

NEWS AND PROFILES CONNECTING THE LATINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA

Latino American Today

September 2021 Issue 408

www.latinoamericantoday.com

*Empiece la
Escuela de
Forma Segura*



Start School Safely

STAY SAFE **MN**

MANTENTE SEGURO **MN**

State Officials Recommend CDC School Covid-19 Guidance For Fall

With students, families, and K-12 educators preparing for the start of the 2021-22 school year amid concerns about an uptick in COVID-19 cases driven by the Delta variant, health and education officials are recommending that schools follow CDC's guidance for COVID-19 prevention in K-12 schools this fall. These best practice recommendations reflect the current state of the pandemic as well as the importance of in-person learning.

The guidance document, Best Practice Recommendations for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools for the 2021-22 School Year (PDF) highlights CDC best practice recommendations for implementing layered prevention strategies (using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated. Among the specific points covered in the guidance:

All people ages 12 years and older should get vaccinated for COVID-19 before returning to in-person school, sports, or other activities to protect themselves and people around them who cannot get vaccinated.

All students, teachers, staff, and visitors in school buildings should wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status in order to protect those who cannot yet be vaccinated or who remain at higher risk because of immune-compromised status or other conditions.

Schools should maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms whenever possible.

Students, teachers, and staff should stay home if they have signs of any infectious illness, and should contact their health care provider for testing and care.

Students, teachers, and staff who have been fully vaccinated do not need to stay home even if they have had recent close contact with a confirmed case, so long as they remain asymptomatic and do not test positive. Follow CDC testing guidance for anyone exposed to a confirmed case.

People who are not fully vaccinated and returning to in-person school, sports, or extracurricular activities (and their families) should get tested regularly for COVID-19 according to CDC guidance.

Schools should continue to strengthen good ventilation, rapid and thorough contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, handwashing, respiratory etiquette, cleaning, and disinfection as important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.

While there are no longer mandates that schools follow this guidance, it does represent the most current science-based best practices for safe in-person learning. The recommendations are designed to support local school boards and school leaders as they make decisions for the upcoming school year, and help Minnesota students get back in the classroom safely.

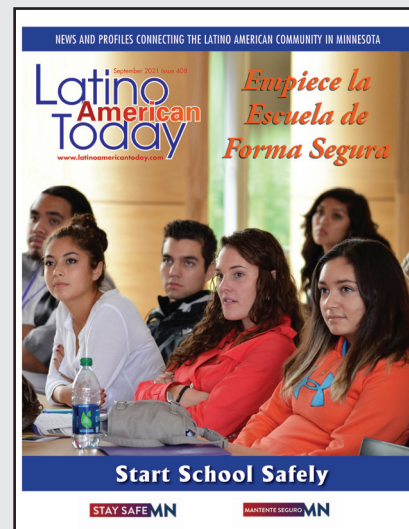
"In-person learning is critical, not only when it comes to academics, but also for our students' social-emotional well-being and mental health," said Minnesota Education Commissioner Dr. Heather Mueller. "As we head back to school this fall, we must implement measures to protect the health and safety of all of our students, staff and families.

¡Vacune a sus hijos!

Ahora los niños de 12 años o más pueden recibir la vacuna contra la COVID-19.

MANTENTE SEGURO MN





On The Cover
Empiece la Escuela de Forma Segura
Start School Safely

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Lección Aprendida De Los 200 Años De La Independencia Centroamericana



Por Saúl Carranza

La independencia de Centroamérica fue relativamente pacífica. Aunque durante cerca de dos décadas hubo intentos independentistas armados. Grandes eventos mundiales como la revolución francesa y la independencia de Estados Unidos animaron el espíritu liberal de los centroamericanos.

Para 1821 México y la mayoría de los países suramericanos ya habían proclamado su independencia de España. En Centroamérica los ejemplos de otros países y la influencia del movimiento racionalista europeo ayudó a concebir el ideal de una independencia por la razón y no por las armas. El imperio español ocupado en muchas guerras no tenía la posibilidad de atender a esta pequeña capitánía general que olvidada del imperio convocó a una reunión de autoridades y notables para dar el paso de la emancipación de lo que hoy conocemos como Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua y Costa Rica.

