



Iowa Department of Human Rights

**Office on Latino Affairs and
Commission on Latino Affairs
2012-2014**

A summary of the service of the Office on Latino Affairs and the Commission on Latino Affairs from early 2012 to early 2014.

The Commission on Latino Affairs holds quarterly public meetings. To find out the date, location and time of the next meeting please click [here](#).

To link to the page for the Office of Latino Affairs please click [here](#).

Respectfully submitted by Alba Perez, Executive Officer of the Office on Latino Affairs at the Iowa Department of Human Rights on April 2014

The Iowa Code

Duties of the Office on Latino Affairs and the Commission on Latino Affairs under Iowa Code.

216A.14 Office of Latino affairs — duties.

The office of Latino affairs is established and shall do the following:

1. Serve as the central permanent agency to advocate for Latino persons.
2. Coordinate and cooperate with the efforts of state departments and agencies to serve the needs of Latino persons in participating fully in the economic, social, and cultural life of the state, and by providing direct assistance to those who request it.
3. Develop, coordinate, and assist other public organizations which serve Latino persons.
4. Serve as an information clearinghouse on programs and agencies operating to assist Latino persons.

86 Acts, ch 1245, §1208 C87, §601K.14 90 Acts, ch 1180, §8 C93, §216A.14 2010 Acts, ch [1031](#), [§110](#), [170](#)

216A.13 Commission of Latino affairs — duties.

The commission shall have the following duties:

1. Study the opportunities for and changing needs of the Latino population of this state.
2. Serve as liaison between the department of human rights and the public, sharing information and gathering constituency input.
3. Recommend to the board the adoption of rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) as it deems necessary.
4. Recommend legislative and executive action to the governor and general assembly.
5. Establish advisory committees, work groups, or other coalitions as appropriate.

86 Acts, ch 1245, §1207
C87, §601K.13
C93, §216A.13
2010 Acts, ch [1031](#), [§109](#), [170](#)
See also [§216A.15](#)

2012 Latino Heritage Festival

The Office and Commission on Latino Affairs were present at the annual event. Commissioners volunteered at the Latino Affairs booth. September 2012



Aztec drummer at the 2012 Latino Heritage Festival.



Commission Chair, Sal Alaniz volunteering at the Latino Affairs booth.



The Jackson and Johnson babies at the Office on Latino Affairs booth.



← Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS) at the Latino Heritage Festival.

2012 December 12

The Office on Latino affairs and the Commission on Latino Affairs held a strategic session that set the course and focus of the group.

Commission on Latino affairs PRIORITIES
Communications
Public Safety & Corrections – Disproportionate Confinement
Education
Health
Immigration
Workforce and Economic Development
Leadership Development and Civic Engagement
Legislation

To read meeting minutes of the Commission on Latino Affairs and to find agendas/notifications and other relevant documents please click [here](#).



2012-2014

The Latina Leadership Initiative of Greater Des Moines— LLI

The Executive Office of the Office on Latino Affairs, Alba Perez, joins a local effort on leadership development for Latinas. The work aligns with the priorities set by the commission on 12/12/2012. The effort becomes what is now known as the Latina Leadership Initiative of Greater Des Moines. In mid 2012 Perez becomes the Curriculum Chair for the committee and works with a group of Latina Leaders to develop a unique curriculum for a first of its kind leadership development program. The first cohort started September of 2013 with twelve participants.

Eleven participants will graduate on May 3, 2014.

2013 Opening Reception with participants, mentors and supporters.



OUR MISSION

The Latina Leadership Initiative of Greater Des Moines (LLI), supports young Latina leaders by providing them with the necessary skills, training, and mentors for personal, professional and community advancement; and promotes heightened awareness of social responsibility and stronger attention to the needs of the broader Hispanic community.

The Latina Leadership Initiative of Greater Des Moines fills a gap where there is a lack of culturally appropriate leadership support for promising Latina women.

The goal is that through the Latina Leadership Initiative, we will begin to see more and more young, powerful and well-educated Latinas serve on boards, commissions and other leadership capacities in the Des Moines metro area. Latina women will be prepared for these roles and others in their communities, but they must first receive the nurturing and talent and skill development to do so.



