

WHITE HOUSE HOSTS STRATEGY SESSION ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANIC STUDENTS

June 15, 2000

Today President Clinton will host a White House Strategy Session on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Students and release a report by his Council of Economic Advisors to focus national attention on the importance of educating this rapidly growing segment of America's population. This session will highlight the need for a national effort to raise the educational attainment of all students, and close the achievement gap between Hispanic students and their peers. The Strategy Session will build on the White House Convening on Latino Youth hosted by the First Lady in 1999, as well as the Administration's Hispanic Education Action Plan, by challenging the nation to meet five critical education goals for Hispanic students by 2010. The President will meet with educators and leaders from the public, private and non-profit sectors to discuss effective strategies, as well as the resources and commitments necessary to achieve these national goals. The President will also announce several new steps the Administration is taking to further this priority. (Congress budget or ESEA message?) (Mention VP?)

HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF HISPANIC EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

At today's session, President Clinton will release a report by his Council of Economic Advisers, "Educational Attainment and Success in the New Economy: An Analysis of Challenges for Hispanic Education." The report outlines both the increasing importance of education for economic success and the gaps in educational outcomes for Hispanics. Through a case study on Hispanic employment in the information technology sector, this report documents the importance of educating the most rapidly growing segment of our nation's population to succeed in the most rapidly growing sector of our nation's economy. While educational attainment has grown considerably for all Americans over the past twenty years, significant achievement gaps still remain between minority students and their white peers. Further, while there has been progress in closing the gap between black and white students in areas such as the high school completion rate, the completion rate for Hispanic students remains disproportionately low. The President will point out that the nation must work together to speed up progress significantly and dramatically improve educational opportunities for all America's children.

PRESIDENT CHALLENGES NATION TO REACH KEY GOALS

The national goals President Clinton will announce today offer measurable targets around which schools, communities and the country can build an action agenda (see attachment). The goals address five areas critical to raising educational attainment:

- Increasing Access to Quality Early Childhood Education
- Eliminating the Achievement Gap
- Ensuring that Hispanic Students Achieve English Proficiency
- Increasing the Rate of High School Completion
- Increasing the College Completion Rate

The meeting will seek to identify the key strategies needed to achieve these major educational objectives for Hispanic Americans.

- **2010 Alliance**

To close the achievement gap between Latino children and Anglo, African American, and Asian students by 2010, the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships, the National Association for Bilingual Education, the National Council of La Raza, and the National Association for Latino Elected Officials will join with leaders from the Ford, Irvine, Kellogg, and Hazen foundations and AT&T, Univision, State Farm Insurance, and General Motors Corporation to convene a summit in Washington,

D.C. in October 2000 and commit to a collaborative partnership over the next decade to support the Latino achievement agenda announced by President Clinton at the White House Strategy Session. The President will also announce that a group including AT&T, Ford Foundation, Kellogg Foundation, Univision... To open the day, Secretary Riley will release a status report by the Department of Education that offers benchmarks in these areas. leaders from the Hispanic community, education advocates and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. National Goals – Report Card – 2010 Alliance – Discovery Channel deliverable

BRINGING TOGETHER NATIONAL LEADERS TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE

Accomplishing these ambitious goals will require a significant investment of resources and energy by governments, educators, businesses, foundations, nonprofit organizations and individuals. some of the key strategies each sector can undertake to do its part in advancing educational opportunities for Hispanic Americans. Ultimately, this battle for our country's future success will only be won with partnerships among all stakeholders, innovation at all levels and a serious commitment to excellence. (More deliverables)

**WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION:
IMPROVING HISPANIC STUDENT EDUCATION**

NON-PROFIT DELIVERABLES:

- **2010 Alliance**
POC: Hector Garza

To close the achievement gap between Latino children and Anglo, African American, and Asian students by 2010, the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships, the National Association for Bilingual Education, the National Council of La Raza, and the National Association for Latino Elected Officials will join with leaders from the Ford, Kellogg, and Hazen foundations and AT&T, Univision, State Farm Insurance, and General Motors Corporation to work with policy makers to convene a summit of leaders in Washington, D.C. in October 2000. At this summit, the group will develop a national action plan and commit to a long-term initiative and collaborative partnership to support the Latino achievement agenda for the next decade.