El 15 de septiembre de 1821 se proclamó en la ciudad de Guatemala la independencia de la región. En una reunión de criollos y peninsulares se fijaron las bases de lo que sería la nueva república. Al final, el proceso resultó en cinco repúblicas independientes. El Himno a Centroamérica dice en uno de sus coros:

**Sonó el dulce vocablo de hermano,
Batió el aire una enseña de unión;
cinco dedos formando una mano
agitaron un cetro de honor.**

Aunque hay que luchar por alcanzar los grandes anhelos de la vida, no siempre es necesario pelear. Los seres humanos hemos sido bendecidos con la capacidad de razonar y argumentar. La inteligencia es la capacidad dada por Dios para encontrar los mejores medios para alcanzar un fin. La violencia solo engendra más violencia.

Hay cadenas que atan más fuertemente que el dominio político. La injusticia, el hambre, la pobreza, la enfermedad, etc., aprisionan, matan los anhelos y la esperanza de las personas. Que pasaría si en lugar de pensar en cómo hacer mejor la guerra los humanos pensáramos en luchar para vencer a estos enemigos. Creo que muchos de los males de este mundo serían derrotados. Por esto Jesús dijo: “Bienaventurados los pacificadores, ellos serán llamados hijos de Dios.” Con inteligencia y buenas decisiones se puede derrotar al mal.

Dios bendiga a los centroamericanos en la celebración de sus 200 años de emancipación política y nos ayude a aprender a lograr nuestras metas sin atacarnos unos a otros.

Lesson Learned From The 200 Years Of Central American Independence

By Saúl Carranza

The independence of Central America was relatively peaceful. Although for about two decades there were armed independence attempts. Great world events such as the French Revolution and the independence of the United States animated the liberal spirit of Central Americans.

By 1821 Mexico and most of the South American countries had already proclaimed their independence from Spain. In Central America, the examples of other countries and the influence of the European rationalist movement helped to conceive the ideal of an independence by reason and not by arms. The Spanish empire occupied in many wars did not have the possibility of attending this small captaincy general that, forgotten of the empire, called a meeting of authorities and notables to take the step of the emancipation of what today we know as Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

On September 15, 1821, the independence of the region was proclaimed in Guatemala City. In a meeting of Creoles and peninsulares the foundations of what would be the new republic were established. In the end, the process resulted in five independent republics. The Hymn to Central America says in one of its choirs:

**The sweet word of brother sounded,
An emblem of union flapped in the air;
five fingers forming one hand
they waved a scepter of honor.**

Although you have to fight to achieve the great desires of life, it is not always necessary to fight. Human beings have been blessed with the ability to reason and argue. Intelligence is the God-given ability to find the best means to an end. Violence only begets more violence.

There are chains that bind more strongly than political dominance. Injustice, hunger, poverty, disease, etc., imprison, kill people's hopes and desires. What if instead of thinking about how to make war better, humans thought about fighting to defeat these enemies. I believe that many of the evils of this world would be defeated. This is why Jesus said: “Blessed are the peacemakers, they will be called sons of God.” With intelligence and good decisions, evil can be defeated.

God bless Central Americans as they celebrate 200 years of political emancipation and help us learn to achieve our goals without attacking each other.

*Saúl Carranza is the pastor at the Iglesia Familia de Dios in Dayton, MN. Email him at pastorcarranza@gmail.com or call (763)245-2378.

IGLESIA FAMILIA DE DIOS DAYTON MN

14100 Elm Creek Rd. Dayton MN 55369 Tel 763 568 4618

Pastores Saúl y Cony Carranza



Queremos ser tu hogar espiritual en la Twin Cities

Si quieres conocer más de Dios, estudiar la Biblia
Y ser parte de una comunidad que ama a Dios y su prójimo, te esperamos.

Acompáñanos en el servicio regular de la Iglesia. Domingos 1:00 pm
Viernes 7:00pm Estudio bíblico.

Transmitimos por Facebook live en
<https://www.facebook.com/IglesiaFamiliadeDios.DaytonMN>

Leading During Uncertain Times



Marcia Malzahn

By Marcia Malzahn

Leaders must be decisive and leading during uncertain times is difficult. The only constant we have these days is uncertainty in every aspect of our lives. Leadership is about influencing others and sharing a vision others choose to embrace. When the leader's vision is not clear, confusion sets in. When the vision continually changes, people get discouraged. So, what are leaders to do when uncertainty results in a potential change in the vision of the company? For example, a restaurant owner may have the vision to "be the best local restaurant in our city that locals and visitors choose." The owner's desire and vision are to also expand to five other cities within the next five years.

