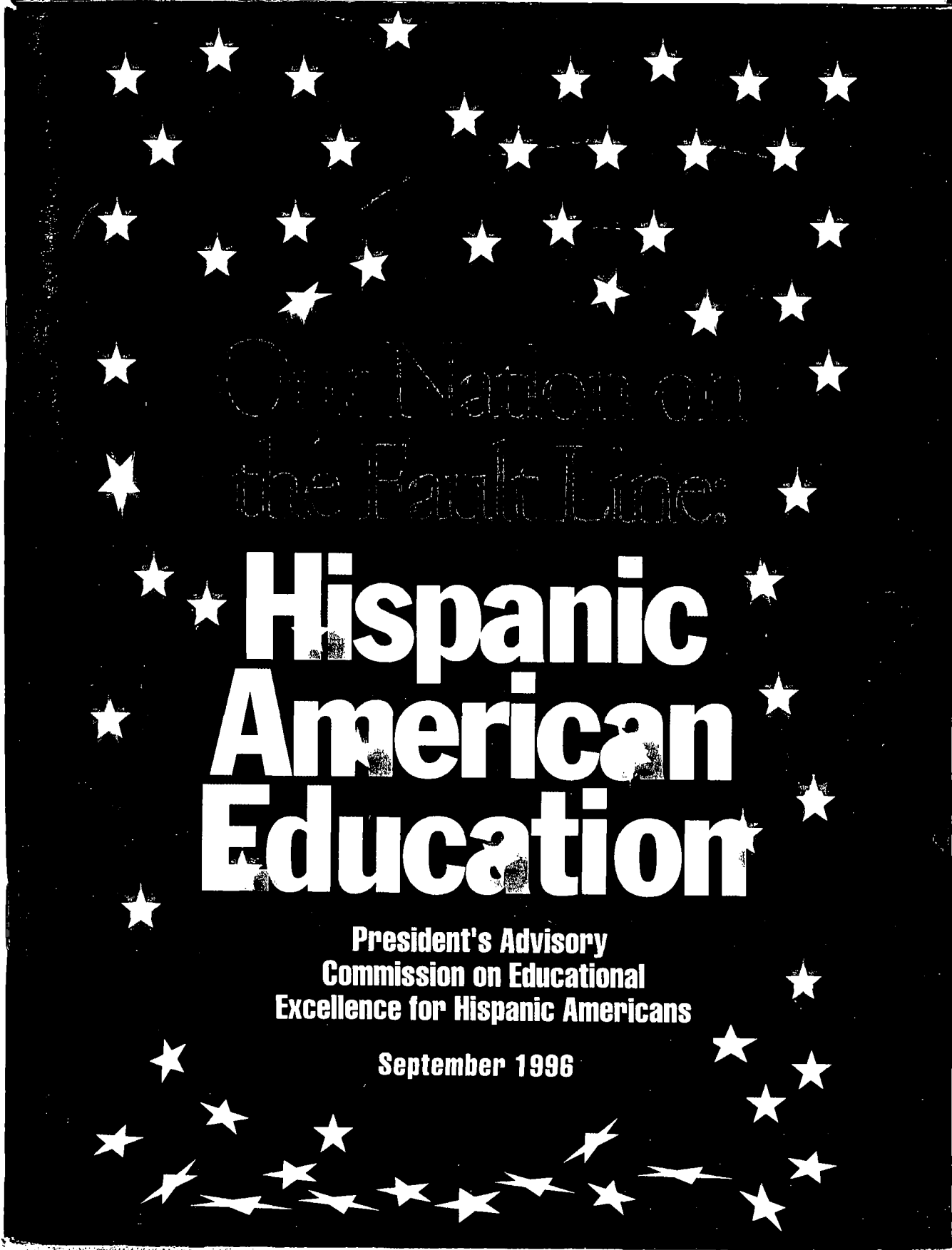

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Booklet, "Our Nation on the Fault Line," 112 pages