- **The Association of Hispanic Advertising Agencies (AHAA) FuturaMente Project:**

AHAA, the national organization of minority-owned and minority-managed advertising firms, will undertake the first integrated Hispanic communications campaign to close the educational achievement gap between Hispanics and the rest of the student population. Entitled "FuturaMente," the project will be executed through two multi-media campaigns: one will educate the parents of 3-4 year-olds about the importance of early education, and the second will encourage high school youth to pursue a career in teaching.

- **The College Board**
POC: Ms. Lezli Baskerville (202) 822-5907
- **American Library Association (ALA):**
POC: Emily Sheketoff (202) 628-8410, ext. 211

The American Library Association has committed to establish a literary award for children's literature that reflects the Latino culture, and to elevate the award's prestige to the level of the Newberry or Caldecott awards by 2010. Additionally, the ALA will offer model programs for libraries on how to provide excellent service to the Hispanic community and initiate an outreach campaign to show other organizations how to create similar model programs.

- **American Association of Museums (AAM):**
POC: Barry Szczesny (202) 289-1818

AAM is committed to closing the achievement gap by encouraging museums to meet the needs of Hispanic students by providing teacher training, the use of technology to link to schools with high Hispanic populations, and making curriculum materials available online. AMA will also create a link on its Web site to provide information on this outreach campaign, publicize the site in its publications, and seek promising practices from museums to highlight on the site and in its publications.

- **Reach Out and Read**
POC: Ann O'Leary X66275

Reach Out and Read, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing parents with information on the importance of language development and literacy during routine well-baby check-ups, will initiate a major outreach campaign to migrant families.

- **National PTA's and the Hispanic Radio Network's Partnership:**

The 6.5 million member National PTA and the Hispanic Radio Network, with 100 affiliate stations in the United States, Puerto Rico and Latin America, announce a new partnership to produce a series of one-minute radio programs that will highlight the positive affects of parental participation on student academic achievement; offer ideas to parents on how to promote safe, effective, community-centered schools; and identify resources targeted to Spanish-speaking parents.

- **National PTA and the U.S. Department of Education's Partnership:**

POC: Maribeth Oakes (is checking her change with Erica/Alex)

Hispanic families, like all others, want their children to achieve to high standards and be successful in school. In partnership, the Department of Education and the National PTA will distribute "Vamos Juntos a la Escuela" (Let's Go to School Together), a videotape for Spanish-speaking families and the schools and organizations that serve them. The tape, which will go to PTAs nationwide serving schools with significant populations of Hispanic students, provides basic suggestions about helping children succeed in school, covering subjects such as parent involvement in education, early childhood, reading and mathematics, and preparing young people for college.

CORPORATE DELIVERABLES

- **Proctor & Gamble**

Proctor & Gamble has contributed \$50,000 to the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans for the collaborative development and distribution of a "an information kit for organizers" to support Latino parents' efforts to secure a quality education for their children. The information kit will be developed in both English and Spanish and will address the following topics: Parents as First Teachers, A Quality Education for All, Heading Towards College, and Making it Happen in Your Community.

- **HACU**

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) has partnered with the St. Paul Companies, State Farm Insurance Companies, and the Target Corporation, to initiate a corporate internship program for Hispanic college students throughout the Unites States, modeled after its successful federal government internship program which places over 500 interns annually.

- **Scholastic Inc.**

Scholastic Inc., Univision and The National Latino Children's Institute will lead a nationally focused and locally targeted public awareness campaign entitled "Discover the Excitement of Reading" to support Latino families and caregivers in raising their young children's literacy skills and overall student achievement by nurturing and cultivating the love of reading and storytelling; making quality, affordable children's books available to Latino children; encouraging and promoting new Latino authors; and increasing the number of culturally appropriate materials available for Latino children.

- **Lightspan**

Lightspan, Inc. and HUD will team up to provide educational technology resources to HUD's over 600 Neighborhood Networks centers in public and assisted housing communities across the country. To launch this national partnership, Lightspan will provide assistance and customize the on-line content to meet the needs of the residents at 10 Neighborhood Network centers in Hispanic communities. Governor Thomas R. Carper of Delaware is taking the lead in encouraging and facilitating this dynamic partnership in two of the State's HUD Neighborhood Networks.

