

NEWS AND PROFILES CONNECTING THE LATINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA

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HAPPY
New Year!

2018

¡PRÓSPERO AÑO NUEVO!

Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA) Serves the Community

By Claud Santiago

What is MCLA?



MCLA is a state agency that advises the government on matters of interest to Latinos who live in Minnesota. It is a bridge of communication and collaboration between Latinos and the government, the private sector and nonprofits.

Why should we care?

Without Latino engagement, MCLA cannot accurately communicate the interests of the community to the government nor can it serve the community effectively. Such engagement makes possible a stronger political voice and better socio-economic choices for the Latino community.

Who does the MCLA serve?

We serve Latino Minnesotans across the state and the people of Minnesota.



Who is the director of MCLA?

Henry Jiménez
Executive Director/Director Ejecutivo

Henry is the proud son of parents who were undocumented. His father from Tepic Nayarit,

Mexico is a truck driver and his mother from El Departamento de La Libertad, El Salvador is a house keeper at a hotel.

His parents were finally able to purchase their first home when Henry was in high school in Las Vegas, NV. Where he soon after earned a scholarship to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and earned a dual degree in Women Studies and Political Science.

Henry has called Minnesota home for 8 years. During this time he has earned a Masters in Advocacy and Political Leadership from the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

He came to Minnesota with no family but now has a family of his own. He is married to Jennie Jimenez and has a beautiful 8 month old, Lucía Jimenez.

Henry was appointed by the Legislative Coordinated Commission to his position on December, 2015

Community Listening Sessions were held throughout Minnesota in 2017.

The MCLA Community Listening Sessions process enables the Council to genuinely capture the voice of Latino communities. The community engagement plan supports the following objectives. The Council serves its statute and several legislative goals. Direct and genuine engagement of Latino community members across the state of Minnesota insures a comprehensive development of socio-economic analysis and high quality recommendations.



On The Cover
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
¡Prospero año nuevo!

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Latino American Today distributes 15,000 copies on a monthly basis.

We wish that all your wishes are fulfilled this year.

Happy New Year!

*—Rick Aguilar, Publisher
Latino American Today*



Achievement Gap has Barely Budged!



By Claud Santiago

After another year of bad tests results, community, business and educational leaders should agree that Minnesota schools have grown more segregated and the state's nation-leading achievement gap has not budged in the past 15 years.

In 2002 the federal No Child Left Behind Act led the national campaign for school equity. Since then the number of schools in Minnesota where students of color make up 90 percent or more of enrollment stands at 200, double of what it was in 2002.

Minnesota students saw little progress in test scores this year, according to data released Thursday by the state Department of Education. The state's wide academic achievement gaps between white students and students of color also remain virtually unchanged, according to the scores.

They come from the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments, tests in reading, math and science that most students take every year. The percent of students considered proficient in reading statewide ticked up one point to 60 percent, and the math proficiency rate for third- to eighth-graders dropped one point to 61 percent.

Nearly 70 percent of white students passed the tests in both subjects. Black students saw proficiency rates around one-third. Similar gaps exist for American Indian and Hispanic students. Those disparities remained virtually unchanged from last year.

"The progress isn't fast enough," said state Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius.

Cassellius said the stagnant scores have convinced her that schools can't close achievement gaps on their own. She said factors like poverty, homelessness and hunger stall progress.

"Unless we also deal with the great urgency around all these other outside school factors, we won't be able to move the achievement disparities as quickly as we'd like to," Cassellius said.

She said schools also need more support services like social workers to connect students to resources outside of school. Minnesota spends less of its education money on student support than any other state.

Test scores in the state's two largest urban districts mirrored the statewide trend. St. Paul saw small progress in reading and science scores, with flat results in math. Achievement gaps between white students and students of color widened slightly in reading and remained nearly unchanged in math.

Consejos para ayudar a los hijos con la tarea

By Suri Suarez

Los padres no tienen que ser expertos en todo pero sí deben estar dispuestos a ayudar

Hay muchas cosas que los padres pueden hacer para ayudar a sus hijos en su regreso a la escuela, como reemplazar la mochila vieja o comprarles los útiles que necesitan. Pero hay algo que pueden hacer que es más importante y no siempre cuesta dinero: ayudarlos con la tarea.