The pandemic changed all those plans. And now as we live through the lasting effects of the pandemic, this visionary leader now needs to adjust the expansion plans or even put them on hold altogether. However, the long-term vision does not necessarily have to change. The vision can remain the same, but the desire (and vision) to expand to five cities in the next five years is simply one Strategic Objective and the timeline can be extended or put on hold until the uncertainty subsides.

At the same time, this leader could be experiencing uncertainty at home with kids going to back to school this fall. The countless decisions that parents must make as their kids re-enter school creates additional stress. Leaders who are also parents must also be decisive in the home.

Below are some strategies for leaders to deal with uncertainty both at work:

- Stick to your long-term vision and put Strategic Objectives on hold if necessary.
- Make decisions with the information you have at the time.
- If you make the wrong decision, accept the mistake, and communicate the reasons why you made certain decisions.
- Constant communication with your team is crucial during uncertain times.
- Be flexible and pivot as needed based on circumstances but don't lose sight of your long-term goals.

Below are some strategies for leaders to deal with uncertainty both at home:

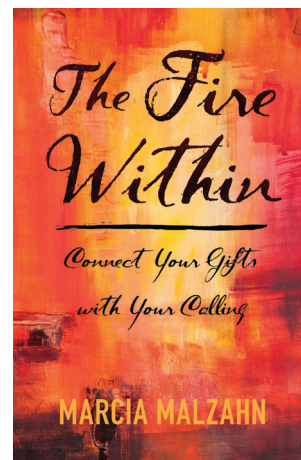
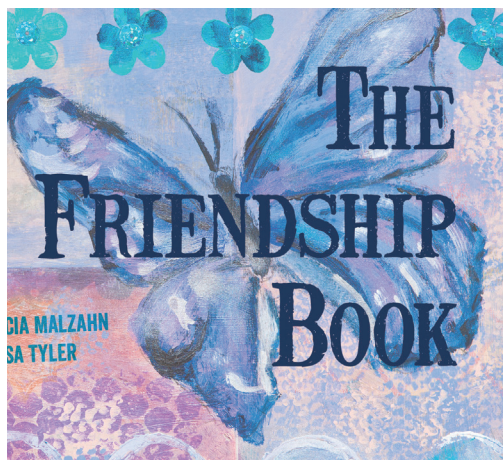
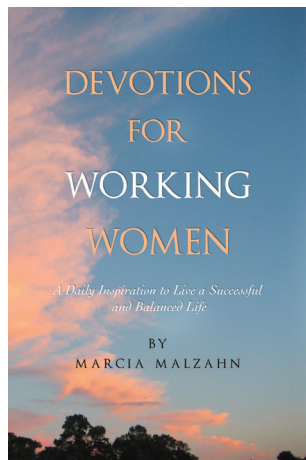
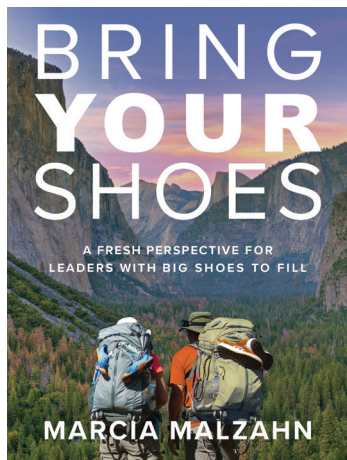
- Involve your spouse in making decisions for your children. If you are single, reach out to other parents who are in similar situations.
- Ask for help. You don't have to go through these uncertain times alone.
- Ask the school and teachers lots of questions so you are clear of the options for your children.
- Again, if you make a mistake, acknowledge the mistake and change direction. Communication with your children is also key to getting through uncertain times.
- Remember each child learns differently. Listen to your children! They will tell you what's working and what's not working with them.

I hope these strategies help you navigate the uncertain times we're living in at work and at home. Most importantly, remember to pray and ask God for direction in your life. We started this article by stating that the one constant these days is uncertainty. But the other constant is God. He never changes and is always there ready to help you. I will leave you with this promise from the Bible to encourage you to get through these difficult times. It's called the "Effective Prayer."

Matthew 7:7 (NLT)

"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you."