- **Washington Mutual, Inc.**

Washington Mutual Inc., has committed to expand its high school internship program from 6 to 8 states. This program provides 11th and 12th grade students with a two-year internship opportunity consisting of part-time employment in the Bank's financial centers and 80 hours of instruction in workforce preparation and consumer education (e.g. interview techniques, dress code, team work, work place ethics, time management, cultural diversity, conflict resolution, money management). Over the past 26 years, the program has served over 37,000 high school students, including 11,000 Hispanic students.

- **Sears, Roebuck and Co.**

Sears, Roebuck and Co. has committed to implement a pilot internship/mentoring program in Miami and Los Angeles for Sears Future Leaders Program Hispanic high school juniors and seniors who have demonstrated strong academic performance and leadership potential. Participating students will be guaranteed part-time jobs at Sears during holiday and summer breaks for as long as they maintain a "C" average in school and will be matched up with manager-level volunteer mentors, who will guide the students in learning business literacy and behaviors. Interns who meet policy guidelines will be offered tuition reimbursement for college.

- **The Discovery Channel**

Discovery en Espanol (DEN) will create five public service announcements (PSAs) that will be run on the channel regularly for a year beginning in October, 2000, and distributed through any other available medium. Each PSA will focus on one of the five national Hispanic Education goals announced by the President at the White House Strategy Session on June 15th. Discovery en Espanol, in partnership with cable operators across the country, will create versions of the PSAs to air in local communities. Discovery en Espanol is a digital channel owned and operated by Discovery Communications Inc.

FEDERAL AGENCY DELIVERABLES

- **CEA Report**

- **Department of Education (DoEd)**

National Goals and Benchmarks for the Next Decade:

DoEd will release "Key Indicators of Hispanic Student Achievement: National Goals and Benchmarks for the Next Decade," which provides national goals to guide federal, state, and local educators, policy makers, and community leaders in improving educational access and quality for Hispanic students. This publication also provides indicators of progress for schools, communities and states to follow in: early childhood education, learning English, closing achievement gaps and the dropout rate, and increasing college completion.

The "Idea Book":

DoEd is releasing **"Helping Hispanic Students Reach High Academic Standards: An Idea Book,"** which highlights promising strategies used by schools and communities to help Hispanic students succeed in learning, gaining productive employment, and becoming responsible citizens. The "Idea Book" was developed by the Department of Education as a guide to support schools and communities in designing successful programs that promote high academic achievement among Hispanic students, including using federal funds. The Department will send it out to the top 100 school districts with the fastest growing Hispanic student populations.

Assisting School Districts with Rapidly Growing Hispanic Populations:

DoEd, in partnership with the National Association of Bilingual Education, will launch a series of workshops for school districts on strategies: for training teachers to address linguistic and cultural diversity in the classroom, effective bilingual education programs, teaching reading to English language learners, using community-wide resources to meet the needs of new students and their families. The Department will also provide technical assistance for school superintendents and principals who work in communities that have recently experienced a large increase in Hispanic students on building partnerships to improve academic performance and increase high school completion rates.

New Grants To Support Hispanic Serving Colleges and Universities:

DoEd's Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program will provide \$16 million for 76 new development grants to enable eligible Hispanic-serving institutions of higher education expand their capacity to serve Hispanic students and other low-income individuals. The HSIs may use the funds for faculty development, administrative management, and improvement of academic programs, facilities and student services. Hispanic Serving Institutions enroll the majority of all Hispanic students nationally and also provide access for a large number of other disadvantaged students.

Title I Outreach Campaign:

DoEd will launch an expansive outreach effort to provide more and higher quality services to very young Hispanic children through Title I pre-school programs. The Department will write to all local school districts, encouraging them to use Title I funds for preschool, urging schools to reach out to Hispanic families, and explaining the flexibility in Title I schoolwide programs in selecting participants and in providing services to Hispanic children and their parents. In addition, the Department will prepare policy guidance on the use of Title I funds for preschools with examples of high quality programs serving large numbers of Hispanic preschoolers.

- **HHS, the Department of Housing and Human Development (HUD), and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans Partnership:**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans will work together to provide English and Spanish language materials and educational forums to parents of young children through HUD's Neighborhood Networks and other community-based programs. The parents will receive information on early brain development research, parenting tips, how to choose a child care center, what Head Start has to offer, and other family supports. Starting this summer, this effort will be piloted in six locations across the country serving Latino communities.

- **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

!!SOY UNICA!! SOY LATINA!!

!!I'M UNIQUE!! SOY LATINA!!

