



The Hispanic Roundtable

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www.HispanicRoundtable.org

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Each year the challenge for the Hispanic Roundtable and the Latino Youth Summit Committee members is to match or exceed the success of the summit the year before and so far we have been able to meet that challenge. The 2007 Latino Youth Summit was held on November 13th at Centralia College and we had approximately 470 Latino students from Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston Counties participate in the all day event. We also had over 50 community and educational tables offering information on the resources available to support and help build leadership within the Latino community.

The summit began with a warm welcome from the Hispanic Roundtable president, celebrating the 5th year of the annual event, followed by Dr. James Walton, president of Centralia College, who welcomed the students and encouraged them to take the necessary steps needed to obtain degrees and become the future leaders of our communities. The keynote speaker was Richard "Mr. Chocolate" Santana who is the founder of Homeboy Goes To Harvard Productions. He shared his story as a third generation gang member who went on to earn a Master's degree at Harvard University. Mr. Santana demonstrated to students and educators how he accomplished *The Change* that occurred in his life -- and can occur in anyone's life. He set the tone for the summit's day long event.

The 2007 Latino Youth Summit's theme "Owning My Future" was accompanied by an image provided by Pedro "Elijah" De Valdivia, whose artwork reflects and embraces the challenge of meeting the educational and leadership needs of Latino youth. In addition, the summit provided Latino community leaders from many professional arenas across the state to encourage the Latino youths to take the necessary steps to reach their career goals.

The Latino Youth Summit's success has been a strong level of support from all our partners. Partners include colleges and universities, school officials, state and local agency professionals, area business leaders, and Latino students and parents. Your contribution helped to deliver a strong, positive message of encouragement to Latino and Latina high school students.

A college education will enrich and empower your life. College is accessible and attainable for you.

In addition, school counselors in each of the participating schools played a critical role in identifying and recruiting Hispanic youths to participate in the summit.

A “HUGE THANK YOU” goes out to our partner sponsors; Centralia College, Saint Martin’s University, North Thurston Public Schools, Thurston and Lewis County Public Health and Social Services, TransAlta and The Hispanic Roundtable. And our supporters; Harborstone Credit Union, State Farm Insurance, South Puget Sound Community College, The Evergreen State College, Washington State University Thurston & Lewis County Extensions, TOGETHER, The Timberland Regional Library, Thurston Council on Cultural Diversity and Human Rights, Washington Association of Community and Migrant Health Centers, CIELO Project, CHOICE Regional Health Network, WA State Department of Labor & Industries, Woytowich Ad Design, and Capitol City Press.

The active participation of our volunteers was crucial in the success of this event. We want to recognize the many hours donated by our volunteers who not only helped to organize the event, but provided guidance to our Latino youth throughout the entire event. As a result, the continued support and efforts toward building leadership and developing educational goals for the Latino youth *does* make a difference. A personal thank you goes out to the Latino Youth Summit Planning Committee who worked countless hours and the 60+ volunteers that assured the success of the event.

Again, I want to express that our Latino youths are indeed privileged to have such a dedicated group that feel a responsibility to generate educational access for the development of future leaders. As the Latino Youth Summit expands its outreach to all the high schools for the region we serve, our commitment demonstrates to a new generation of minorities, low-income and first generation students that college is not only a possibility, but a very attainable goal for them.

As the President of the Hispanic Roundtable, I want to express what an honor it is for me to continue being a part of such an incredible organization. I want to personally thank everyone who has helped us
in 2003 to “Open Doors and Windows (*Abrir Puertas y Ventanas*)”,
in 2004 to “Imagine-Realizing your Dreams (*Imagina---Realizando sus Suenos*)”
in 2005 to “Designing my Destiny (*Deseniando mi Destino*)”
in 2006 to take “Steps Towards Success (*Pasos Hacia el Exito*)”
in 2007 “Owning my Future (*Dueno de mi Futuro*) for our Latino youth.

I look forward to see you all in October of 2008 at South Puget Sound Community College for the next Latino Youth Summit!

Sincerely,

Jose L. Diaz
President-Hispanic Roundtable