Hay muchas cosas que los padres pueden hacer para ayudar a sus hijos en su regreso a la escuela, como reemplazar la mochila vieja o comprarles los útiles que necesitan. Pero hay algo que pueden hacer que es más importante y no siempre cuesta dinero: ayudarlos con la tarea.

- Hablar con los hijos sobre la tarea. Es importante que los niños entiendan la importancia de hacer la tarea y el impacto positivo que puede tener en sus calificaciones. Además de repasar y practicar lo que aprendieron en clase, la tarea los ayuda a prepararse para las lecciones del día siguiente y desarrollar la disciplina que necesitan para su éxito académico.

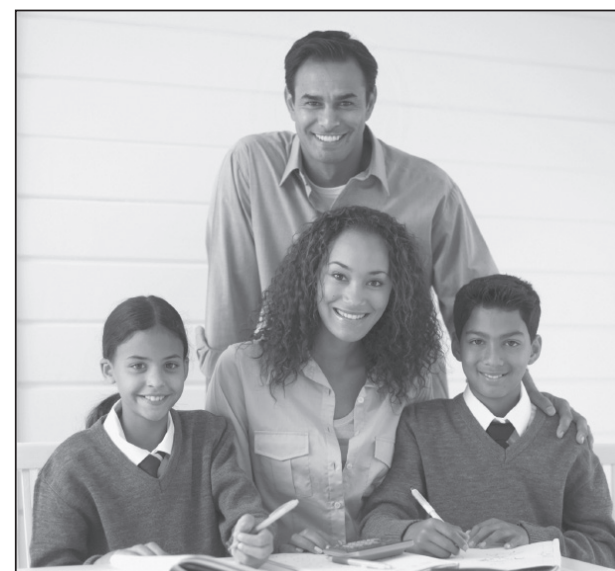
- Reunirse con los maestros. Cuando se trata de la tarea, los maestros pueden tener exigencias distintas. Por lo tanto es importante hablar con ellos para conocer sus expectativas. Por ejemplo, algunos maestros quieren que los padres revisen cuidadosamente la tarea de sus hijos, mientras que otros prefieren que

sólo controlen que la hicieron. Además, el maestro puede contestar preguntas como cuánto tiempo debe pasar el estudiante haciendo la tarea y qué hacer si tiene dificultades o si le resulta demasiado fácil.

- Fijar un horario para hacer la tarea. El mejor momento para hacer la tarea es el que mejor funciona con las actividades del estudiante y la disponibilidad de sus papás. Puede ser antes o después de jugar, ver televisión, cenar o de hacer alguna actividad extracurricular. Lo importante es que la hora sea constante y que no sea la última actividad del día, cuando el niño esté cansado y con sueño.

- Escoger un lugar cómodo y eliminar las distracciones. Para fomentar la concentración es importante encontrar un lugar en la casa que tenga buena iluminación donde el niño pueda sentarse y hacer la tarea sin distracciones. Puede ser la mesa de la cocina, un escritorio o su propia habitación, siempre y cuando no haya distracciones como televisores prendidos o aparatos electrónicos a mano, a menos de que sean esenciales para hacer la tarea.

- Proveer los recursos necesarios. Los padres no tienen que ser expertos en todas las materias para ayudar a sus hijos con la tarea. Sin embargo, pueden proveerles los recursos que necesitan, incluyendo lápices, plumas, borradores y papel para escribir. También pueden llevar a sus hijos a la biblioteca o navegar



el Internet con ellos para encontrar recursos que ayuden con la tarea. GobiernoUSA.gov, por ejemplo, tiene una sección de niños con información práctica sobre varios temas. Por su parte, el Departamento de Educación cuenta con una serie de folletos para ayudar a los hijos con la tarea de matemáticas, ciencias, lectura y comprensión. Para aprender más sobre temas relacionados a la educación se recomienda consultar GobiernoUSA.gov, el portal oficial del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos en español, que forma parte de la Administración de Servicios Generales (GSA) de EE. UU. Fuente: GobiernoUSA.gov

¿Qué esperamos en 2018?

