

NEWS AND PROFILES CONNECTING THE LATINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA

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American  
Today**  
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# America Celebrates HISPANIC HERITAGE



**Hispanic Heritage Month • September 15–October 15**  
**El mes de la herencia hispana • 15 de Septiembre–15 de Octubre**



## The National Museum of the American Latino Act (H.R. 2420) is Supported by a Supermajority of 295 Bipartisan Co-sponsors in the House



Danny Vargas  
Chairman of the FRIENDS board

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) announced this week that on Monday, July 27, the House of Representatives will advance the National Museum of the American Latino Act (H.R. 2420), which would establish a museum in the Smithsonian Institution dedicated to the preservation and celebration of over 500 years of American Latino history. With 295 bipartisan Members of Congress already in support, the Friends of the American Latino Museum (FRIENDS), the only national advocacy campaign striving for the creation of a Smithsonian National American Latino Museum, urges the full House to support the passage of this legislation.

“For over 500 years, the Latino community has been instrumental in the building, shaping and defending of our great nation,” said Danny Vargas, Chairman of the FRIENDS board. “The time has come to commemorate those contributions in a national museum that will illuminate the American story for the benefit of everyone and serve to inspire future generations.”

“This legislation takes an important step towards righting the ongoing disparities in our nation’s museums that remain today,” said Estuardo Rodriguez, President & CEO of FRIENDS. “The widespread support demonstrates just how important this museum is in filling the gaps in our history. We thank our allies and partners in the House, Representatives José Serrano (D-NY), Will Hurd (R-TX), and Tony Cardenas (D-CA) for their leadership in championing this legislation, and bringing us to historic milestones in our mission to see the contributions from generations of American Latinos recognized in the Smithsonian Institution.”

As acknowledged by the Smithsonian Institution in a 1994 report, Willful Neglect, exhibits and collections of U.S. Latino history are the most underrepresented across all of its museums. The National Museum of the American Latino Act would establish a museum dedicated to representing those stories and figures from American Latino history currently absent from the institution.

However, we still have work to do. We must pass this legislation in the US Senate!

The time is now – we’ve never been closer to seeing this museum become a reality. Will you call your Senator and urge them to cosponsor S1267 to create a #LatinoMuseumNow?

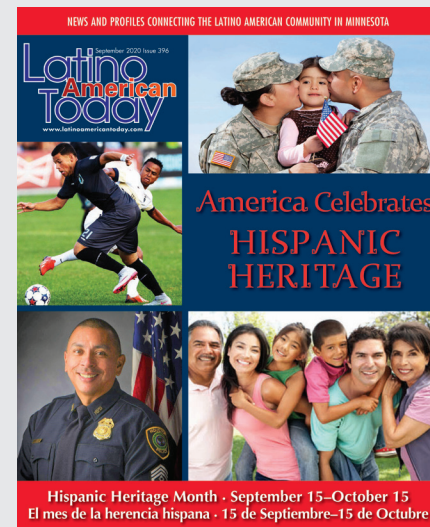


Thanks to your phone calls, letters, and messages across social media, the National Museum of the American Latino Act (H.R. 2420 / S. 1267) was unanimously passed in the House and has over 40 bipartisan co-sponsors in the Senate. Make the call today to ensure YOUR Senator supports legislation so we can make our vision a reality.

At this time of the COVID-19 crisis we wish all our readers, supporters, and advertisers good health and to stay safe!



Rick Aguilar, Founder and Publisher  
Latino American Today



On The Cover  
Hispanic Heritage Month  
September 15-October 15, 2020

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## Hoy en día, es peligroso salir a la calle sin cobertura de salud. Puede haber ayuda disponible.

Muchas familias en Minnesota están enfrentando dificultades debido a la pandemia por COVID-19. Para muchos de nosotros, sostener los gastos relacionados con la atención y servicios de salud pueden ser muy difíciles de afrontar. Si usted o algún familiar y conocidos están afrontando dificultades económicas debido a no contar con suficiente dinero, o si perdió su empleo, o sus horas de trabajo fueron reducidas; hay opciones para acceder ayuda disponible.

Los programas de salud pública de Minnesota ofrecen cobertura de salud a los residentes de Minnesota con ingresos económicos bajos o sin ingresos económicos. El Departamento de Servicios Humanos (DHS) tiene una página web nueva con información en Español sobre los programas de salud pública en Minnesota [mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/spanish](https://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/spanish). Invitamos a aquellos que necesiten cobertura de salud a preguntar si califican para Asistencia Médica o MinnesotaCare.

