and therapeutic workshops and has collaborated extensively with community service agencies and organizations which served minority populations.

**Martin, Ph.D., Mirta** is currently the Dean of the Business School at Virginia State University. Previously she served as the Special Assistant to the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System and the Executive Vice President of the John Tyler Community College Foundation. Dr. Martin directed executive education and workforce activities at the University of Richmond, Robins School of Business. She also has ten years experience as a faculty member and administrator. She received her B.A. from Duke University, an M.B.A. from the University of Richmond, and a Ph.D. from Virginia Commonwealth University with a concentration in Strategic Management and Leadership.

**McCoy, Dawn** is President and CEO of the Flourish Leadership Group, LLC. Ms. McCoy is a former non-profit executive and elected Sacramento school board member, and is the author of the new book entitled *Leadership Building Blocks: An Insider's Guide to Success*. At Flourish Leadership Group, she is dedicated to transforming ordinary people into extraordinary leaders. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Howard University and a master's degree in public policy (MPP) from the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute where she was a Bryce Harlow Scholar.

**McGrath, Erin** received her B.A. in International Studies from American University and M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Loyola University Chicago. Ms. McGrath taught ESL, Spanish, and Bilingual Education in the Chicago Public School System, and then was Program Manager and East Coast Director for Workforce Language Services, a language and culture consulting company and translation agency, based in Chicago, IL. After moving to Virginia in 2007, she taught Spanish for Henrico County Public Schools and is now a Regional Resource Manager for the federal GEAR UP grant through SCHEV. She serves on the leadership team for

*Colaborando Juntos*, an organization that provides a platform for service providers and agencies that work with the Central Virginia Latino Community.

**Nieto-Shahsavarian, María** is an Outreach/Development Specialist at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC). Ms. Nieto-Shahsavarian holds a B.A. in Government and International Politics and a M.A. in Foreign Language, Spanish, and Bilingual/Multicultural Education from George Mason University. Ms. Nieto-Shahsavarian works with the Pathway to the Baccalaureate Program, and in addition, serves as an effective liaison between the college and the Latino community. She serves on the VALHEN Board of Directors.

**Padilla, Ph.D., Mark** serves as Provost of Christopher Newport University. He joined CNU from the University of North Carolina-Asheville, where he was Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor of Classics. His experience also includes sixteen years at Bucknell University as Professor of Classics, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Associate Dean of the Faculty, and Chair of the Classics Department. An accomplished teacher and scholar, Dr. Padilla holds doctoral and master's degrees in Comparative Literature from Princeton University and a bachelor's degree in Classical Studies and English from the University of California Santa Cruz. Padilla has many scholarly publications to his credit. He has edited several books and volumes and written more than three dozen articles, book reviews, and descriptions.

**Plummer, Ph.D., Ellen** is an Assistant Provost at Virginia Tech. Dr. Plummer supports governance processes and administers grants for victim services, safety, and security. She served in the Office of Recovery and Support addressing needs that stemmed from the shootings that occurred in April of 2007. She coordinated the Task Force on Race and the Institution and supported the 2006 update to Virginia Tech's strategic plan. During 2003-04 she was the Interim Director of the VT Office for Equal Opportunity. Ellen was raised in Mexico and speaks Spanish fluently. She completed a B.S. and M.S.W. from the University of Connecticut and Ph.D. in Education Leadership and Policy Studies from Virginia Tech.

**Robinson, The Honorable Gerard** serves as the Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia. He is responsible for the advancement of Governor McDonnell's education goals for Virginia's K-12 and Higher Education systems. Mr. Robinson was the president of the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO),

a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to actively support parental choice to empower families and to increase quality educational options for Black children. Mr. Robinson also served as a senior research associate for the School Choice Demonstration Project at the University of Arkansas and as a senior fellow at the Institute for the Transformation of Learning at Marquette University.