"I love that we are all Latinas who come from different backgrounds and we learn from each other because of that. In the next five years I hope to see myself working in my field but in a work environment where I'm also helping many or at least contributing to communities. I also aspire to help continue the growth of LLI for all future Latina Leaders out there". *Eva Sandoval*



This curriculum incorporates the skills and talents that are already part of the Latino culture and links them to traditional American leadership models. It takes into account how migration and immigration have shaped those talents and the experiences that history has engrained in Latinas, making them one of the fastest growing segments of business owners and community influencers. [LLI's website](#)



2013 Latino Heritage Festival

The Office on Latino Affairs and the Commission on Latino Affairs were present at the annual event. Commissioners and their families volunteered once again at the Latino Affairs booth.



Commissioner Alejandro Pino and his beautiful family volunteering at the Latino Affairs booth. Thank YOU and Gracias!



Governor Terry E. Branstad
 Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
 San Wong, Director

“I have the longest time of service with the commission and different administrators and different CAS administrators or executive officers and this has been the period of the most activity...”

Chair of the Commission comments during the 2/18/2014 commission meeting. Chair Alaniz has served in the commission since August of 2006.

Iowa Code 216A.13

4. Recommend legislative and executive action to the governor and general assembly.



Governor Terry E. Branstad
 Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
 San Wong, Director

Latino Affairs Commission – May 2013

Support of Sensible Immigration Reform

A Call to Iowans and Iowa Elected Officials

The Commission of Latino Affairs is a body of Governor appointed volunteers to serve Latinos and Iowans alike. One of our duties is to study the opportunities for and changing needs of the Latino population in Iowa. Immigration status is one of the barriers faced by a number of Latinos living in Iowa. The Commission of Latino Affairs believes and supports sensible and humane immigration reform and we are asking you to do the same.

Immigration is one of the most defining issues faced by our community. The Latino population in Iowa according to the Iowa Data Center 158,014 as of July 1 2011 and it is projected to be 430,344 by the year 2040.

In recent history Iowa has suffered from population decline which debilitates our workforce and as a consequence it debilitates our economy.

Governor Branstad and Lieutenant Governor Reynolds have four ambitious goals for their administration over the next few years: 200,000 new jobs for Iowans, a 15 percent reduction in the cost of government, a 25 percent increase in family incomes and to again have the nation's best schools.

To support immigration reform helps accomplish the success of Iowa and the goals of the administration.

As it relates to our US Congressional Delegation and other influential policy leaders from Iowa:

Immigration policy and the lack of standard procedures are negatively impacting the Latino community in Iowa. The separation of families that may be in this country without documentation from their U. S. born children has caused much grief and despair too many Iowans during the recent years.

Commission of Latino Affairs

January 9, 2013

Honorable Governor Branstad,

The Commission of Latino Affairs and I learned via the Des Moines Register on December 27th, 2012, that the Iowa Department of Transportation had made the decision to not issue Driver Licenses to those beneficiaries of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

The article mentioned that this decision was made in consultation with the Governor's office. This decision, according to the article, was made based on the DOT's interpretation of their rules and the interpretation of the DACA Executive Order. However, this decision directly violates the Federal Real ID Act of 2005, H.R.1268 Section 202(c) (2) (B) (viii). Furthermore, the decision violates Iowa's Administrative Code - 12/26/2012 Transportation Department [761] Chapter 601.5(1) e.

"A State shall require, before issuing a driver's license or identification card to a person, valid documentary evidence that the person-- has approved deferred action status." Federal Real ID Act of 2005, H.R.1268 Section 202(c) (2) (B) (viii). "To establish identity and date of birth, an applicant must submit at least one of the following documents. The department may require additional documentation if the department believes that the documentation submitted is questionable or if the department has reason to believe that the person is not who the person claims to be. An unexpired employment authorization document issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Form I-766 or Form I-688B)." Iowa's Administrative Code - 12/26/2012 Transportation Department [761] Chapter 601.5(1) e.

This decision has a significant impact for Latinos in Iowa. It prevents approximately five thousand Latinos in the state of Iowa who work in our diverse industries from safely driving to and from work. It prevents approximately five thousand Latinos in the state of Iowa from safely driving to and from their learning institution as they prepare to become our future workforce.

The Commission of Latino Affairs consists of seven Iowans appointed by your office whose job, in part, is to make recommendations to the Governor's office on issues that impact the Latino population of Iowa. We were disappointed in the fact that we were excluded from the conversation that will significantly affect several thousand Latinos in the state of Iowa.