Marcia is an inspirational keynote speaker and published author of four books: A daily devotional – *Devotions for Working Women*, *The Fire Within* – to help you find your purpose, friendship poems in *The Friendship Book*, also in Spanish *El Libro de la Amistad* (poemas de Amistad), and *Bring YOUR Shoes* to help emerging leaders with tools on how to lead. You can contact Marcia for speaking engagements through her website at <https://crowning-achievements.com/> or email her at mmalzahn@crowning-achievements.com. Marcia Malzahn is also president and founder of Malzahn Strategic a management consulting firm for community financial institutions.



Latino American Today has a mission to profile Latino Americans, their lives, experiences, and stories as they seek the American Dream in the greatest country in the world.

We're Pleased To Feature Jens Tulio As He Begins His Journey Of Going To Hollywood And Becoming A Star!



"Jens playing 'Carlos' in Legally Blonde."

As I make my move to Los Angeles to pursue my dream of working as a professional actor, I reflect on my identity and how it shapes who I am. My name is Jens Tulio, illustrating my unique heritage and cultural backgrounds – I am Guatemalan-Danish, a combination that could only happen “five banks ago” per parental sources. It’s an identity that I’ve struggled with because of how the world interprets how I look. It’s confusing at first glance, sure, but it’s something I hold closely because it will directly affect my progress in entertainment.

One of my concerns as a Latino actor is our dismal representation in nearly every critical job category tracked by the 2020 UCLA Hollywood Diversity Report – it covers everyone from actors to writers and production crew members to executives. Despite making up 17% of the nation’s population and over a third of the state of California, the numbers remain stubbornly stagnant for Latino actors. According to the latest report, Latines’ share of lead acting roles was 6.6% on scripted broadcast shows, 5.5% in cable and 4.0% in digital in 2018–19. Among all TV acting roles in the past two years, Latinos’ best representation was in broadcast shows during the 2017–18 season, but even then, they made up just 6.4% of casts. Without getting too academic, I wanted to use these statistics to illustrate how stratified this space I’m entering really is.

Improving representation is an admirable goal for Hollywood, however how Latines are represented in media is, in my opinion, much more vital to our continued success in entertainment.

I want to be a part of this movement, one that prioritizes stories being written, directed, produced, and acted entirely by Latines. I want to explore the struggles of multi-racial, multi-ethnic households and what makes our stories unique. Above all, I want to be me and to be able to share that with the world. I’m excited for the stories I’ll get to tell and the people I’ll get to work with. There’s nothing like being a Latino actor in LA and I’m looking forward to the journey ahead.

“That Jens is talented is true without question, but that is not why I regard him so highly. Jens is that rare young artist who is wholly committed to doing all the hard work it takes to succeed. He is dogged in his pursuit of his craft and seeking out opportunities to work. Jens is not only committed to the creative aspects of his work as an actor. Equally as important, if not more so, is the fact that he is clear-eyed about the work and commitment it takes to foster and nurture a career in the business of acting. He is the most enterprising actor with whom I have ever worked in over 30 years of university teaching.”

– Annamaria Pileggi, Professor of Drama,
Washington University in St. Louis

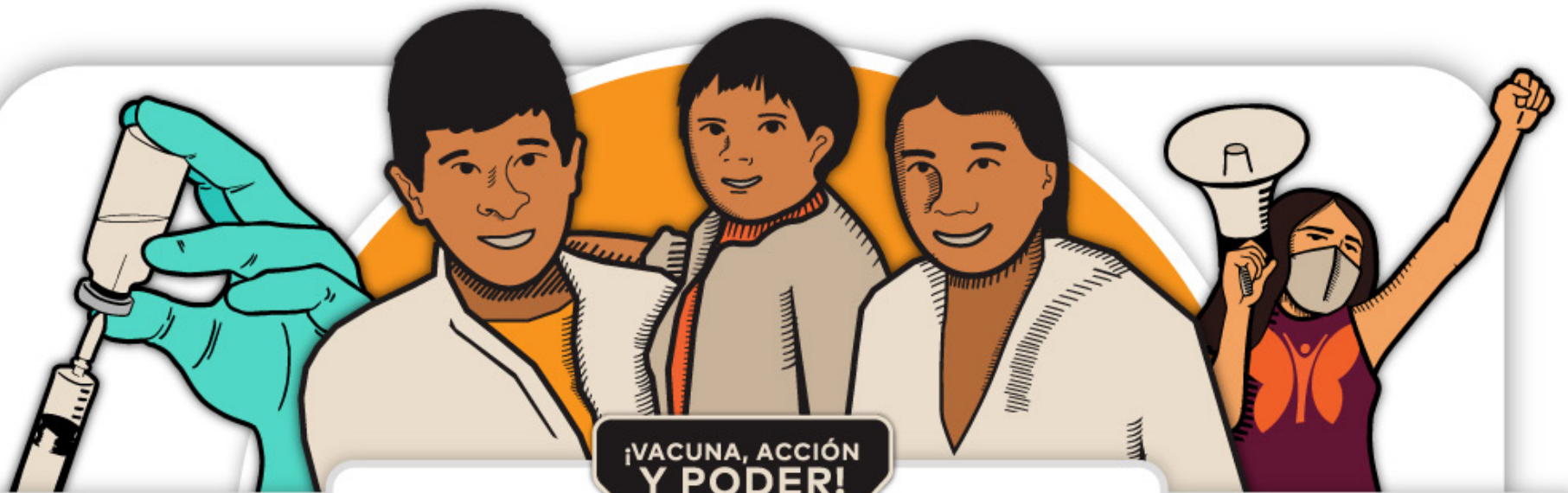
 **Washington University in St. Louis**
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