Mr. Robinson is on the board of the following organizations: the Policy Advisory Council at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools; the Advisory Committee for the Program on Education Policy and Governance at Harvard University; and the U.S. Department of Education's National Charter School Resource Center. He received a Master's of Education from Harvard University, a B.A. from Howard University, and an A.A. from El Camino Community College. Scholarly interests include education policy and civil rights. He is married and has two daughters.

***Saldaña Pierson, Martee*** is the Director of Diversity Marketing of Liberty Tax Service. Ms. Pierson is a strategic marketing professional with over 30 years of experience, graduate degrees in Marketing and Communications, and a baccalaureate in English, Secondary Education. She is fluent in Spanish and has studied French and Arabic. She has led the marketing effort for many well known high tech and software firms nationwide, taking them through IPOs and/or sales and mergers. Ms. Pierson leads Liberty Tax's Hispanic initiative – *Una Familia Sin Fronteras* – to ensure it is providing the highest level of community service, education, and commitment to Hispanic communities nationwide.

***Santiago, Deborah*** is the co-founder and Vice President for Policy and Research at Excelencia in Education and brings her extensive experience in education policy and research to the challenge of accelerating Latino student success. She has worked in federal policy as an analyst at the Congressional Research Service and the U.S. Department of Education. She has also served as the Deputy Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans under President Clinton. Her current research focuses on state and federal policy, financial aid, effective institutional practices, and student success in higher education. Recent publications include, *The Condition of Latinos in Education: 2008 Factbook*; *Student Aversion to Borrowing: Who Borrows and Who Doesn't* (co-author); and *Leading in a Changing America: Leadership at Hispanic-Serving*

*Institutions.* Deborah serves on the education research committee for the Public Education Network, the Education Campaign Advisory Board for Univision, and was appointed by former Governor Kaine to serve on the Latino Advisory Board for Virginia.

***Seymour, Vilma*** is the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System (VCUHS) Language Services Program Manager. She coordinates all efforts to improve communication with patients and families who have limited English proficiency (LEP) or are hearing impaired. In addition, she conducts medical interpreter competency and cultural awareness training for bilingual staff and volunteers. She was appointed to the Board of Health Professions by former Virginia Governor Tim Kaine and holds a Baccalaureate in Spanish (Magna Cum Laude). Ms. Seymour is a founding member of League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council 4611 and currently serves as its president. She serves as the College & Career Fair Chair for the Hispanic Youth Symposium, and is currently a member of the Leadership Metro Richmond and VCU Grace E. Harris Leadership Development 2010 class.

***Suarez, Ph.D., Terrance*** became president of Mountain Empire Community College (MECC) on January 2, 2002. He has 37 years of experience in the Virginia Community College System, beginning as a founding faculty member at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College where he taught chemistry. In 1979, Dr. Suarez moved to Wytheville Community College where he served in a variety of roles, including Acting President during the fall term of 1999. Dr. Suarez holds a doctorate from the University of Kansas and a bachelor's from Florida Presbyterian College (now Eckerd College) in St. Petersburg, Florida. As President of MECC, he has been active in economic development efforts and civic groups in the region. Dr. Suarez was presented the Distinguished Service Award from the Wytheville Kiwanis Club. As a college president, one of Dr. Suarez's priorities has been to work with area school systems to improve existing partnerships and develop joint projects that address the changing needs of students in the region. He plans to retire on June 30, 2010.

***Sumner, Esq., Emily*** is an immigration attorney at Challa Law Offices in Richmond, Virginia, where she focuses in university immigration. She speaks Spanish, having lived in Salamanca, Spain, and regularly advises clients on complex immigration matters in their native Spanish. Ms. Sumner is also co-chair of the Immigrant

Outreach Committee, a division of the Virginia State Bar, dedicated to educating other lawyers on legal issues relevant to the immigrant community. She serves on the VALHEN Board of Directors.