La mayoría de los residentes de Minnesota pueden solicitar en línea a través de [MNsure.org](https://MNsure.org). Sin embargo, sabemos que navegar los seguros de salud puede ser complicado y por lo tanto, usted no tiene por qué descifrarlos por su cuenta. Estas son algunas de las opciones para obtener más información sobre nuestros programas de salud.

- Conéctese con un navegador en su comunidad para obtener ayuda para inscribirse. Podrás encontrar un navegador que habla Inglés o Español en [mnsure.org/help/find-assister/find-assister.jsp](https://mnsure.org/help/find-assister/find-assister.jsp).
- Comuníquese con su oficina local del condado.
- Si tiene alguna discapacidad, llame al Centro de Discapacitados de MN (Disability Hub MN) al 866-333-2466.
- Si tiene 65 años o más, puede llamar a la línea de enlace de la tercera edad (Senior LinkAge Line) al 800-333-2433.

### Todos necesitamos ayuda en alguna ocasión

Alimentos | Vivienda | Ingreso  
Cuidados de la salud | Cuidado infantil

### Everyone needs help sometimes

Food | Housing | Income | Health care | Child care

**m**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN SERVICES

[mn.gov/dhs/LatinoAmericanToday](https://mn.gov/dhs/LatinoAmericanToday)

### ¿No califica debido a su condición de inmigración?

La Asistencia Médica de Emergencia (Emergency Medical Assistance, EMA) ofrece cobertura para la atención y el tratamiento de afecciones médicas de emergencia a todo residente de Minnesota que no tenga una estatus de inmigración que le permita tener acceso a Asistencia Médica. EMA cubre aquellas afecciones médicas que de no tratarse en un período de 24 a 48 horas podrían:

- Poner su salud en grave riesgo;
- Ocasionar un deterioro grave de las funciones corporales; o
- Ocasionar un colapso grave de alguno de los órganos o partes del cuerpo.

Usted puede solicitar la Asistencia Médica de Emergencia a través de su oficina local del condado.

### Prueba gratis de COVID-19 si no tiene seguro

Muchos residentes de Minnesota que no cuentan con un seguro de salud pueden realizarse la prueba de COVID-19 de forma gratuita. Aprende más a [mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/spanish](https://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/spanish).

Todos requerimos ayuda en muchas ocasiones, estamos aquí para ayudarte.  
Matt Anderson

Assistant Commissioner and Medicaid Director, Health Care Administration,  
Minnesota Department of Human Services



## Is the Pandemic Bringing Unity to the Family?



Marci Malzahn

By Marci Malzahn

The Coronavirus Pandemic brought multiple negative consequences to the world, but I asked myself the question: Is the Pandemic bringing unity to the family? I believe it did. Today I want to focus on the ONE positive outcome from the Pandemic—It brought unity to the nuclear family! People realized that the family, in the end, is all we got. Our family members are the ones who are there for us when we need them most. Why do we not hear more about this exciting consequence? Because the media may consider that as boring news and may think people are not interested in hearing about it. But that's not true.

### The Family:

**The family nucleus represents the strength of a community and the power of a nation.** When you have forces attacking the family and creating division, families dissolve and there goes the strength and power of an entire nation along with it. You destroy the family. You destroy a nation!

Whether I'm meeting with clients, friends, or family members, I often ask the question: How has the Pandemic affected your personal life and your family? Here are some of the responses I get:

### Is the Pandemic Bringing Unity to the Family? – Responses:

- *I didn't realize how exhausted I was from running around from work to a kid's game to a volunteer meeting to working at night again to catch up and tomorrow – push the repeat button!*
- *My kids have enjoyed staying home and spending more time with us. They love having my focused attention.*
- *We took out board games we haven't played in a long time. We also did a puzzle together!*
- *I took online cooking classes and I'm enjoying my old passion for cooking. We can finally have at least a couple of dinners together as a family without rushing out the door.*
- *Our dog loves having us all around. The cat is not very sure about it!*
- *I decided to stay home with my teenagers. I realized how much they need me during these years of their life.*

### Is the Pandemic Bringing Unity to the Family? – More Fun Responses:

- *I love working from home now even though the adjustment period was very hard. I want to keep this flexibility in my life.*
- *I'm saving two hours a day in commute that I am now using to help my children with homework and make dinner.*

- *I now have time to exercise in the morning before I start my workday. I feel great and I'm the healthiest I've ever been!*
- *I sleep more and, therefore, I'm not so cranky anymore.*
- *We bought a cabin! We realized how much we enjoy our family time together and wanted to create more memories. We can work from the cabin or from our home in the cities. It doesn't matter where we are. We are now more available to our children and are enjoying nature!*
- *I now have time to pray. Each morning I spend time Experiencing God. I feel so much more connected to God now.*

### Going Forward:

So what's next? I already heard a parent comment to me that just the restarting of the kids' sports practice was creating stress in her life. The kids were also stressed out due to being out of shape since they haven't practiced the whole summer until now.