The Goal of the initiative is to develop and implement a national, comprehensive multimedia bilingual campaign geared for Hispanics/Latinas age 9 to 14. The initiative will assist young girls to build a positive self-esteem in order to prevent drug use, as well as harmful consequences of emotional and behavioral problems.

- **Department of Energy (DOE)**
POC: Samuel Rodriguez 586-7141

For FY 2001, DOE's Community College Institute (CCI) has committed to quadruple the size of its summer "technical and research" internship program for community college students studying mathematics, science, or other technical fields. As a pilot program in 1999, CCI awarded 107 internships; this summer, the Department has recruited 126 interns (25 percent of whom are Hispanic) from 110 community colleges, including 46 Hispanic Serving Institutions. The Department will also provide monetary incentives to interns, who agree to mentor other students when they return to their community college in the fall, including: reimbursements for science, mathematics or engineering textbooks; membership in and travel to the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; participation in regional meetings to present their research to students and faculty; and participation in colloquia to inform DOE officials of the program's accomplishments.

- **Department of Defense (DOD)**
POC: Ms. Marilee Fitzgerald 703-696-3866 x 2808

The Department of Defense will expand its student teaching internship program to increase the number of Hispanic educators in overseas schools, which serve family members of military personnel. The Department has entered into partnerships with five new Hispanic Serving Institutions and will provide round-trip travel expenses to entice exceptional students who are majoring in education at those colleges and universities to complete their student teaching internships in DoD schools overseas.

- **Department of Commerce (DOC)**
POC: Raul Perea-Henze 482-4951

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs): The Department of Commerce recently entered into agreements with three Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)--the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, Florida International University, and the University of Texas at El Paso-- directed toward promoting career and professional attainment among HSI students pursuing studies in fields of interest to DOC; increasing employment opportunities in DOC for HSI students; and supporting and strengthening the academic and research development of Departments that offer curricula of interest to Commerce. Approximately 49,000 Hispanic students, ages 18 to 24, are projected to be served by this program.

Postsecondary Internship Program: Since 1994, the Department has sponsored a Post-Secondary Internship Program funded through a financial assistance agreement with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). HACU continues to be a financial assistance recipient, and is in the third and final year of the financial assistance award with the Department. (Since the beginning of the Postsecondary Internship Program, HACU has received approximately \$3 million and the Department has sponsored approximately 400 interns under its auspices.)

Mini-Conference: In late summer this year, a mini-conference will be a featured event for the Department's Hispanic Employment Program to focus attention on the program's accomplishments, facilitate interaction of key senior Commerce officials with leaders from the Hispanic community, and serve to chart a course for future action in advancing the agenda begun with the Department's Hispanic Employment Plan.

New Directions 2000 Conference: On September 21-22, 2000, the Department of Commerce will sponsor a conference for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to promote minority participation in DOC grants and

other financial assistance programs. Over 190 Hispanic Serving Institutions of higher learning will be invited to participate in this year's program.

Career and Job Fairs: The Department of Commerce is also intensifying its recruitment efforts within the Hispanic community, including participation in career and job fairs, to locate and identify potential employees, promote DOC as an employer of choice, and increase outreach efforts to the Hispanic community.

Grants and Awards: The DOC has entered into grant arrangements with several HSIs to assist with DOC mission accomplishment and to further mutually supportive relationships with Minority Serving Institutions.

- **Department of Transportation (DOT)**

POC: Edmundo DeLeon

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) provides millions of dollars to localities to build and enhance day care and head start facilities at transit hubs, many of which serve predominantly Hispanic communities. These TEA-21 funds, which will continue to be available in fiscal years 2002 and 2003, can be acquired through local transit authorities. The Department of Transportation plans to expand its outreach efforts to ensure that Hispanic communities have access to this early childhood resource.

EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY, JUNE 15 AT 10 A.M.

National Goals for Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans

- GOAL #1:** *Ensure that Hispanic American children have access to high quality early childhood education and development programs and enter school prepared to succeed by increasing the Hispanic participation rate to the national participation rate in high quality programs by 2010.*
- GOAL #2:** Respecting the importance of multilingualism, age-specific learning needs, different research-based instructional approaches, and the variety of developmental levels at which limited English proficient (LEP) children enter school, by 2010 all states and school districts will provide appropriate language instruction to ensure that all students graduate from high school having demonstrated proficiency in English.
- GOAL #3:** *Provide a high quality education with appropriate resources and support to ensure equal opportunity for all students in order to eliminate the achievement gap between Hispanic students and other students on appropriate state assessments and other indicators by 2010.*
- GOAL #4:** *Increase the high school completion rate for Hispanic students to 90 percent by 2010.*
- GOAL #5:** Double the percentage of Hispanic Americans who earn Associate's and Bachelor's degrees by 2010.