**Velasco, Ph.D., Mavel** is a native of Bolivia. Mavel has traveled extensively around the world and has lived in Saudi Arabia, Spain, and Japan. She received her Ph.D. in Latin American Literature from Rutgers University in New Jersey, has published several articles on Contemporary Latin American Literature, and lectures on Spanish Literature and Culture and Civilization of South America. She is a professor at Virginia Wesleyan College where she teaches Spanish language courses and Latin American Literature, Civilization, as well as Latin American Music and Dance. Dr. Velasco is the founder of *Los Libros del Sol*, an NGO that provides books for Bolivian children and currently serves as chair of the Hispanic Leadership Forum of Hampton Roads.

**Violand-Sánchez, Ph.D., Emma** was elected to the Arlington School Board in 2009. Dr. Violand-Sánchez is the founder and past president of the League of United Latin American Citizens-Council 4606 and founder and past president of the Board of Directors of Escuela Bolivia Inc. She received her B.S. and M.S. from Radford University and her doctorate from George Washington University. She is also an adjunct faculty at Georgetown University.

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# Conference Organization

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**VALHEN wishes to thank the following INDIVIDUALS for their support, assistance, and encouragement in the organization of this annual event:**

Sindy Benavides

Carlos Campo

Marcela Chaván-Matviuk

Douglas Garcia

Yourdonus James

Lou Kadiri

Kathleen Kincheloe

Jean-Pierre Laurenceau-Medina

Mirta M. Martin

Erin McGrath

Judy Mejia

María Nieto-Shahsavarian

Manuel Pérez-Quiñones

Rick Preble

Maribel Ramos

Gaby Rengifo

Sylvia Rosa-Casanova

Angela Love Roysten

Jonell Sanchez

Emily Sumner

Emily Webb

**VALHEN wishes to thank the following HIGHER EDUCATION ENTITIES for their support and encouragement during our journey thus far:**

James Madison University

Old Dominion University

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

University of Richmond

Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Tech

Virginia State University

**VALHEN wishes to thank the following CORPORATE SPONSORS for their support and encouragement in our development and in the organization of this annual event:**

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# VALHEN Membership

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## VALHEN Membership Form

Dr/Ms/Mr First Name:	
Last Name:	
Title:	
Institution/Organization:	
Address:	
Address (line 2):	
City:	
Phone: (    )	Fax: (    )
E-Mail Address:	
If faculty, please identify your discipline:	
Department/School:	
What would you like to help VALHEN with? (Check all that apply)	
Membership _____ <i>Encuentro</i> _____ Research _____	
Website Content _____ Outreach _____ Lecture Series _____	
<u>Other?</u> —Tell us!	

# Membership Benefits

## Network of Peers—The LISTSERV

Members tell us the chance to network with other members is one of their most prized benefits!

## Recognition for Your Work—The Lecture Series

VALHEN's innovative **Lecture Series** (*planned to start Fall 2010*) will feature the research and work of our **members**. This effort is a win for everyone!

## Free Membership in the Virginia Credit Union

- The **Virginia Credit Union** ([www.vacu.org](http://www.vacu.org)) has designated VALHEN as one of its *Eligible Companies and Groups*.
- Join the Virginia Credit Union and enjoy the benefits of membership.
- Open your VACU membership with a \$5 deposit. To join, go to [http://www.vacu.org/About\\_VACU/Membership/How\\_to\\_Join.aspx](http://www.vacu.org/About_VACU/Membership/How_to_Join.aspx)

## Complimentary Subscriptions

- Each member will receive a one-year subscription to ***Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education*** (<http://www.hispanicoutlook.com/index.htm>).
- Each member will receive a one-year *digital* subscription to ***Diverse Issues in Higher Education*** (<http://diverseeducation.com>).

## Develop and Grow Our Scholarship Process

- One of VALHEN's priorities has been to establish a **Scholarship** for deserving students of Latino origin who are either graduating from high school or already in the first three years of college.