We would like the opportunity for two or three of our commissioners to meet with you and your staff to discuss how we can serve your office more proactively in the future - especially when government agencies are preparing to make decisions that profoundly affect our communities.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and are eager to hear your response.

Respectfully on behalf of the Commission of Latino Affairs,

Sal Alaniz
 Chair

Commission of Latino Affairs

Lucas State Office Building, 321 East 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 | 515-242-5655 | Fax 515-242-6119 | www.humanrights.iowa.gov

In crafting this essential legislation, we urge you to be mindful that as a nation of immigrants, how we treat new immigrants reflects our commitment to the values that define us. Specifically, we urge Congress to:

- Create a realistic path to citizenship for the 11 million aspiring citizens who call America home. Small details could have major consequences for millions of these aspiring citizens. We need to ensure a fair process when drafting legislation that takes into consideration who these new Americans are, and what they contribute to our country.
- Preserve the unity of families, traditional and nontraditional. Family unity plays a critical role in student success. Yet growing numbers of public school students live in fear that our nation's immigration policies will break up their families, forcing them to choose between their country and their loved ones — mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers. Family-based immigration is essential to keeping America strong.
- Incorporate and expand the DREAM Act and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Many of the more than 50,000 undocumented students who graduate from U.S. high schools are unable to pursue higher education simply because they are unable to afford it. Under current law, undocumented students can be denied access to in-state tuition, federal loans, and health benefits. Addressing these issues is a top priority for America's educators.

We look forward to working with you to make comprehensive immigration reform a reality at last. In addition we look forward to your vocal support for this overdue change in US policy.

If you would like to visit with our commission we would be more than happy to oblige. Please find our contact information attached.

Sincerely on Behalf of the Latino Affairs Commission



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

**2013-2014 Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs
Public Policy Priorities**

The Commission of Latino Affairs held a meeting on November 14th of 2013 where the following statement was discussed and approved by the commission and in accordance with the Iowa Code **216A.13**, which reads:

Commission of Latino affairs — duties: The commission shall have the following duties:

4. Recommend legislative and executive action to the governor and general assembly.

Latinos in Iowa comprise 162,894 of the entire state population – 2013 Iowa Data Center

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES – COMMISSION OF LATINO AFFAIRS

- 1- **Immigration – Support of Sensible Immigration Reform.** The Latino Affairs Commission respectfully requests the support of the legislature on statement drafted by the Latino Affairs Commission in 2013 in support of federal reform. The statement titled Latino Affairs Commission – May 2013 Support of Sensible Immigration Reform A Call to Iowans and Iowa elected Officials reflects our position on the issue. In addition to your support we ask that you take this statement into consideration when reviewing and voting for state laws that come before you so that Iowa laws are welcoming to Latinos in the state.
- 2- **Iowa Civil Rights Commission (ICCR).** Discrimination in the workplace is the highest inquiry to the Office of Latino Affairs. The Commission of Latino affairs highly encourages, supports and is willing to engage the Iowa Civil Rights Commission to enhance education for Latino employees and education for Iowa employers to prevent growing discrimination in the workplace that directly and negatively affect Latinos. https://iccr.iowa.gov/sites/files/civil_rights/documents/Annual%20Report%20FY13%20final.pdf
- 3- **Iowa Department of Education -** The Commission of Latino Affairs strongly encourages in state tuition for beneficiaries of Deferred Action Childhood Arrival – DACA. This will provide access to education to many Latino youth that will contribute to the economic development goals set by the Governor. In addition, the Commission of Latino Affairs supports the position proposed by the Iowa Division of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning (see enclosed). This document presents solutions to the Disproportionate Representation of Latino Youth and other minorities in the Judicial System.
- 4- **Iowa Department of Human Services. Latino Children and Youth**
The Latino Affairs Commission respectfully presents following recommendations for the improvement of the lives of Latino children, youth and families in Iowa:
 - a- The Commission of Latino Affairs supports the replication of bilateral agreements with Latin consulate general representatives of the Latino population in Iowa.
<http://www.iowadatacenter.org/Publications/latinos2013.pdf>

Commission of Latino Affairs

Lucas State Office Building, 321 East 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 | 515-242-5655 | Fax 515-242-6119 |

México (Agreement already in place-see link below or document enclosed), El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador, Puerto Rico). To read existing agreement with the Consulate of Mexico in Omaha go to this link: http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/policyanalysis/PolicyManualPages/Manual_Documents/Master/17-C3620712.pdf