LEVEL 2 - 5 OF 11 STORIES

Copyright 1994 Denver Publishing Company
Denver Rocky Mountain News

April 24, 1994, Sunday

SECTION: LAS NOTICIAS; Ed. F; Pg. 7N

LENGTH: 214 words

HEADLINE: Ex-migrant worker encourages youths

DATELINE: OMAHA, Neb.

BODY:

John Quinones rose from migrant farm worker to correspondent for the ABC news program Prime Time Live. And if he can do it, he's sure anyone can.

"I wasn't supposed to become a network television correspondent . . . but I persevered," Quinones told about 200 people earlier this month at the 14th Annual Hispanic Education Workshop. "And I'm here to tell you . . . to try and try no matter what odds are in front of you."

Quinones, who was raised in the barrios of San Antonio, Texas, said his family was poor and often traveled to Michigan during the summer to pick fruit as migrant workers.

"If a former migrant worker like John Quinones can make it to prime time, you certainly can," he said.

Quinones said he used loans, grants and scholarships to pay for his education at Columbia University in New York, where he earned a master's degree in journalism.

After graduating from Columbia, Quinones went to work for CBS in Chicago, he said. He joined ABC in 1982 and worked more than 10 years in Central America.

Quinones said he is discouraged that there aren't more Hispanics in television news.

"It's an embarrassment that ABC news has only one John Quinones," he said. "We need more of you to get involved in whatever career it is you choose."

GRAPHIC: Photo
John Quinones.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: April 27, 1994

LEVEL 1 - 2 OF 11 STORIES

Copyright 1999 Denver Publishing Company
DENVER ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

January 28, 1999, Thursday

SECTION: Mile Highstyle; Ed. FINAL; Pg. 8S

LENGTH: 300 words

HEADLINE: GALA A TRIBUTE TO EDUCATION

BYLINE: Shery McDonald, Denver Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

BODY:

Vice President Al Gore added to a celebrity evening Saturday when he joined John Quinones of ABC's 20 / 20 and actors Jimmy Smits and Edward James Olmos at the Latin American Educational Foundation's Golden Anniversary Gala at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

The evening attracted 1,600 people, making the LAEF gala the biggest black-tie event in the Hispanic community. LAEF has been the leading scholarship provider for Hispanics since 1949, helping more than 3,400 students attend college. The evening raised \$600,000 to support Colorado's oldest Hispanic educational organization.

The focus of the evening was the importance of education in the Latin community. "Every group that has succeeded in any generation has had access to education," said Linda Alvarado, an event co-chair and owner of Alvarado Construction Co. "This event is very important to turn the tide so that this generation can also share in the American dream." Guests attending the star-studded evening included event chairman Sol Trujillo, president and CEO of U S West, and co-chairs Alvarado; Phil Anschutz, Anschutz Co.; Charlie Lyons, Ascent Entertainment; Jerry McMorris, owner, Colorado Rockies; Ramona Martinez, Uniglobe Advanced Travel; Roger Ogden, general manager, KUSA-Channel 9; Cindy Velasquez, general manager, KMGH-Channel 7; John Nelson, Norwest Banks; Dick Robinson, Robinson Dairy; and Federico Pena, former mayor and secretary of transportation now with Vestar Capital Partners. Other board members helping with the evening were Anne Trujillo, news anchor, KMGH-Channel 7; Leonard Martinez; Kent Ingram; Peggy Valdez-Ferguson; Michael Barela; Kathy Berumen; Lee Calamaio; Jim Chavez; Fernando Guzman; Helen Salazar-Martin; Billy Thompson; Eloya Torrez; Corine Trujillo; and Sherri Vasquez.

NOTES:

SHERY

Shery McDonald covers society for the Denver Rocky Mountain News. Reach her at (303) 892-2882, fax (303) 892-5407. Shery can be heard on KIMN-FM (100.3) at 8:30 a.m. Wednesdays.