Por Saúl Carranza

Llegó 2018. Hemos vivido los 12 meses, 365 días, 8.760 horas, 525.600 minutos, 31 556 926 segundos de 2017. Para algunos fue un año muy bueno, para otros no tanto y para otros fue un año muy difícil. Pero ha llegado a su fin y de alguna manera el comenzar un año nuevo abre las puertas de esperanza de cambio y mejoría. Todos anhelamos tiempos mejores. Entre las tradiciones o supersticiones que algunos guardan en la celebración del año nuevo encontramos: – Tirar cosas viejas a la calle el primer día de enero, Sacar sus maletas para darle vuelta a la cuadra para garantizar un viaje en el año entrante, Tener la alacena llena el primer día del año para garantizar la prosperidad durante todo el año. Abrir todas las puertas de la casa a la medianoche para que el año viejo pueda salir. Hacer mucho ruido, pensando que esto espantará a los malos espíritus para que no puedan ejercer una influencia negativa sobre el nuevo año, Comer doce uvas durante las campanadas de la media noche para tener buena suerte, etc.,. Todo esto expresa la esperanza de mejorar, aunque con métodos que no garantizan nada.

Por otro lado 2018 parece anticipar situaciones diversas para quienes vivimos en este país. La tensa situación en la península de Corea hace temer una guerra terrible. La falta de una política migratoria amigable para los que ya vivimos aquí pone en la cuerda floja a muchas familias. Las disposiciones que se están tomando respecto al TPS anticipa tiempos difíciles para los países centroamericanos y un tratado de libre comercio en revisión complica la relación comercial con México. Aunque también hay síntomas positivos. Hay más oportunidades de trabajo, algunos salarios mínimos están subiendo y la reforma impositiva impulsada por el gobierno crea esperanza de mejor vida en el país.

Por supuesto, todo lo anterior son solo posibilidades y deseos. Nada está definido ni se está cumpliendo todavía. El futuro no se ha escrito. Lo que realmente suceda en 2018 será fruto de nuestro esfuerzo, de la inversión de tiempo y recursos y de la bendición de Dios para nuestra vida. Aaron Alvares nos da cuatro consejos para el año nuevo. 1. Debemos aprender del tiempo que se ha ido. El tiempo que se ha ido es una escuela que nos revela un mundo de aprendizaje. 2. Debemos olvidar el tiempo que nos causó tristeza. El año viejo está muerto. Deséchalo y Suéltalo. 3. Un nuevo año es una convocatoria para extenderse a lo que está delante. El futuro siempre es incierto. El único que sabe qué acontecerá es Dios. 4. Un nuevo año es otra oportunidad para que demos frutos.

Si vamos a preocuparnos y esforzarnos hagámoslo de manera correcta. El ayer ya se fue y no volverá y nada de lo que haya pasado puede ser cambiado. Lo bueno, fue bueno y lo malo, fue malo y nada que hagamos puede cambiarlo. Por otro lado, el futuro no se ha llegado. Cualquier adversidad, preocupación o promesa en el futuro son solo posibilidades. Eso nos deja solamente con la realidad del presente. Lo bueno o malo del futuro lo

construimos hoy. Jesús dijo en Mateo 6:34 “Así, no os afanéis por el día de mañana, porque el día de mañana traerá su afán. Basta a cada día su propio mal” Pide a Dios que te ayude a vivir día por día.

Algo que la experiencia nos ha enseñado es que nosotros no tenemos control de todo lo que sucede a nuestro alrededor. Que nuestros temores, así como nuestros sueños y anhelos pueden o no cumplirse por la conjunción de muchos factores tanto internos como externos. A veces nuestro esfuerzo da frutos y otras veces no. Algunas veces lo que soñamos se cumple y otras veces no. A veces lo que nos preocupa llega y otras veces solo son pesadillas que nunca se hacen realidad. La fe nos brinda la única base real de paz respecto al futuro. Jesús dijo: “Sólo los que no conocen a Dios se preocupan por eso. Ustedes tienen como padre a Dios que está en el cielo, y él sabe lo que ustedes necesitan. Lo más importante es que reconozcan a Dios como único rey, y que hagan lo que él les pide. Dios les dará a su tiempo todo lo que necesiten.” Mateo 6:32. Dios es bueno y sabe bendecir a sus hijos. La biblia está llena de promesas como: “Dios concederá las peticiones de tu corazón”, “No temas ni desmayes, Yo estoy contigo para bendecirte”, “Esfuézate y se valiente, Dios va contigo a donde quiera que vallas”. 2018 será un buen año para ti y tu familia, encomiéndate a Dios y confía en Él y Él bendecirá tu esfuerzo. Feliz año nuevo.