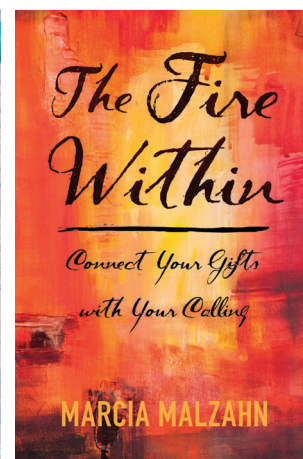
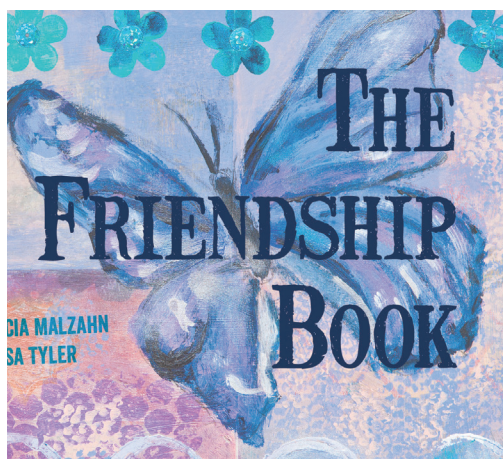
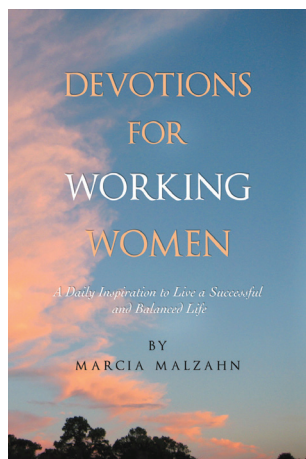
Now it's time to make choices in your life. If you figured out a productive and effective way to work from home, now is the time to ask for that flexibility going forward.

Take this opportunity to reach out to others with the extra time saved from not commuting. In addition to being with your family, reach out to those who don't have a family. Sometimes the "blood family" may not be available or the ties were broken a long time ago. For some people their family are close friends, their community, or their church.

The adjustment period is gone. As you prepare to go back to somewhat of the "old normal" choose wisely which activities to keep, restart, or stop. In my personal experience what the Pandemic did to my family is that my travel stopped completely. I love traveling for leisure but traveling for work is physically exhausting for me, even though I enjoy meeting my clients and conference attendees where I speak. I'm hoping many events will continue to be held virtually and slowly go back to speaking in person. This time allowed me to spend more quality time with my husband, my grown children, and with our grandson. We have created memories that will last a lifetime.

**Is the Pandemic Bringing Unity to the Family?** Yes, absolutely. In the end, unity is what's most important to create a strong family and ultimately a powerful nation. And that unity is founded in love for each other that starts at home in the family.

*Marcia Malzahn is president and founder of Malzahn Strategic a community financial institution consultancy focused on strategic planning, enterprise risk management, treasury management, and talent management. Marcia is a professional keynote speaker and published author of four books. You can contact Marcia for speaking engagements through her website at <https://crowning-achievements.com/> or email her at [mmalzahn@crowning-achievements.com](mailto:mmalzahn@crowning-achievements.com). You can purchase Marcia's books at Malzahn Publishing or Amazon.*





## Summer Picnic Features Keynote by Tyler Kistner



Photos (left to right): Mariah de la Paz and Tyler Kistner, attendees at the summer picnic, and Rick Aguilar and Tyler Kistner

By Claud Santiago

Tyler Kistner, (R) candidate for U.S. Congress in CD2, was the keynote speaker at the Summer Picnic for HD52A and HD52B that was held in Inver Grove Heights. The picnic drew a hundred attendees who came out to listen and meet Kistner and many other local candidates including Mariah de la Paz, who is running for the house seat in HD52A. Kistner and his campaign for Congress is drawing national attention as one of the key races in the country. Minnesota's 2nd congressional district covers the south Twin Cities metro area and contains all of Scott, Dakota, Goodhue, and Wabasha counties. It also contains part of northern and eastern Rice County including the city of Northfield, and southern Washington County including the city of Cottage Grove.