GRAPHIC: Photo (7)

Former Mayor Federico Pena and wife Ellen attend the 50th anniversary of LAEF. By Michael Martin / Special to the News. FILE: RETURNED - UNAVAILABLE (MCDONALD)

CAPTION: Tim Sandos and wife Lisa, executive director for LAEF, with actor Jimmy Smits. By Michael Martin / Special to the News. FILE: RETURNED - UNAVAILABLE (MCDONALD)

CAPTION: Linda Alvarado makes sure everything is perfect for Vice President Al Gore. By Michael Martin / Special to the News. FILE: RETURNED - UNAVAILABLE (MCDONALD)

CAPTION: Always looking debonair is Darby Smith, with his lovely wife Lorraine. By Michael Martin / Special to the News. FILE: RETURNED - UNAVAILABLE (MCDONALD)

CAPTION: Al Gore heads a cast of noted figures who turned out for the Latin American Education Foundation gala. By Michael Martin / Special to the News.

FILE: RETURNED - UNAVAILABLE (MCDONALD)

CAPTION: Cindy Velasquez, general manager of KMGH-Channel 7, with boyfriend Dr. Patrick Lillis. By Michael Martin / Special to the News. FILE: RETURNED - UNAVAILABLE (MCDONALD)

CAPTION: Sunny Brownstein and Cindy Farber stop by the Adam's Mark Hotel to visit friend, Vice President Al Gore. By Michael Martin / Special to the News.

FILE: RETURNED - UNAVAILABLE (MCDONALD)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 29, 1999

LEVEL 2 - 4 OF 11 STORIES

Copyright 1996 Omaha World-Herald Company
Omaha World Herald

April 20, 1996 Saturday Correction Appended
SUNRISE EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 826 words

HEADLINE: Tradition Continues At Hispanic Workshop

BYLINE: CINDY GONZALEZ, WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

BODY:

A turning point in Omaha's **Hispanic Higher Education Workshop** came six years ago when organizer Rosemary Salcedo watched the hit movie "Stand and Deliver." Until then, mostly local talent had been called on to serve as keynote speakers who stressed the value of staying in school.

As Mrs. Salcedo watched how the movie's hero, calculus teacher Jaime Escalante, energized inner-city Hispanics students in east Los Angeles, she knew she had to invite him to rap with young people in Omaha.

Escalante's 1990 appearance packed Omaha South High School's auditorium. And every year since, Mrs. Salcedo said, she and workshop co-chairman Jim Ramirez have strived to bring as big or bigger Hispanic names to the event, which is designed to motivate students to pursue higher education and nontraditional careers.

"What we want to do is expose our kids to some famous Hispanic people," said Mrs. Salcedo. "I think it's really important for our youth to see Hispanic role models." Mrs. Salcedo, who is a community liaison at South High, said South offers counseling for Hispanics throughout the year. She said the annual workshop complements those efforts by showcasing a Ramirez is a specialist in the Omaha School District's human and community relations office.

This year's guest, comedian Paul Rodriguez, is expected to draw the largest crowd ever to the workshop, now in its 16th year. Rodriguez, who also is an actor, producer and director, was born in Mexico and lives in Los Angeles.

The event, which will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at South High's performing arts center, 4519 S. 24th St., is free.

After the keynote speaker and ceremony recognizing Hispanic students and others, students will be encouraged to mingle with representatives of colleges, businesses and the military at information booths. About 30 such entities from Nebraska and Iowa are expected.

The need to expose Hispanics to positive role models was underscored, Mrs. Salcedo said, by the response she received recently when she asked a group of young Hispanic women to name three famous people who shared their heritage.

"They had to stop and think," Mrs. Salcedo said. "Some of them knew one.

Some of them knew two. Some not any." Rodriguez, the son of migrant farm workers, gained international fame when he hosted a bilingual entertainment program on the Univision Network. He recently completed an HBO special from California's San Quentin State Penitentiary, in which he was host and executive producer.

He has directed, starred or created numerous other programs.

Last year's guest speaker was Ana Riojas, the president of a Kansas City, Kan., company who was the first Hispanic woman to win a citywide election.

John Quinones, an award-winning journalist for ABC News, was featured the year before. Pablo Morales, Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer and law student, spoke in 1993.

Speakers pepper their talks with stories of how they overcame hurdles on their way to success. Most of the challenges are common to all Hispanics Mrs. Salcedo said, and their testimony inspires students.