## Design and Deliver Our Outreach Activities

- One aspect of VALHEN's three-sided mission focuses on members performing **Outreach** efforts designed to improve access to higher education for our Latino students. The organization expects to begin modest outreach activities during 2010—wait for news and plan to get involved!!

For additional information about VALHEN Membership and its Benefits, please go to [www.valhen.org/membership](http://www.valhen.org/membership).



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**VIRGINIA CREDIT UNION**

*Making progress together*

**VALHEN is now listed as one of VACU's  
Eligible Companies and Groups**

See [www.vacu.org](http://www.vacu.org)

# THE HISPANIC Outlook<sup>®</sup> IN HIGHER EDUCATION<sup>®</sup> MAGAZINE

## ABOUT US

For 20 years, ***The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine*** has been a top information news source and the sole Hispanic educational magazine for the higher education community, and those involved in running our institutions of higher learning.

Published biweekly, except in June, July and August, when we are on a summer schedule, *H/O* covers events, news, and ongoing trends that affect our multicultural institutions. *H/O* reaches a large minority print audience of 50,000 readers. Selected articles that are in print are also online.

Our subscribers and readers are part of the growing majority in higher education. During the year, *H/O* has 11 theme issues that place particular emphasis on specialized topics with in-depth detail. *H/O* is also distributed at major conferences and conventions.

***Hispanic Outlook Magazine*** is a member of NAHP, NAHJ, NCCHC, ACE, and AAHHE. Visit our website at <http://www.HispanicOutlook.com>





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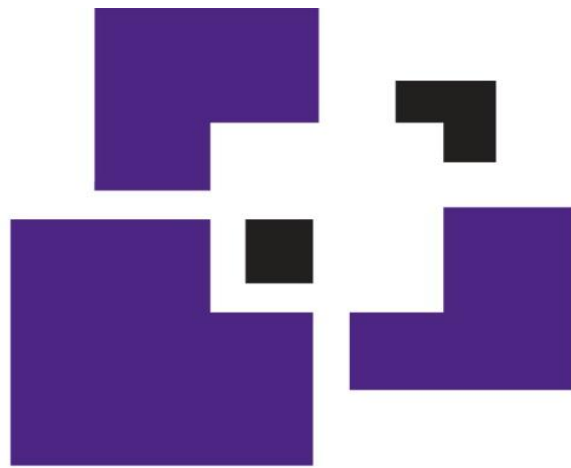


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Members at the *2010 Encuentro*  
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Thank you to the ECMC Foundation  
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ECMC

FOUNDATION

## VIRGINIA LATINO HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK



Dear Friends of VALHEN:

We welcome you as members of the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network and thank you for coming to the *2010 Encuentro!*

Please join me in thanking President Moore and Virginia State University for hosting this year's *Encuentro*, as well as those friends and sponsors listed in the program! We are indebted to their generosity.

VALHEN is the *only state-wide, non-profit, 501(c) (3)* organization serving as a networking structure to support, promote, and advocate for Latino success and advancement in higher education for the benefit and betterment of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As an emerging organization, VALHEN has been able to attract high ranking members of academia who, as *volunteers*, are driven by the passionate belief that our Latino children and communities *must have access to education in order to become full and contributing members of our Commonwealth*. Our strength is *our inclusivity at all levels*: Latinos and non-Latinos working side by side, with public and private, two- and four-year institutions represented on the Board of Directors and membership ranks.

There is much work to be done to help our Latino students obtain a post-secondary education! Get involved! This next year is crucial in the development and advancement of VALHEN, and we need all hands on board! We need YOU.

And, mark your calendars. The *2011 Encuentro* is scheduled for March 24-25, at the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College.

Muchísimas gracias y cordiales saludos,

Handwritten signature of Maricel Quintana-Baker in black ink.

Maricel Quintana-Baker, Ph.D.  
President