- b- Strengthening adherence to the federal requirements on culturally competent services: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/news/2008/discrimination.html>
- c- The commission fully supports the **Early Childhood Counts** Legislative Priorities: Quality Early Learning and Development
Child Health and Well-Being
Family Economic Success
http://www.cfciowa.org/documents/filelibrary/ecc/2014_ECC_Legislative_Priorities_46763714149B6.pdf
- d- We recommend the Iowa Department of Human Services to regularly disclose the numbers of Latino children currently experiencing out of home care to stakeholders and consumers.
- 5- **Iowa Secretary of State - Civic Engagement Education** – The Commission of Latino Affairs highly encourages, supports and will gladly engage the Iowa Secretary of State in enhancing their current outreach and education to Latino voters in Iowa.

Commission of Latino Affairs

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2013
First Latin American Consular Meeting in Iowa



First Latin American Consular Meeting in Iowa

Friday August 16th, 2013
Des Moines, Iowa



Iowa Department of Human Rights
Office of Latino Affairs

Iowa Distinguished Guests

Argentinean Consulate General
The Honorable Marcelo Suarez Salvia

Colombian Consulate General
The Honorable
Joseé Fernando Gómez Mora

Dominican Republic Consulate General
The Honorable Gisselle Castillo-Veremis

Ecuadorian Consulate General
The Honorable Silvia Ontaneda

Salvadorian Consulate General
The Honorable Patricia Maza-Pittsford

Mexican Consulate General
The Honorable Jorge Espejel

Peruvian Consulate General
The Honorable Agustín De Madalengoitia

Venezuelan Consulate General
The Honorable Jesus Rodriguez Espinoza

Photos of several meetings held by the Consulate Generals from Latin America in 2013. The distinguished guests visited with Governor Branstad, Iowa Department of Human Rights Director San Wong, constituents, Latino Media and Iowa Businesses.

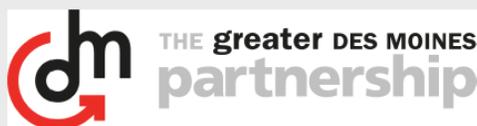


Office on Latino Affairs collaborates with state agencies and non profit organizations to foster and strengthen local and international relationships.

LATIN AMERICAN CONSUL GENERALS MEETING WITH IOWA BUSINESSES

The Greater Des Moines Partnership, The Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Iowa Department of Human Rights are honored to invite Iowa businesses to meet with Consul Generals of Latin America.

The purpose of this roundtable is to introduce Consul Generals of Latin American countries gathered in Des Moines to build Relationships and discuss trade opportunities. There will also be an opportunity for the Consul Generals to meet with citizens of their respective countries currently living in Iowa and the general public at a Meet & Greet afterwards.



Special thanks to the Asociación Consular Iberoamericana de Chicago.



Consul Generals from the following countries are confirmed:

Argentina
Colombia
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Mexico
Peru
Venezuela

AGENDA

*Friday, August 16th
Greater Des Moines Partnership
Arthur Davis Conference Room*

3:00—3:45 PM

3:00 PM Welcome by
Ryan Carroll—Peggy Kerr

3:05PM Remarks by
Consulate Generals of
the Dominican Republic
Giselle Castillo-Veremis

3:10 PM Consulate Generals
Introductions and Trade
Opportunities

3:30 PM Q & A

Latin American Consul Generals Meet & Greet

*Friday, August 16th
Greater Des Moines Partnership
Arthur Davis Conference Room*

3:45-4:30 PM

Welcome by Ryan Carroll
Remarks by Consulate Generals

Special thanks to all that made this event possible: The Honorable Consulate Generals, Asociación Consular Iberoamericana de Chicago, Consulate Generals' staff, Governor Brandstad's staff, the Greater Des Moines Partnership, the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the Consulate of Mexico in Omaha, Radio La Reina, Radio La Ley, the original organizing committee in Des Moines, businesses, guests and the Office of Latino Affairs staff.