Our Nation on
the Fault Line

Hispanic American Education

President's Advisory
Commission on Educational
Excellence for Hispanic Americans

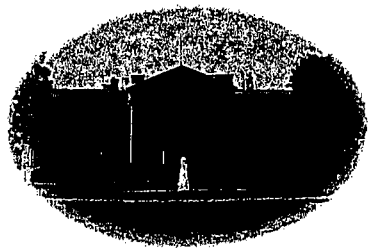
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WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE

ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANIC AMERICANS

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMISSION UPDATE — Fall 1999

Looking Towards a New Century

By Ana M. "Cha" Guzman—Chair,
President's Advisory Commission

As the Commission and its partners prepare to move the cause of Hispanic learning and achievement into a new century, we must recognize how far and how fast we have come in making quality education for Hispanics a national priority. From the 1996 release of our report, *Our Nation on the Faultline: Hispanic American*

Education to the over \$500 million commitment of FY99 appropriations, we have seen real progress. This past year has

been a milestone in our efforts to leverage government support to our cause. We have worked to foster government commitment to Hispanic education and employment not just at the federal level but at state and local levels as well. We have focused on the role of Latino parents in encouraging academic success. And we have studied the effects of education reform and the practices of assessment on Latino students.

Our goals are unchanging. We labor to level the playing field and bring educational opportunity for hundreds of thousands of bright and capable Latino students in cities, towns, barrios and migrant camps around the country. We know that in less than 15 years, a quarter of America's youth population—ages 5 to 18—will be Hispanic. Our agenda

today will help to determine the quality of life for all Americans in the next century.

As the term of the Commission comes to an end, we believe it is time to plan a National Meeting on Latino Educational Excellence for Spring 2000. Its purpose is three-fold:

- ★ to consider the impact of past and current White House Initiatives on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans;

- ★ to take stock of the strategies and organizations that improve educational opportunities for Latinos;

- ★ to focus on what we

still need to do, not as a Commission or Initiative but as a community and a nation, to improve educational opportunities for Latinos throughout the country.

Yes, our scope is ambitious but we will focus on the outcomes and their impact on our community. We envision our National Meeting as an opportunity to embrace our partners in corporations, foundations and federal agencies as well as in community-based organizations and the education community.

We hope you will join in this effort.

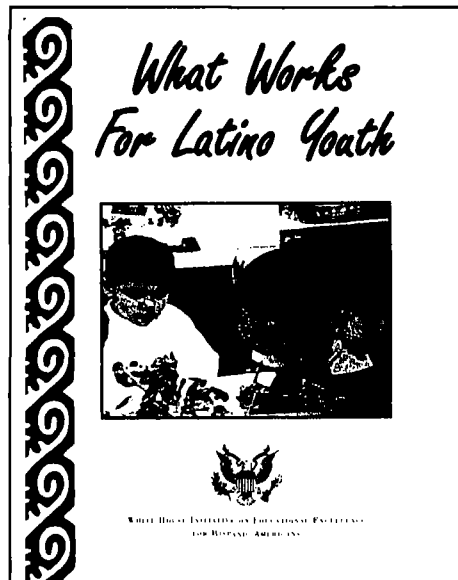
Ana M. Guzman

★ A CALL TO CONVENE ★
A National Meeting on
Latino Educational Excellence
SPRING 2000
Watch for details at:
www.ed.gov/offices/OIIA/Hispanic

First Lady's Convening

Hillary Rodham Clinton opened the first-ever White House Convening on Hispanic Children and Youth on August 2, 1999 with a call for action. "There are many who promise to fight for children and the schools they attend," she said. "But, I am reminded of something my mother taught me growing up: 'Watch what they do, not what they say.'"

With action in mind, the convening brought together not only scholars and politicians, but community activists from around the country. Their purpose was to examine the many challenges and opportunities facing Hispanic young people, particularly in the areas of early childhood development, educational attainment, and adolescence.