# ELECT MEISINGER

## City Council Ward 3 West Saint Paul



**DAVE MEISINGER**  
**PROVEN EXPERIENCE**

== ★ ==  
**PROVEN RESULTS**

## VOTE November 3rd

Paid for by Dave Meisinger, 1242 Ottawa Ave. W, West St. Paul, MN 55118

## Meisinger Seeks Re-Election to City Council

*I am running again for city council to help ensure that W. St Paul's public safety remains the number one priority for the city! We have candidates running for office this year who want to eliminate/dismantle/defund our police and that CANNOT happen!*

*We cannot expose our seniors and our most vulnerable citizens to unchecked crime and disorder!*

*My past experience, as a twice elected Mayor and twice elected Councilman, have prepared me to help lead the city during these unprecedented and troubling times.*

*I respectfully ask for your vote on November 3rd and thank you in advance for your support!*

—David Meisinger



## Mariah de la Paz for House 52A Seat



*Mariah de la Paz*

**HD52A is made up of West St. Paul, Mendota, Lilydale and the northern part of South St. Paul**

*By Claud Santiago*

Mariah de la Paz the GOP endorsed candidate for House of Representative in 52A has been very busy these pass months, she works in the senior health care system. "I'm planning to bring my knowledge of working with seniors in this Covid-19 crisis to the State Capitol when I win this election" stated de la Paz.

Mariah who lives in West St. Paul is a conservative who has been active in politics for many

years and in 2018 served as a campaign manager for a congressional race in St. Paul. She is a busy single mother who still finds time to be active in the community working with various organizations to encourage Latino youth to stay in school and graduate.

52A is home to a large Latino community: West St. Paul is currently made up of 22% Latinos, South St. Paul 14%, and 4% in Mendota.

Mariah is running for office because she believes that the current DFL 52A incumbent house of representative Rick Hansen, who has held office since 2004 has been part of the DFL administration who has given us the

failed MNLAR and MNSURE systems costing tax payers millions and millions of dollars. Hansen is part of this failed leadership!

Our recent "civil unrest" in the Twin Cities that cost our business community millions and millions of dollars in damage and looting, was because of the failed current administration, Governor Walz and the mayors in St. Paul and Minneapolis. We never hear from our current house representative Rick Hansen about any of these issues. In 52A there was significant damage and looting.

"I am running for office so that our residents, business owners and families in 52A have a house representative who is for a smaller and more responsible organized government, reduced taxes and less regulations so that more businesses open, better schools and a well-funded police department for safer communities. I look forward to meeting with our community in the upcoming campaign to ask for their vote and to give me the opportunity to serve them at the State Capitol."

For more information, visit: <https://www.delapazforhouse.com>



*Mariah with MN Rep. Eric Lucero*

# Help Me Win Minnesota's House District

# 52A

MNGOP



**Mariah De la Paz**  
*Candidate for Minnesota  
House of Representatives  
HD52A*



# VOTE FOR FAITH, FAMILY & FREEDOM

## The Right Choice for State House of Representatives • HD52A



## WHY VOTE REPUBLICAN?

**LATINO AMERICANS and REPUBLICANS agree that:**

- Families should make the decisions about education and health care.
- Renewed economic prosperity is the best solution to most of our problems.
- We support Safety in our Communities.

**GET OUT THE VOTE!**

*Your vote, your voice - it matters.*



This is an independent expenditure prepared and paid for by HD52A Republicans - [www.hd52amngop.com](http://www.hd52amngop.com) and HD52B Republicans - [www.gop52.com](http://www.gop52.com). It is not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it.

## Vota por Tomas Settell



Comparto contigo en la celebración del Mes de la Herencia Hispana. Hola, Mi nombre es Tomas Settell y soy su candidato para representarlo en el Distrito 52 del Senado del Estado de Minnesota en Lilydale, Mendota, West St Paul, South St Paul, Mendota Heights, Inver Grove Heights, Sunfish Lake y parte de Eagan si estoy elegido este Noviembre por ti.

Agradecería su voto el 3 de noviembre de 2020. En este momento crítico de la historia de nuestra nación, SU voz es MUY importante. ¡Debemos recuperar nuestra libertad y con tu ayuda podemos!

Este mes es una celebración de la gran historia de nuestra nación de aquellos que han inmigrado de raíces hispanas. Cuando vivía en Uruguay, Brasil y España, además de viajar a Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, México y Portugal, aprendí mucho de nuestra rica herencia y cómo ha impactado positivamente a nuestra gran nación.

Los valores familiares que todos apreciamos son fuertes en la comunidad latina, pero están bajo ataque. Quiero empoderar a los padres a tener la capacidad elegir en la educación de sus hijos, dónde van a la escuela y qué es importante para ellos. Quiero defender y proteger sus negocios, trabajos y bajar tus impuestos de ingresos.