Many at the annual workshop, she said, will be the first generation in their family to attend college. Their parents often aren't familiar with the process so students rely on role models and counselors for direction.

In addition, many Latinos aren't convinced that college will pay off because they don't see enough Hispanics in positions of power.

According to statistics provided by the school district, 49 percent of last year's 71 Hispanic graduates pursued an education beyond high school, compared with 61 percent of the total graduate population.

The percentage of the district's Hispanic graduates who went on to college has improved since 1980 - from 40 percent to 49 percent. However, the gap has widened between Hispanics and the district's overall population.

Since 1980, the percentage of Hispanics who attended college after graduation increased 9 percentage points while the amount of all graduates combined increased 15 percentage points, according to statistics provided by Winnie Callahan, school district spokeswoman.

Enrollment of Hispanic students in the district has been increasing.

The number of Hispanic students in the district's elementary and secondary schools jumped 75 percent in the past five years from 1,668 to 2,920. This year, Hispanics make up 6.6 percent of the district population. Five years ago they made up 4 percent.

Marty (SEE CORRECTION) Ramirez, who also is chairman of the State Mexican-American Commission, said the percentage of the district's Hispanic graduates who enrolled in college last year appeared promising.

However, he cautioned that school officials need to pay attention to curbing the dropout rate before high school graduation and on increasing the actual number of Hispanics who enroll in universities.

CORRECTION-DATE: April 24, 1996

CORRECTION:

The published version stated the wrong individual; the online version has been corrected.

GRAPHIC: B&W PHOTO/1; WELCOMING COMMITTEE: Rosemary Salcedo and Jim Ramirez expect Paul Rodriguez to pack the house Sunday., AP/1

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 24, 1996

U.S. Department of Education Announcements

Hispanic students represent the fastest growing minority population in the United States, yet Hispanic students remain among the most educationally disadvantaged groups in the country. Today, the Secretary of Education announced new U.S. Department of Education support for Hispanic students:

New Awards Support Hispanic Serving Colleges and Universities. Hispanic Americans will soon become the largest ethnic group in the nation yet they remain one of the most underrepresented groups in higher education. Today's grant awards will help higher ed institutions across the nation expand their capacity to provide crucial educational services to Hispanic-Americans and low-income students. Hispanic Serving colleges and universities enroll the majority of all Hispanic students nationally and also provide access for a large number of other disadvantaged students.

"Accountability for Educational Progress: National Goals and Benchmarks for Hispanics in the Next Decade" provides national goals to guide federal, state, and local educators, policy makers, and community leaders in improving educational access and quality for Hispanic students. This publication provides indicators of progress for schools, communities and states to follow in: early childhood education, learning English, closing achievement gaps and the dropout rate, and increasing college completion.

"Helping Hispanic Students Reach High Academic Standards: An Idea Book," released today, highlights promising strategies used by schools and communities to help Hispanic students succeed in learning, gaining productive employment, and becoming responsible citizens. The "Idea Book" was developed by the Department of Education as a guide to support schools and communities in designing successful programs that promote high academic achievement among Hispanic students, including using federal funds. The Department will send it out to the top 100 school districts with the fastest growing Hispanic student populations.

Videos to Support Family Involvement in Education. Hispanic families, like all others, want their children to achieve to high standards and be successful in school. In partnership, the Department of Education and the National PTA will distribute *"Vamos Juntos a la Escuela"* (*Let's Go to School Together*), a videotape for Spanish-speaking families and the schools and organizations that serve them. The tape, which will go to hundreds of PTA chapters serving schools with significant populations of Hispanic students, provides basic suggestions about helping children succeed in school, covering subjects such as parent involvement in education, early childhood, reading and mathematics, and preparing young people for college.

Assisting School Districts with Rapidly Growing Hispanic Populations. Over the last decade, the Hispanic student population has grown dramatically in US schools, particularly in areas that both have had little experience and expertise in serving this population. This fall, the Department of Education, in partnership with the National Association of Bilingual Education, will launch a series of workshops for school districts on strategies: for training teachers to address linguistic and cultural diversity in the classroom, effective bilingual

education programs, teaching reading to English language learners, using community-wide resources to meet the needs of new students and their families. Similarly, the Department will provide technical assistance for school superintendents and principals who work in communities that have recently experienced a large increase in Hispanic students on building partnerships to improve academic performance and increase high school completion rates,