Citations

Hunt, Darnell; Ramón, Ana-Christina. (2020) Hollywood Diversity Report 2020, 1-76.

<https://socialsciences.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/UCLA-Hollywood-Diversity-Report-2020-Television-10-22-2020.pdf>



VACUNA:
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VACUNACIÓN
COMUNITARIA
CONTRA COVID-19

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y SÁBADOS
10am a 2pm



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No se requiere cita ni seguro de salud.

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¡VACÚNATE!





Estados Unidos funciona con energía limpia, confiable y a bajo precio: es importante mantener este recurso al alcance de todos

A medida que la demanda de energía crece después de la pandemia, los funcionarios públicos están tomando decisiones que podrían afectar su acceso a energía segura, a bajo precio y confiable. Las olas de calor y las tormentas están poniendo a prueba las necesidades energéticas del país; no podemos dar por sentado este suministro energético.

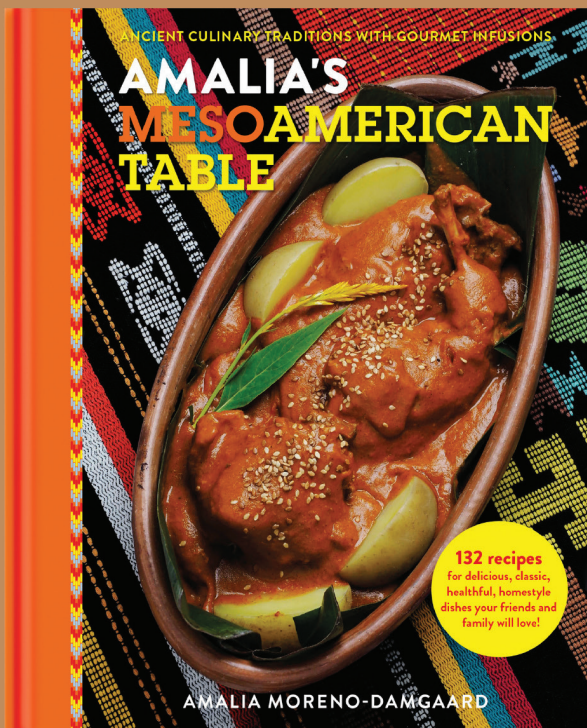
Los funcionarios públicos no deben disminuir este recurso importante.

Para obtener más información sobre cómo el suministro de energía ayuda a su comunidad, visite **CommunityEnergyCenter.org**



El Community Energy Center es una cooperativa con la National Newspaper Publishers Association y la National Association of Hispanic Publications Media, que brindará información y perspectivas sobre el papel integral que juega el sector energético en la vida cotidiana de las familias estadounidenses en una gran variedad de comunidades.

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Thursday, October 7th 6:00pm – 8:30pm Fueled Collective 401 S 4th St. Suite 401

Sponsors and Partners:



July 27, 2021

Mr. Richard J. Aguilar
President & CEO
Aguilar Productions, Inc.



Dear Rick,

On behalf of the Hispanic Marketing Council (HMC) Board of Directors we want to congratulate you and Aguilar Productions on the 25th anniversary of the Annual Hispanic Marketing Conference. This event has become an incredible asset to the entire Hispanic marketing community. It is rare to find an event packed with industry leaders sharing their knowledge of the market.