Estoy al lado de nuestra comunidad hispana y latina y las amo mucho. Por favor salga y vote el próximo noviembre. Su voto marcará absolutamente la diferencia. Para obtener más información, visite me sitio web y comuníquese conmigo si tiene alguna pregunta. ¡Espero tener su voto el 3 de noviembre! [www.tomasforsenate.com](http://www.tomasforsenate.com)

¡Solo SETTELL(conformarse) por la libertad!



# VOTE

# TOMAS SETTELL

For Minnesota Senate • District 52



## Tomas Settell District 52

I join you  
in celebrating  
Hispanic Heritage  
Month!

Prepared and Paid for by the Tomas for MN Senate Committee, [www.tomasforsenate.com](http://www.tomasforsenate.com)



## Consejos para ayudar a los hijos con la tarea

**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

Photo: (c) Getty Images, Jupiter Images

## How to Help Your Kids with their Homework

You don't need to be an expert on every subject, just be willing to help There are many things you can do to help your kids start the school year on the right track, like replacing an old backpack or getting them the school supplies they need. But there's something more meaningful you can do that may not cost money: help them with their homework.

Students who do their homework consistently tend to have better grades. It's not always easy to get them to do their homework, especially after a busy day, but these tips can help:

- Talk to your children about their homework. It's important that your kids understand why it's important to do their homework and the positive impact it has on grades. Homework helps them practice what they've learned as well as prepare them for upcoming classes. Plus, by doing their homework they develop the discipline and skills they need to be successful throughout their school years.

- Talk to the teachers. Different teachers might expect different things from parents, so be sure to talk to them to figure out your role. For example, some teachers prefer parents review their kids' homework; others prefer parents make sure kids do their homework. Teachers can also tell

you how much time your child should spend doing homework and what to do if the homework is too easy or too difficult.

- Select a fixed time to do homework. The best time to do homework is the one that works best for your child and you. It can be before or after playing, watching television or dinnertime. What's important is that homework time is consistent. Avoid leaving it for the end of the day, when your child is tired and sleepy.

- Pick a quiet area and eliminate distractions. To help your children focus on homework, pick a place in the house where there's plenty of light and no distractions. It doesn't have to be fancy. It can be the kitchen table or a desk. Make sure the TV is off and put away electronic devices, unless they're essential to doing homework.

- Get them the resources they need. You don't have to be an expert in all subjects to help your kids with homework. However, you need to make sure they have the tools they need to succeed. If you need expert help, you can always take them to the library or help them with their search online. You can also visit kids.gov to find information on homework topics. The Department of Education also has several resources to help your child with homework in dif-

ferent areas, including math, reading and writing.

USA.gov and GobiernoUSA.gov are the U.S. Government's official web portals in English and Spanish, and part of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).

### School Lunches! What's a Parent to Do?

- Read food labels and compare the sodium amount in different products, then choose the options with the lowest amounts of sodium. Some varieties of bread can vary from 80 to 230 mg of sodium per slice! That can make a big difference in lunchtime sandwiches.

- Pack fresh fruits and vegetables with lunch every day.

- For a healthy snack, make trail mix using unsalted nuts, dried fruits, and whole grain cereal.

- When buying prepared meals, look for those with less than 600mg of sodium per meal.



## District 197 Schools to Open in a “Phased-In Hybrid Model”



*District 197 Superintendent  
Peter Olson Skog*

*By Superintendent Peter Olson Skog*

I miss our students. I miss our staff. I miss what I used to think was “normal.” Normally, this is the time of year when families are grabbing their last few moments of summer together, shopping for school supplies, and excitedly anticipating the start of the school.

Needless to say, this year is not normal. And while new opportunities can sometimes be thrilling, this unknown future feels more anxious. Even the words we use feel different. We are bandying about terms like “hybrid learning” and “distance learning.” A year ago

we wouldn’t have had a clue what someone was talking about if they used those phrases.

This fall, School District 197 (West St. Paul - Mendota Heights - Eagan area) schools are opening in a “phased-in hybrid model.” Around 35% of our students opted for full-time distance learning at least for the first semester. The other students will be phasing in to hybrid learning, starting with pre-school and kindergarten students and adding more grades as the data and our system supports it. During hybrid learning, we provide social distance for our youngest learners by having half of our students attend school in person Monday and Tuesday while the other half attend in person Thursday and Friday.

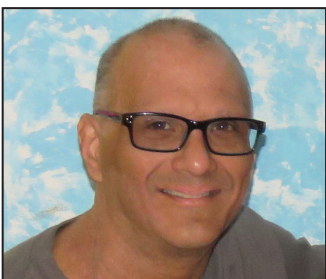
It can be scary to return. But I am confident in the thorough planning and teamwork that has taken place throughout the summer as we prepared for students to return. From curriculum and transportation planning to building cleaning protocols and meal distribution, the School District 197 plan represents the best guidance we have received and mirrors what we see in places that have opened schools safely and kept them open. We also learned some great lessons from distance learning this spring and we will make some improvements this fall so that as grade levels wait to transition to hybrid, we are delivering the best support we can over a distance.