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Welcoming the New Year with Hope and Gratitude

By Marci Malzahn



Each year during this time I ponder on the year that is ending and wonder what's ahead in the New Year. Will I have new opportunities? What should I focus on? Will I lose a loved one? Will this year bring good things? What if something bad happens to me or someone I love? Will I be able to help others? Those are some of the questions that run through my mind and maybe you have some of those questions too. But most of all, I welcome the New Year with hope and gratitude—the gratitude for having lived another year and that everything worked out okay and also the hope that everything will be okay next year as well.

I am a firm believer in having goals and writing them down. I do this each year during December and the beginning of January. Then I keep that list of goals on my desk and look at it often through the year. Sometimes I feel discouraged because I'm not accomplishing everything I set out to do and I start feeling anxious. Then I think of all the things that I have accomplished and that makes me feel better.

Sometimes we put goals that may take longer than one year and we need to be flexible with ourselves. Other goals may have to be delayed because we needed to focus on other projects instead. Yet other times life happens and we have to put all or some of our goals on hold until that situation is under control. For example, this past year I had my parents at my home visiting from Nicaragua for five weeks during my mom's cataract surgery process. I put several projects on hold, postponed several meetings to the next month, and cancelled several events I had scheduled that were not important if I missed them. Even though this situation was not an emergency nor sad, it caused me to change my plans, which in turn affected my goals. But in the end, everything turned out great. My mom can see well again! During their stay I tried to not be too stressed out and enjoy their company as much as I could. I am blessed to still have my parents and I live with the awareness that each time I see them it may be my last.

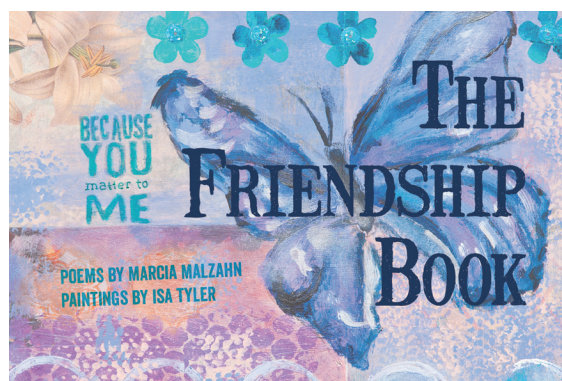
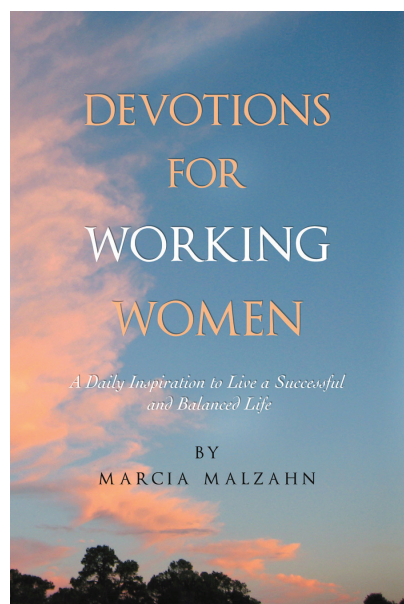
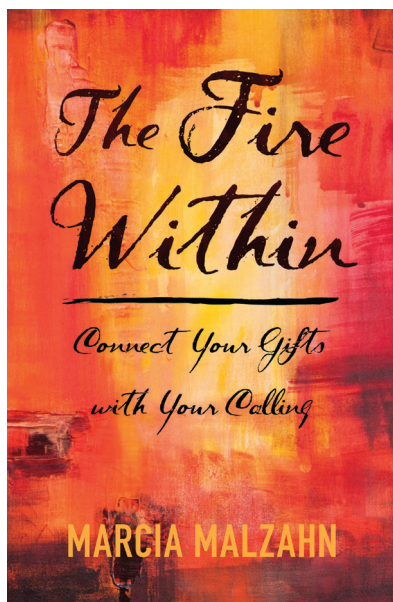
The point of the story is that we need to focus on what's most important in our lives—the people we love. Business can be delayed for a few days, events can be missed, and meetings can be postponed. Taking care of our loved ones, our family, should be a priority and sometimes throughout our business we don't take advantage of those moments when we can really be there for them.