This convening also highlighted promising efforts across the country
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WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANIC AMERICANS

White House Initiative Activities 1999-2000

- *Excelencia en Educación: The Role of Parents in the Education of Their Children*
November 5-6, 1999, Chicago, Illinois

Keynote speaker: Mickey Ibarra, White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

- *Excelencia en Educación: The Role of Parents in the Education of Their Children*
December 3-4, 1999, Miami, Florida

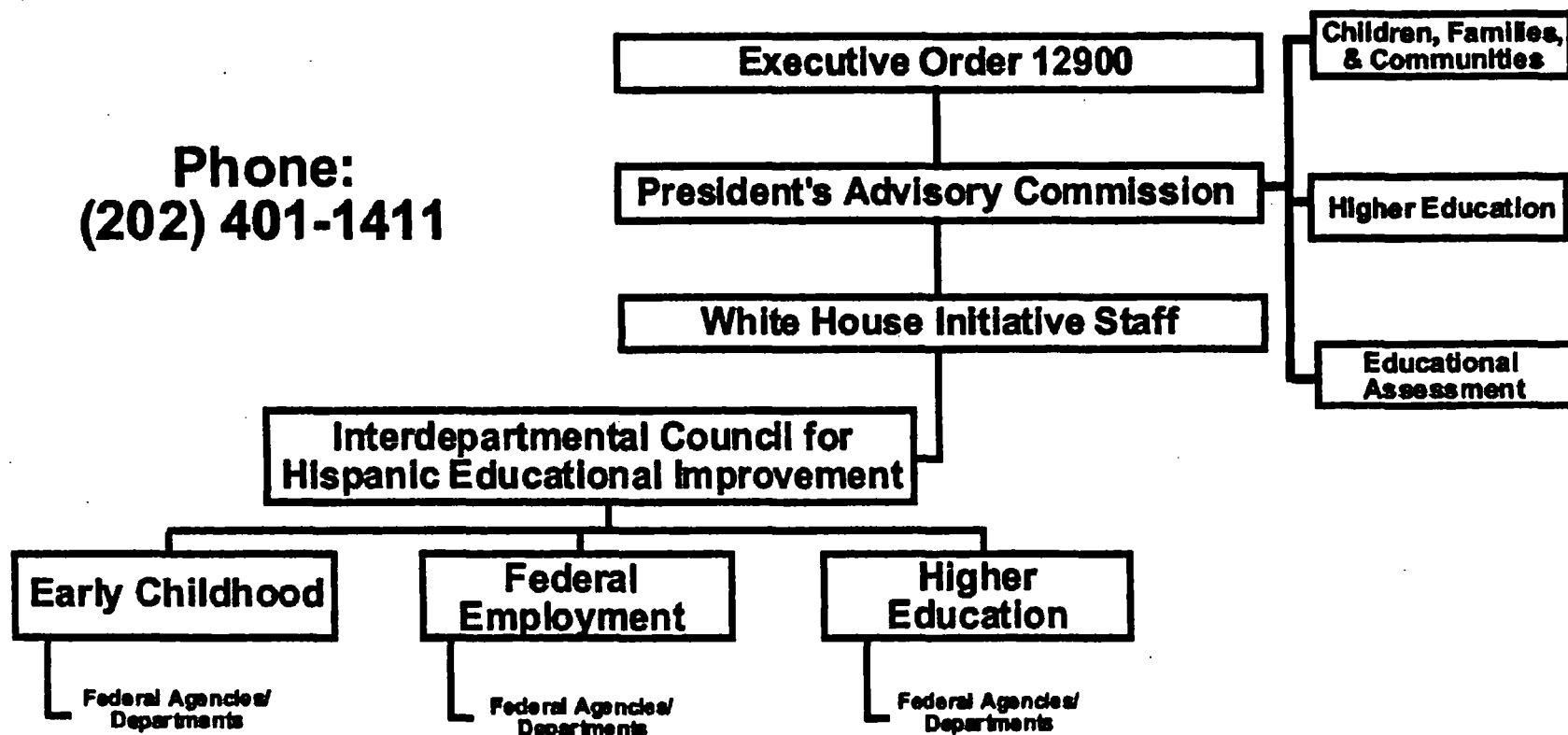
Keynote speaker: Maria Echaveste, White House Deputy Chief of Staff

- *National Meeting on Latino Educational Excellence*
Spring 2000, Washington, DC



White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans

Phone:
(202) 401-1411



*** Reflects changes as of August 9**



WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANIC AMERICANS

The Creation of Excelencia en Educación

Excelencia en Educación: The Role of Parents in the Education of Their Children, is a series of conferences sponsored by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. The decision to focus on the role of parents was based on the conviction that the heart of the Latino community is the family. Latino parents know that a quality education provides their children with the skills to achieve the best this country has to offer. America needs the talents of all its citizens to face the challenges of the 21st century. As the fastest growing community in the country, Latinos still have lower educational attainment rates than other groups--a cause for great national concern.