Your dedication and leadership have been the guiding the light and we are looking forward to the next twenty-five years!

Thanks for making our industry better.

Un fuerte abrazo,


Horacio Gavilan
Executive Director

Hispanic Marketing Council (HMC)
P.O. Box 3915
Merrifield, VA 22116-3915
www.HispanicMarketingCouncil.org



Rick with Maya Santamaria, Santamaria Broadcasting,
and John Pacheco, Latino Chamber of Commerce



Luis Fitch, Founder and Creative Director,
UNO Branding and Danny Vargas



Rick and Danny with Amalia Moreno-Damgaard

Attendees At
The Hispanic
Marketing
Conference

25th Anniversary



The Ordway, Schubert Club and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra
enjoying the conference

Hispanic Marketing Conference Celebrates 25th Anniversary



Dr. Jake Beniflah, Rick Aguilar and Danny Vargas

The 25th Annual Hispanic Marketing Conference & Awards, produced by St. Paul based Aguilar Productions, was held on August 5, 2021 at Neighborhood House at Wellstone Center in St. Paul. The conference was sponsored by Comcast, U.S. Bank and NAHREP Twin Cities. “We had a wonderful conference, great speakers, a capacity turnout of Marketing, Civic and Business leaders, a wonderful lunch served by Amalia Moreno-Damgaard, Chef, Author/ Business leader and our awards presentation to national Latino marketing leaders” stated Rick Aguilar, President of Aguilar Productions.

The conference attendees were impressed with the presentations from the keynote presenters, Danny Vargas, Founder and President of Varcom Solutions, Herndon, VA and Dr. Jake Beniflah, Founding Executive Director of the Center for Multicultural Science, Los Angeles, CA. Both of the presenters, were recipients of the annual Hispanic Marketing Achievements Awards.

Aguilar Productions, was honored for the longevity of the annual conference, by the Hispanic Marketing Council, a national organization made up of the leading U.S. Latino marketing professionals, corporate members and supporters. “We are looking forward to our 26th annual Hispanic Marketing Conference in 2022 and beyond” – Rick Aguilar, Aguilar Productions.

“Wonderful conference, U.S. Bank is proud to support this initiative”

– Rene Madrid, U.S. Bank



Rick with U.S. Bank representatives, led by Rene Madrid

“Comcast is a proud supporter of the Hispanic Marketing Conference”

– Diego Classen, Comcast Unidos ERG



Rick with Comcast representatives, led by Diego Classen, Comcast Unidos ERG

Rick and Danny Vargas with NAHREP Twin Cities members, Isaac Contreras chapter President



“Great conference, wonderful speakers, so happy to participate”

– Isaac Contreras, President, NAHREP Twin Cities



MI CASA es SU CASA

virtual weekly webcast CONVERSACIONES de SALUD
with guest co-host:



Hector Colon-Rivera, MD
(ORN: Opioids Technical Advisor)
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
Administration (SAMHSA)
Opioids Response Network (ORN)

*Dr. Hector continues to lead discussions on
opioids and the health history of Hispanic/Latinx
communities. His Consejos (advise) led to the
development of an original bilingual PSA on the
proper disposal of prescription medication.*

HOST: SPNN (St. Paul Neighborhood Network)

***Friday, September 3rd, Noon - 1:00 pm**
National Recovery Day

***Wednesday, September 15th, Noon - 1:00 pm**
First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month

***Friday, October 15th, Noon - 1:00 pm**
Last Day of Hispanic Heritage Month

***Monday, November 2nd, 4:00 - 7:00 pm**
Dia de Los Muertos: Virtual Presentation, Las Raíces –
The Roots of Stimulants and Opioids Disorders. Co-host
Metropolitan University and Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.

Panel guests to be confirmed.



Funding for this initiative was made possible (in part) by grant no.
1H79T1083343 from SAMHSA. The views expressed in written conference
materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily
reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services;
nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply
endorsement by the U.S. Dept. of Health.

**Las familias prosperan cuando
reconocen las fortalezas
individuales y las compartidas.**
**Families thrive when individual
and shared strengths are honored.**
Aumente las fortalezas de su familia.
Expand your family's strengths.