And we remain committed to tackling some important issues that were here long before COVID. We need to continue to address racism and systems of oppression. Our new strategic plan commits each of us to being accountable for removing barriers and creating equitable systems in our classrooms, our schools, and the district.

We all know the critical importance of our schools in our community. I have every confidence that health experts, shared information with other school districts, and planned what will work best on a local level.

But of course we will rise to the needs of our students in this pandemic... together. Whatever COVID throws at us, whatever changes we need to make, we will figure it out together. We are creative and flexible. We are resilient and committed to safety. We are warriors. Some will say we are moving too fast; some will say we are moving too slow. But we all agree that we want to see our students face to face again and to do so safely.

## How an IT Leader at the Minnesota Historical Society Used the Power of History to Change Lives for Hispanic Youth



*Robert Garcia*

This story starts with me giving back to my local community now that I have an established career. My brother and I are some of the few IT professionals of Hispanic descent in the field and I wanted to do something about that. In 2012 while having lunch with Chris Taylor, director of MNHS’s Department of Inclusion and Community Engagement (DICE), I pitched a program called “Summer Tech.” The idea was to help Hispanic and other teens in grades 9-12 to use Google and history together. We went to work on the plans in the fall with the program running in the summer of 2013. We created everything from scratch. I taught the students the Google Suite programs and showed them a website that I created and DICE staff taught them about historical research. The students had four weeks to go from an idea to a presentation and website.

The goal was to teach students basic technological skills that are applicable in various settings. For their final product the students created a Google website based on a topic in Minnesota history and gave a presentation. Students developed skills in Google Documents, Spreadsheets, and Presentations, in addition to using the Calendar function for project management.

The program ran for four summers from 2013-2017. In the first year we served five students and felt it was a success. Tanya Zwald from Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES), a program partner said, “Summer Tech has been an amazing opportunity for our Latinx students to not only dig into the technical skills of building a website and creating a documentary, but it supported them in building soft skills such as communication, research, and teamwork.”

By 2017 the program was a work of art. The students presented in both English and Spanish. We added new challenges including: interviewing, teamwork, research, creating a Google site, multimedia & presentation. “As always, the students were bright and fun to be around,” said MNHS IT Manager Jim Ockuly.

I also benefited. Working with the DICE team was exciting for me professionally and personally. In closing, I want to thank the following people who made this a fantastic program: DICE staff Chris Taylor, Jessica Hobson and Joey Novacheck, CLUES Youth in Action, Brooklyn Park High School, MNHS IT Help Desk, St. Paul College & MNHS for supporting an innovative new program especially considering that I was new to program development.



*Robert Garcia and his students.  
Front: Participant, Ariel Gutierrez, Danelia Flores,  
Xochitl Rodriguez, Crisma Oropeza & Amber Jones  
(Fellow). Back row: Yeison Oropeza, Joey, Robert, Chris.*



## En el Mes de la Herencia Hispana Gracias por tu Trabajo y Esfuerzo



Saúl Carranza

Por Saúl Carranza

Jeremías 29:5-7

“Ya que están allí, construyan casas y vivan en ellas. Cultiven sus granjas y coman los frutos que allí se den. Cásense y tengan hijos; no dejen que su población disminuya. Asegúrense de que sus hijos e hijas también se casen y tengan hijos. Además, trabajen para que prospere la ciudad. Rueguen por ella, pues si la ciudad prospera, también ustedes prosperarán.”

Las palabras que él profeta Jeremías pronunció más de 500 años antes de Cristo en una

horrible situación de sufrimiento del pueblo de Israel fuera de su tierra, parecieran describir la actitud del bravo pueblo hispano de los Estados Unidos durante esta pandemia.

Los datos de la oficina del censo informan que en algún momento de 2019 los latinos superamos los 60 millones en Estados Unidos. Una de cada 6 personas que habitan en este país se identifican como hispano o latino(a). Esto nos ubica como la minoría étnica más grande, 18.3%, y una de las de más rápido crecimiento en el país.

Pero el número no es lo más importante de la población hispana, sino su aporte a la vida del país. Generalmente al llegar el mes de la herencia hispana. 15 de septiembre a 15 de octubre, se honra a personalidades latinas destacadas en los deportes, la economía, la milicia, Las ciencias, las artes y muchos más. Y ciertamente, estamos muy orgullosos por el aporte de ellos y ellas. Son el rostro de “la raza”

en los altos niveles de la multifacética sociedad americana. Pero es también, en los grandes desafíos cuando aparecen las grandes respuestas de aquellos que generalmente están detrás del escenario, de los que no dan la cara frecuentemente pero que siempre están allí. Los héroes anónimos.