So for this next year, I encourage you to keep in mind your loved ones and include them in your annual goals. For example, set a goal to go on a monthly date with your spouse and schedule it. Set a goal to not miss your kids' most important sports activities. Another goal could be to reconnect with an old friend whom you love very much but haven't seen in years because you're both too busy. One of my goals is to go visit my parents in Nicaragua just to spend quality time with them. When we feed our soul by nurturing our relationships, we feel more refreshed to tackle the business side of our goals. It's a positive investment of our time.

I wish you the best in the New Year full of love, hope, and gratitude! One way to stay inspired and encouraged is by reading my daily devotional, *Devotions for Working Women – A Daily Inspiration to Live a Successful and Balanced Life*.

Happy New Year!

Marci Malzahn is a banking executive and founder of Malzahn Strategic (www.malzahnstrategic.com), a community bank consultancy focused on strategic planning, enterprise risk management and talent management. Marci is also an author and motivational/inspirational speaker. You can contact Marci for speaking engagements through her website at www.marciamalzahn.com or email her at marcia@marciamalzahn.com. You can purchase Marci's books at www.Amazon.com.



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Snowmobiling—Like a Sledding Hill That Just Goes On and On



*By Harland Hiemstra,
DNR information officer*

If you've ever enjoyed the rush of sledding down a steep, snowy hill only to wish the slope went on forever and you didn't have to walk back up to do it again, you might want to look into snowmobiling, one of Minnesota's most popular outdoor winter activities.

"It's a great way to get out in nature and see a lot of beautiful areas you might not otherwise be able to see," says Andrew Korsberg, snowmobile program consultant for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "It's also just a great way to spend time with family and friends."

Minnesota has the most extensive snowmobile trail system in the country, with about 22,000 miles of groomed trails. That's more than the miles of state and federal highways we have! In a year with plenty of snow, a rider could, theoretically, ride a snowmobile from Iowa to the Canadian border.

The extent of Minnesotans' enthusiasm for snowmobiling is reflected in the fact that 21,300 miles of those snowmobile trails are largely managed and maintained by volunteers affiliated with more than 200 local snowmobiling clubs all across the state. The DNR oversees a grant program that provides much of the funding for their maintenance and grooming work, and it offers technical assistance and other support. The remaining 700 miles are state trails maintained and groomed by the DNR.

That trail system provides the backbone for much of the winter tourism in the state. According to the Minnesota United Snowmobile Association, the total economic impact of snowmobiling in Minnesota is an estimated \$1 billion each year. Two of the four major snowmobile manufacturers, Polaris and Arctic Cat, started in Minnesota and remain based in the state.

Getting started in snowmobiling can involve some upfront investment, with the cost of a new sled running about \$8-15,000. But used sleds can be found for as little as \$2,000. If you want to try before you buy, a quick online search will turn up a number of rental opportunities spread around the state. In addition to the machine itself, you'll need proper cold-weather gear: well insulated snow pants and coat, mittens or gloves, warm boots. A helmet is technically only required for those younger than 18, but it's a smart safety precaution for everyone, and with the addition of a balaclava worn inside the helmet, is a good way to keep your head from getting cold. Staying warm is a critical factor in having any kind of outdoors fun during a Minnesota winter!

As important as having the right equipment is, you also need to know how to use it safely and legally. Minnesota law requires anyone born after Dec. 31, 1976, to complete a snowmobile safety course, online or in-person (youth ages 11 to 15 must complete at least part of their training in-person). Go the DNR's website at www.mndnr.gov and search for "snowmobile safety" to get more details.

Capt. Jason Peterson, a regional enforcement supervisor for the DNR, stresses the importance of using common sense to remain safe while having fun on a snowmobile. Don't go too fast, especially at night. Be cautious when riding on frozen waters; there should be at least seven inches of clear ice – and no ice is ever 100 percent safe. Don't drink while riding – it's not only dangerous, it can lead to the same legal consequences as a DWI.

Peterson also emphasizes that all snowmobiles operated in Minnesota must be registered. Registration fees provide funding for the trails system, he notes, so it's not only the law, it's a matter of pitching in to help pay for the opportunity to ride all around the state. And make sure you stay on those trails to avoid a citation for trespassing.



Some of the best and most scenic riding opportunities in Minnesota are in the northern part of the state. Popular winter travel destinations, such as Brainerd or Grand Rapids, have extensive state and grant-in-aid trail systems that are both beautiful and well connected to lots of amenities, like restaurants and small towns. The Taconite Trail, which runs from Grand Rapids to Ely, is a favorite. The North Shore State Trail is another great snowmobile ride, winding its way through forests on the ridgeline overlooking Lake Superior for 146 miles from Duluth to Grand Marais.