First, a little more background: The White House Initiative supports a Commission appointed by President Clinton in 1994 comprised of national educational leaders from all segments of the educational pipeline. In 1996, the Commission submitted to the President their report, **Our Nation on the Fault Line: Hispanic American Education**. This comprehensive report lays out issues in Latino educational attainment from pre-K through graduate and professional education. Equally important, the report includes an action plan for federal, state and local levels.

The Clinton Administration used the report as they developed their Hispanic Education Action Plan announced by Vice-President Gore in February 1998. The President's plan provides over \$520 million in new educational investments for programs that can make a difference in the quality of education for hundreds of thousands of bright, capable, Latino students. Responding to the Administration's achievement, the White House Initiative developed a strategy to more directly engage the Latino community in the pursuit of a quality education. Thus, the stage was set for the *Excelencia* conference series.

The academic emphasis of the conference is mathematics, reading and college readiness. The focus is on powerful strategies for parents to more fully engage in supporting their children's education. The conference covers how schools, teachers, civic leaders, community-based organizations, business and federal agencies can reach out to parents and more fully engage them in their children's education. By sharing "promising practices" and educational information, conference participants should have even better ideas for brightening the future of young Hispanics and prepared to serve as catalysts for enhancing parental involvement throughout the nation.

The first *Excelencia en Educación* was launched in October 1998 with AVANCE in San Antonio, Texas. For the inaugural conference, the White House Initiative brought together five federal agencies--Education, Health and Human Services, Labor, Interior, and the Small Business Administration—as well as over four hundred parents, educators, Latino advocacy organizations and leaders from the private sector. At each conference, members of the Clinton/Gore Administration and members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus have spoken. Small Business Administrator Aida Alvarez and Representative Ruben Hinojosa and Representative Ciro Rodriguez participated. Univision, the largest Spanish-speaking television network, also plays a significant role in the conference series. In San Antonio, Univision president Henry Cisneros announced their plan to develop a multi-year education campaign.

over

In Los Angeles, in March 1999, the White House Initiative restaged the *Excelencia en Educación* conference in collaboration with the following five organizations: the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund MALDEF), the Annenberg project in Los Angeles (LAMMP), University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), and PUENTE Learning Center. These organizations committed to build on the conference with community activities focused on Latino parent engagement. Over 800 participants, primarily parents of students enrolled in schools in East Los Angeles, heard from speakers including California Governor Gray Davis, Univision President Henry Cisneros, current chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) Lucille Roybal-Allard, and the former chair of the CHC Xavier Becerra.

On June 4-5, 1999, the conference was restaged in New York City at CUNY-City College. Partnering with the White House Initiative were the Hispanic Federation, Community Association of Progressive Dominicans (ACDP), United Way of New York City, New York Board of Education, CUNY-City College, and ASPIRA of New Jersey. Secretary of Education Richard Riley opened the conference and Congress member Robert Menendez sent a message on behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Janet Murgia, Associate Director for Legislative Affairs spoke to the participants about the Administration's activities and commitment and both Vice President Gore and First Lady Hillary Clinton provided messages on behalf of the Administration. Univision continued its support for the conference by having two of its personalities, Rafael Pineda of their local station, and Giselle Blondet of Despierta America, participate in the program. Our other corporate allies, State Farm and AT&T, were also in attendance and mentioned their commitment to addressing the strengths and needs of the Latino community.

The White House Initiative is already working with community leaders in Chicago and Miami to stage similar conferences on November 5-6, and December 3-4, 1999, respectively. These conferences are part of the larger national effort to support Latino parents as they pursue *excelencia en educación* for their children. For more information, please call the White House Initiative at 202-401-1411.