DOING BUSINESS IN MEXICO

FEATURING
JOSE ANTONIO PERAL, TRADE COMMISSIONER OF MEXICO

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH
Lunch/Presentation: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Meetings with Trade Commissioner Peral: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
COST: \$10

Greater Des Moines Partnership – Arthur Davis Conference Room
700 Locust St., Suite 100, Des Moines, Iowa

PRESENTATION
Learn about trade possibilities and business opportunities with Mexico

MEETINGS
Meet with Commissioner Peral
IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT:
Ryan Carroll, International Trade Manager
515.286.4998 | rcarroll@desmoinesmetro.com

REGISTER AT WWW.DESMOINESMETRO.COM/EVENTS

IOWA **SRE** **PRO MEXICO** **dm** THE GREATER DES MOINES PARTNERSHIP

2013

“This event is a direct result of our partnership (with the Office of Latino Affairs) as I met Cristobal Lohr from the Consulate office in Omaha and asked him to reach out to me if they ever wanted to hold an event about doing business in Mexico here in Des Moines. “

Ryan Carroll
International Trade Manager
The Greater Des Moines Partnership

2014

“Last summer, I had the opportunity to partner with Alba Perez on an event in which we hosted the Consul Generals from eight Latin American countries.

Due to the success of this event, we have strengthened our relationship with Latin America which has lead to further interaction with this region of the world and the potential for business opportunities with Central Iowa.”

Ryan Carroll
International Trade Manager
The Greater Des Moines Partnership

THE IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND THE GREATER DES MOINES PARTNERSHIP

INVITE YOU TO ATTEND
Doing Business with Peru

Peru's Ambassador to the U.S., Harold Forsyth, will speak about the political, economic and social situation in Peru and trade/investment opportunities. The Ambassador will be accompanied by Consul General Agustin De Madalengoitia.

PERU Embassy of Peru in the United States of America

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2014

AGENDA	LOCATION
7:30 AM Registration/ Continental Breakfast	Arthur Davis Conference Center Greater Des Moines Partnership 700 Locust, Suite 100 Des Moines, IA 50309
8:00 AM Presentation	

RSVP at desmoinesmetro.com/events

CONTACT
Ryan Carroll at 515.286.4998
or rcarroll@desmoinesmetro.com

IOWA **dm** THE GREATER DES MOINES PARTNERSHIP

**2014 Peruvian Ambassador to the United States,
The Honorable Harold Forsyth visits Des Moines Iowa.**



Ryan Carroll
International Trade Manager
The Greater Des Moines
Partnership.

←



↑ Jay Byers, CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership.

Jay Byers, CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Ambassador of Peru to the United States The Honorable Harold Forsyth, Executive Officer on Latino Affairs, Alba Perez and President and CEO of EFCO Forms, Mr. Jennings.



A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on the same day between Iowa and Peru by Governor Branstad and the Honorable Harold Forsyth.

2014 Commission on Latino Affairs meeting
April 10, 2014



Director Wong presenting a Certificate of Recognition to Commissioner Joan Jaimes and Rebecca Jackson. Thank you so much for your service.



President of LULAC Iowa, Joe Henry presenting a Certificate to Joan Jaimes for her leadership in presenting three initiatives voted by the commission to advocate for Latinos in Iowa.



↑ Mr. Lara and Commissioner Alejandro Pino discussing Latino issues as they consult the Iowa map.



← Public present: Mr. Lara and Mr. Joe Henry

Commission on Latino Affairs 2012-2014

First Name	Last Name	City	County	Term Ends
Sal	Alaniz	Mt. Pleasant	Henry	April 30, 2016
Rebecca	Jackson	Denison	Crawford	April 30, 2014
Joan	Jaimes	Marshalltown	Marshall	April 30, 2012
Maria	Lara	Carlisle	Warren	April 30, 2016
Alejandro	Pino	Cedar Rapids	Linn	April 30, 2014
Juan	Rodriguez	Des Moines	Polk	April 30, 2016
Ramon	Rodriguez	Pleasant Hill	Polk	April 30, 2014

“Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore.”

César Chávez

“Thank you to the Commissioners on Latino Affairs who led and supported the work completed in the last two years”. Alba Perez– Executive Officer

Fun and educational links to videos on Latin America, Latinos, and Latin Culture.

Enjoy!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15jdTQlr7j4> - Latino Culture

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwdxbk-4Sj8> – Habla Texas Carmen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEHP_ATxktY - La Bruja

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Status of African Americans
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E-mail: alba.perez@iowa.gov
<http://www.humanrights.iowa.gov/>
<http://www.latinoaffairs.iowa.gov/>