La pandemia del covid-19 ha mostrado el valor de millones de héroes que sin buscar renombre se han entregado en alma y cuerpo a mantener funcionando el país. Los latinos hemos llevado lo peor de los contagios con más del cuarenta por ciento. Y una de las razones para tan alto nivel de contagios es que su trabajo es vital y urgente para el país. No se puede detener. En el campo de la salud, como médicos, enfermeros ayudantes o personal de limpieza y desinfectando escuelas, hospitales, edificios públicos, supermercados, etc., En el servicio público como policías, bomberos, psicólogos, pastores etc.

Las estadísticas de la pandemia testifican con cifras de contagios, muertes y recuperados que los hispanos no se han movido de su lugar de servicio. Y tal vez, el más golpeado, muy importante, y poco reconocido ha sido el sector campo y alimentación. Decenas de miles han estado trabajando para que no falte carne, leche, legumbres y todo lo indispensable en la mesa de cada hogar americano. Qué importante es el trabajo hispano en la vida nacional.

A Cada uno de los héroes y heroínas que arriesgando salud, vida y bienestar familiar han seguido fielmente sirviendo al país. Hoy decimos; muchas gracias. Y nuestra oración es que Dios siga bendiciendo su vida, les dé salud, fuerza y que salgamos pronto de esta pandemia para que el país siga prosperando, porque en su bendición nosotros somos bendecidos también, y en la paz del país, todos tenemos paz.

Saúl Carranza

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## In the Month of Hispanic Heritage Thank you for your Work and Effort

By Saúl Carranza

Jeremiah 29: 5-7

“Since you are there, build houses and live in them. Cultivate your farms and eat the fruits that grow there. Get married and have children; don’t let your population decrease. Make sure your sons and daughters get married and have children too. Also, work to make the city prosper. Pray for her, for if the city prospers, you too will prosper.”

The words that the prophet Jeremiah spoke more than 500 years before Christ in a horrible situation of suffering of the people of Israel outside their land, seem to describe the attitude of the brave Hispanic people of the United States during this pandemic.

Data from the Census Bureau reports that at some point in 2019, Latinos will exceed 60 million in the United States. One out of every 6 people living in this country identifies as Hispanic or Latino (a). This places us as the largest ethnic minority, 18.3%, and one of the fastest growing in the country.

But the number is not the most important of the Hispanic population, but its contribution to the life of the country. Usually around Hispanic Heritage Month. September 15 - October 15, honoring outstanding Latino personalities in sports, economics, military, science, the arts, and more. And certainly, we are immensely proud of their contribution. They are the face of “the race” at the highest levels of multifaceted American society. But it is also in the great challenges that the great responses appear from those who are generally behind the scenes, from those who do not show

their faces frequently but are always there. The anonymous heroes.

The covid-19 pandemic has shown the value of millions of heroes who, without seeking renown, have given themselves soul and body to keep the country running. Latinos have had the worst of infections with more than 40 percent. And one of the reasons for such a high level of contagion is that their work is vital and urgent for the country. It cannot be stopped. In the health field, such as doctors, nursing assistants or cleaning and disinfecting personnel, schools, hospitals, public buildings, supermarkets, etc., In the public service such as policemen, firefighters, psychologists, pastors etc.

The statistics of the pandemic testify with numbers of infections, deaths, and recoveries that Hispanics have not moved from their place of service. And perhaps the hardest hit, especially important, and little recognized has been the food and agriculture sector. Tens of thousands have been working so that there is no lack of meat, milk, legumes and all the essentials on the table of every American home. The Hispanic work is important for the national life.

To Each of the heroes and heroines who, risking health, life, and family well-being, have faithfully continued to serve the country. Today we say, thank you. And our prayer is that God continues to bless your life, give you health, strength and that we get out of this pandemic soon so that the country continues to prosper, because in its blessing we are also blessed, and in the peace of the country, we all have peace.

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## Chasing Leonard: DNR Surveys Butterflies to Prevent Further Population Decrease



*The elusive, rare little Leonard's Skippers are a Minnesota species of "Special Concern," due in part to the reduction in natural prairie habitat.*

*By Deborah Locke  
DNR Information Officer*

On a stifling hot day in August, Dr. Jessica Petersen prepared to survey a small urban prairie habitat for a rare butterfly, the Leonard's Skipper. They're small, reddish orange in color and quick.

"They're beautiful, and fun to watch," she said. "You may not see them but you can hear them fly past. They flap their wings really fast."