Since adequate snow is critical to good snowmobiling, it's smart to check local conditions for your planned destination before loading up and heading out. The DNR website includes an interactive map that provides information on snow depths around the state; it's updated weekly on Thursdays. Go to www.mndnr.gov and search "current conditions."

DNR's website also features trail maps that can be downloaded to a GPS device, so that you can keep track of where you are and where you're going. A GPS device also is useful for making sure one stays on designated trails. That's important because much of the statewide trail system crosses private land, and it's critical to maintain good relations with landowners if they're to continue allowing access.

So, if the prospect of another two or three months of cold and snow has you feeling down, consider getting in winter's face on the back of a snowmobile. It might just provide you with a new way to spell F-U-N!

Without Papers—A Movie from Andrés Parra



Filmmaker Andrés Parra

By Claud Santiago

Andrés Parra grew up in Caracas, Venezuela and moved to the United States to study film and video production. During the past twenty years, he has built an award winning video and live-events production company in Minneapolis/St. Paul that is known for a personable look that captures the essence, beauty, and soul of his subjects. Whether in the safety of a Fortune 500 corporate office or in far-flung locations around the world, Andrés has been there. He has developed an excellent reputation, based on the impeccable service he provides his clients. As a filmmaker, Andres always wanted to work on a project that raises awareness about the lives and issues in the Latino Community. His current movie *Without Papers* is a story of triumph, a documentary that highlights the struggles of a young, bright Latino student Johana who has been living in the U.S. for more than 20 years, without papers. DACA or the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is on the nation's headlines and this movie offers a dramatic look at the life of one of the Latino youth who live in the shadows.

Without Papers has received several awards including:

***2016 Twin Cities Film Fest Official Selection**

***January 2017 Hollywood International Independent Documentary Association Award**

***2017 Best Documentary – Saint Paul Frozen Film Festival**

***2017 Official selection / inclusion in Best of Festival –Mpls-St. Paul Int. Film Festival**

***2017 Impact Award – Award of Merit –Los Angeles, CA**

***2017 Official selection-Awareness Film Festival in Los Angeles**



Growth Opportunity for Latina Business Owners



Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) certification is a powerful tool that has helped thousands of women entrepreneurs compete for contracts with the government and major corporations.

Women-owned companies are significantly underrepresented when it comes to corporate and government contracts, getting 4 or 5 percent compared to those obtained by male-owned businesses. Being WBE-certified helps level the playing field.

The Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) is a regional partner for the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), the country's largest third-party certifier of women-owned businesses. We verify that companies really are women-owned to certify them as WBEs.

What are the requirements for WBENC certification?

A company must be 51 percent or more owned by a woman or women to qualify. Additionally, the female owner must have the knowledge, experience, and decision making authority to manage and operate the business without control by or substantial dependence upon a male. She must be in control of the company's strategic decisions, as well as day-to-day operations. Certainly, she can delegate and rely upon employees to do their jobs, yet she must be able to control and manage them. In short, she must be the ultimate decision-maker.

Here in Minnesota there are several Latina-owned businesses that are certified as a WBE by WBDC, with a couple that are currently in the process of going through the certification application process.

I'm already MBE certified – why should I become WBE certified, too?

First, there are times when corporations are seeking WBEs specifically. If you are only MBE-certified, you might miss a chance. The second reason is that the North Central Minority Supplier Development Council and the Women's Business Development Center have overlapping, but different networks. If you qualify to be certified as both a WBE and an MBE, you increase the connections you can make to grow your business. Interested in learning more?

Attend a monthly lunch and learn program called "Is Certification Right for You" at the WBDC Minneapolis office, or contact our office at 612-259-6584 or wbdm-mn@wbdc.org. Check our website, www.wbdc.org, for details.

Quick and Feisty Holiday Bites



Chef Amalia in the kitchen

Every time I need to come up with a delicious yet quick appetizer menu, I resort to the flavors that I truly enjoy. Then I decide on balance, proteins versus vegetables and fruits. But most importantly, I take into consideration the needs of my guests.

When planning a festive menu, there are no rules, but planning is key. It may take a couple of revisions of the original menu to get you to the point where you are comfortable with what you will be serving during your event. To be successful, include foods that appeal to a variety of tastes, including vegan, vegetarian, gluten free, plus other fare that

targets the special requirements of some guests.