Encuentre recursos en:
Find resources at: helpmeconnectmn.org

Dam Lowered At Lake Ogechie The Rebirth Of An Ancient Gift From The Creator



Wild Rice Shaft

*By Deborah Locke, DNR Information Officer
Photos provided by the DNR*

For centuries, Lake Ogechie on the Mille Lacs Reservation in central Minnesota produced thousands of pounds of wild rice each season. Old photos show as many as 100 two-person canoes on the lake's shallow water during the harvest.

This year, for the first time in almost 50 years, Mille Lacs Band members will harvest wild rice from Lake Ogechie following the lowering of a dam in 2015. To some of you, that may not sound like a big deal. But to the Ojibwe, for whom wild rice represents life itself as a sustaining gift from the Creator, this is one big deal.



Finished Wild Rice

"To open this lake after it was impaired for so many years is almost like a healing for our people," said Kelley Applegate, Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resource Commissioner and an enrolled Band member. "This shows that when things go wrong, they can get better. To have this lake open to harvest is proof that when we work together to improve the earth and care for its natural resources, it benefits all inhabitants of the planet."

The wild rice restoration project helps preserve an important piece of state history, said Kris Erickson, Mille Lacs Kathio State Park Manager. Park staff are charged with preserving the culture and history of an area, which led to

efforts by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the Department of Natural Resources to restore this significant cultural resource. An added bonus: lowering the lake level also created new wildlife habitat where waterfowl like ducks and geese can feed on wild rice before migrating south.

Conversations about changes to the dam started in about 2004 between the Band and the DNR, said Perry Bunting, Director of Environmental Programs for the Band. There's nothing simple about making that happen. The 400-acre lake is within reservation boundaries and is managed partly by the Band and by the state DNR. Environmental impact studies took place, hydrologists tested for the impact of a lower water level on the Rum River and Mille Lacs Lake and archeologists surveyed for evidence of habitation. The Band contracted with Canadian researchers who drilled to learn pollen levels from a century ago and earlier. Those tests showed that indeed, the lake had a long history of growing prodigious amounts of wild rice.

Additionally, the lake had a long history of dams. The first was installed in the late 1800s or early 1900s to aid the lumbering industry, according to Kris Erickson with the DNR. In the 1930s, the dam was used to create a water source for farmers in the area that is now Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. The most recent dam, known as the Buckmoore, was completed in 1952 as a way to re-establish the Mille Lacs Lake water level. Lowering the Buckmoore Dam by three feet lowered Lake Ogechie by 18 inches, Erickson said.

When that occurred, an earthy smell emerged, Bunting said. Lake sediment became visible, and before long, the wild rice started to grow again. The rice also grew during a 1988 drought, proving the Band's point that the dam had created a water level too steep for healthy rice growth. After the Buckmoore Dam was altered, no seeding was required. It's as if the wild rice – which is actually a grain – knew that a time to flourish would return.

The ricing season lasts for about two weeks starting in late August of each year. Each Minnesota Ojibwe band selects one person who determines when the rice is ripe. Then the work starts – the bending of yellow brown shafts into a canoe floating on shallow water, which knocks the rice to the canoe floor. It's hard, sweaty work, but you can bet that this year on Ogechie, lifted spirits and a certain joy will ease the labor, contributing toward a great harvest.



Rice on Lake Ogechie

La FAMILIA

LATINO HERITAGE CELEBRATION



Thursday, September 23, 2021 – 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

St. Paul's Historic Landmark Center, 75 W 5th Street, St. Paul MN

Aguilar Productions presents the 18th Annual La Familia Latino Heritage Celebration

Our celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, will be held in the beautiful St. Paul Landmark Center.

We will present wonderful, colorful entertainment featuring:
TWIN CITIES FAVORITE LATINO GROUPS



Kico Rangel y Los Amigos



Los Alegres Bailadores
Mexican Folkloric Dance Group



LA FAMILIA LATINO HERITAGE AWARDS 2021 RECIPIENTS

These awards will be presented to leaders in community, education, business and the arts, who support and contribute to the growth and success of the Latino community in Minnesota!

- Comcast - Internet Essentials Program
- MDH Hispanic/Latinx Community Liaison Team
- Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
- George Avaloz, Legendary Jazz Musician
- Pastor Saul Carranza, Iglesia Familia de Dios
- Juanita Rangel de Moran, Latino community celebrates her 100th Birthday!

There is NO COST/FREE to attend.

There will be a Cash Bar and light snacks provided.

For more information go to our website, www.aguilarproductions.com
or email us at: aguilarproductions@msn.com

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