Petersen is the Department of Natural Resource invertebrate ecologist and takes the lead with endangered butterfly surveys and native bee surveys in Minnesota.

The elusive, rare little Leonard's Skippers are a Minnesota species of "Special Concern," due in part to the reduction in natural prairie habitat. Species of special concern are uncommon, and need monitoring. On sweaty August days, Petersen searched for the butterflies in a small patch of metro prairie; the next day she scaled steep bluffs in southern Minnesota to gauge the health and number of the species at that location.

It is grueling, slow work but it's critical work in the development of a conservation plan. Known as adaptive management, rare species are monitored by the DNR with cooperation from land managers to measure factors affecting an insect population. One question posed this summer is whether prescriptive fires help or hinder the populations of these butterflies. Prescribed burns are an important tool for managing prairies, that can encourage new growth and flowering in many flower and grass species, as well as prevent encroachment by trees and shrubs. The post-fire changes to habitats are beneficial to the butterflies because they provide increases in food (nectar producing plants) and nesting habitat.

However, when so little prairie remains, and the habitats themselves are small, prescribed burning could also lead to mortality of these insects in their vulnerable larval stage. Many factors play a role in striking a balance between conserving these insects, and the quality of the prairie habitat they rely on.

To make the pursuit of knowledge even more complicated, the Leonard's Skipper flight plan lasts a mere two to three weeks per summer, and Minnesota is a very large place. To measure changes from the last survey -- completed decades ago -- Petersen takes an educated guess on where she may find the little butterflies feeding on nectar, and then pursues them. Their numbers may be reduced because a particular grass they feed on is no longer available. The state has good plant data, so it makes sense to presume that if their preferred nectar-producing flowers or feeding grasses are plentiful, the butterflies will be there. Sometimes that is true, not always.

So far this summer, the Leonard's Skipper butterfly has been spotted 195 times in Minnesota, which is encouraging. Other species in this genus disappeared from the state, and the reason is unknown, Petersen said. The species lives for a year and of that time, only two weeks are spent in flight as adults.

"We don't see them for the other 50 weeks of their lives," she said. It is hard to know where they are feeding or on what. Specialists can speculate on what impacts the species, but those speculations don't always prove accurate. "It's hard to know how to help them," Petersen said.

One way to help the butterflies is to plant more prairie grasses and butterfly-friendly flowers wherever you live, like the beautiful purple Prairie Blazing Star and a prairie grass such as the delicate Prairie Dropseed. One-third of the state was prairie land before it converted to agricultural and urban development. For those with a patch of back yard, consider the fate of butterflies, and the Leonard's Skipper. You could make a big difference in the life of one of the state's smallest, most vulnerable critters.

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**Comcast Launches New “Internet Essentials Partnership Program” for Cities, Schools, and Students as Nation Gears Up for the Academic Year • Adds Free xFi Platform for Parents to Protect Children’s Devices and Monitor Online Activities • Continues to Offer 60 Days of Free Internet Service for New Internet Essentials Customers**

With distance learning plans rolling out across the country due to the coronavirus, Comcast today announced a new program for cities, schools, and nonprofits to connect large numbers of low-income K-12 students to the Internet at home. The “Internet Essentials Partnership Program” is designed to help accelerate Internet adoption at a critical time. In nearly ten years, Internet Essentials has become the nation’s largest and most successful low-income Internet adoption program and has connected millions of people to the Internet. It offers households low-cost, broadband Internet service for \$9.95/month, the option to purchase a heavily subsidized computer, and multiple options for digital literacy training. Comcast also announced today it is giving all Internet Essentials customers its innovative xFi platform, which enables parents to control and manage their children’s WiFi connected devices

The new “Internet Essentials Partnership Program” (IEPP) enables cities, schools, and nonprofits to collaborate to help fund and connect large numbers of K-12 students with broadband Internet service and devices like laptops and tablets. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has already signed up more than 70 schools across the country, including seven here in the Twin Cities. Comcast continues to offer new Internet Essentials customers two months of free Internet access if they sign up before the end of 2020. Comcast also continues to forgive any back debt due so more families can apply.

All Internet Essentials customers now have free access to Comcast’s innovative xFi platform, which enables parents to control and manage their family’s WiFi connected devices, set safe browsing modes so children can only access age-appropriate content, and pause devices for dinner or bedtime.

Comcast announced plans to convene a series of virtual national and regional summits this fall to help tackle the challenges of broadband adoption.

For more information, please see the attached press release or go to [www.comcastcorporation.com](http://www.comcastcorporation.com). Thanks, as always for your interest and partnership, and please feel free to reach out with any related questions.