When deciding on flavors, think of sauces, herbs and chiles, and other key elements that will add pizzazz to every item on the table. Also, consider proteins that take little time to cook, or that are purchased already cooked and can be easily combined with other ingredients to elevate them to a higher status. Sweets, such as fruits and chocolate desserts, are classics during the holidays.

Shrimp with Attitude

By Chef Amalia Moreno-Damgaard

Serves 4

12 medium shrimp, cooked, deveined, tails on

Lime juice + Tabasco + Kosher salt and pepper

Toothpicks or tiny skewers

Roasted jarred pimientos, cut into 1-1/2-inch-long strips

Parsley sprigs

½ cup chipotle mayonnaise + lemon juice + chopped cilantro



Brush the shrimp with lime juice, add tabasco to taste, and finish with a light sprinkling of salt and freshly ground black pepper. Skewer the shrimp. Roll the pimiento strips and secure them with the toothpick and the shrimp.

Arrange the shrimp attractively on a platter. Put one sprig of parsley in the center of each pimiento roll.

In a small bowl, combine the mayonnaise with the lemon juice and cilantro to taste. Add more heat with tabasco, if desired. Pipe the sauce on top of the shrimp.

Five or six heavy appetizers might be enough for a reception held during business hours. To make a heavier meal out of small bites, then either modify your existing menu to include more proteins, or extend it by adding heavier bites, such as mini sandwiches or miniature tacos filled with animal and vegetable proteins.

For tighter budget menus, choose chicken and cheese as your base animal proteins, and complement them with vegetable proteins such as garbanzo beans, lentils, black beans and others that can be easily puréed and made into a dip, or used a base as a spread to build a heartier appetizer. Garnishes are the cherry on top of the cake. While they are not a requirement, they add eye appeal and style to the final product.

Below is a quick yet delicious appetizer made in a matter of minutes. It wasn't a last minute decision item, but rather one key piece of the planned menu for a party that I hosted recently. Use it as is, or modify it according to your taste and make yours!

I wish you the very best holiday season in harmony with your family, close friends, and relatives. May the New Year bring you peace, happiness and prosperity.

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Ordway Welcomes First Time Theatergoers



Top row, from L to R: Daysi Martinez, Carmen Robles, Yolandita and Herman Colon. Bottom row: Victor Martinez, Tony Jilek-Guidry and Rick Aguilar

“Our first time to this wonderful theater, we so enjoyed it!” —Yolandita and Herman Colon



Jordan, Gisela, Karina, Rose, and Lisa networking before the show!

By Claud Santiago

The Ordway Center for the Performing Arts drew many first time theatergoers to their production of “In the Heights” and to other productions this past Fall Season. Rick Aguilar who is past Chair of the St. Paul area Chamber of Commerce and former St. Paul RiverCentre Commissioner is currently working with the Ordway marketing team through his company, Aguilar Productions. “Our goal is to invite and welcome the Latino community to this wonderful theater and to the amazing productions the Ordway presents,” Aguilar stated.

Aguilar is very pleased to see the response from the community as many visit the Ordway for the first time.

“Great show and I was really impressed with the theater....first class all the way.”

—Karina Aguilar, Los Angeles, CA

“The park looked so festive and the theater was beautiful. A nice holiday treat.”

—Jordan, Jade and Eddie



Marcela Aiello, Yoel Chavez visiting from Chicago with their host, Christy Ana!

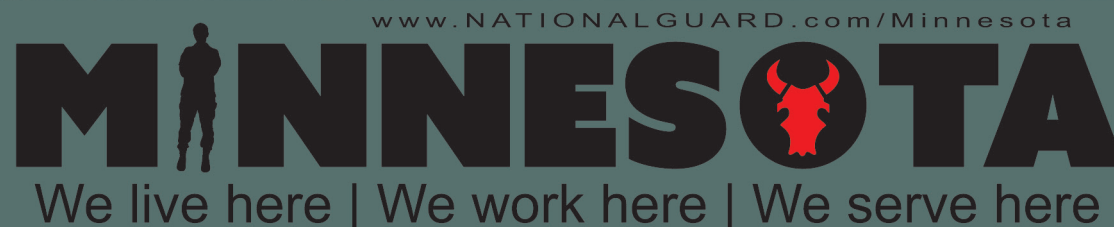


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