



# Nuestras Conexiones

A publication by the Hispanic Roundtable—La Mesa Redonda

Volume 1 - Premiere Issue

April 2008

The Hispanic Roundtable (La Mesa Redonda) of Thurston County is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

OUR MISSION is to strengthen the Latino community by supporting and promoting our member agencies and by serving as an educational, economic, and service agency resource.

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## Letter From the Hispanic Roundtable President

On behalf of the Hispanic Roundtable, I want to sincerely **THANK YOU** for your continued support towards the **5th Annual Latino Youth Summit (LYS).**

This year we had close to 500 youth participate in this annual program. We had a motivational speaker, Richard "Mr. Chocolate" Santana, as our keynote speaker who delivered an impassioned message that set the tone for the day.

In addition, Dr. James Walton, Centralia College President, named the two people during the LYS who have been selected for the Clock Tower Diversity Project; Representative Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney and Tomas Villanueva. Both are northwest Hispanic leaders who have made enormous contributions to education, equality, and fairness for uncounted thousands of people from every cultural corner of Washington.

A heartfelt thanks to the many dedicated volunteers that committed countless hours on the behalf of this amazing event.

I wish to specifically acknowledge the following organizations and agencies who were also instrumental in our success at the 5th Annual Latino Youth Summit hosted by Centralia College:

- Capitol City Press
- Centralia College

- CHOICE Regional Health Network
- Color Graphics
- CIELO Project
- Harborstone Credit Union
- Hispanic Women's Network of Washington
- Lewis & Thurston County Public Health and Social Services
- North Thurston Public Schools
- Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises
- Saint Martin's University
- South Puget Sound Community College
- State Farm Insurance
- The Evergreen State College
- Thurston Council on Cultural Diversity & Human Rights
- Timberland Regional Library
- TOGETHER!
- TransAlta
- WA Association of Community & Migrant Health Centers
- WA State Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- WA State Department of Labor and Industries
- WSU Lewis & Thurston County Extension
- Woytowich Ad Design

**Planning for next year's summit is already underway.** It is scheduled for October 29, 2008 at South Puget Sound Community College.

To be part of the planning committee, please contact Steve McRavin, LYS Committee Chair at (360) 596-5417 or [smcravin@spsc.ccc.edu](mailto:smcravin@spsc.ccc.edu).



The Latino Youth Summit is a community-based program founded by the Hispanic Roundtable, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization comprised of community leaders from the public, private and educational sectors. Four South Sound area colleges (Centralia College, Saint Martin's University, South Puget Sound Community College, and The Evergreen State College) are the program's higher educational partners.

For our current Hispanic Roundtable members, I want to thank you for your ongoing support and encourage you to continue coming to our meetings.

For those who are interested, please consider becoming a member. Go to our website at [www.hispanicroundtable.org](http://www.hispanicroundtable.org) for information on how you can become a member, support our cause, or make a donation to our organization.

**There will always be a seat for you at our roundtable!**

With warmest regards,

*Jose L. Diaz, President  
Hispanic Roundtable*



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Jose L. Diaz

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Veronica Bronkema

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Visit us on the web!  
[Hispanicroundtable.org](http://Hispanicroundtable.org)

Find out about how  
YOU can get involved  
and make a difference.

## WA State Commission on Hispanic Affairs Summary

2008 Latino Legislative Day was a huge success. All discussion forums were well attended and much was achieved. Legislative Session 2008 kept the Commission engaged tracking 112 bills relating to Education, Health Care, Housing, Justice & Equity, and Business Development.

Exclusively in the area of Education, we tracked 45 bills. **Twelve** bills focused on high school graduation requirements which included the WASL; **Nine** were associated with higher education; **Eight** were linked to issues on basic educational programs, funding and regulations; **Three** dealt with either Preschool or adult educational opportunities; and **Six** bills were related to the issue of ELL students and language instructors.

**Education Bills of significance:** **SHB 2810** will provide enhanced resources for school districts with a high number of ELL students and **EHB 2607** will develop recommendations for increasing a teacher's knowledge and skills when addressing the needs of an ELL student.

**Health Care:** **Six bills** related to services for children and young adults;

**Seven** were focused on the Health Care system and regulation changes; and **Two** addressed insurance for small employers.

Great strides were taken in the public safety arena with new community protections against sex offenders, drunk drivers, and street gangs. Of great disillusionment were the changes made to **E2SHB 2712, Criminal Street Gangs**. This bill was originally written to include funds for the development of programs that focused on prevention thus enabling communities to address gang related problems.

Regrettably this language was taken out of the bill; leaving us with great concern for our community as well as all communities in Washington State. *It is imperative that we remain proactive in addressing this issue and willing to take the necessary measures to reduce this type of activity amid our youth.*

On an overall note, the Legislature sent a number of significant bills to the Governor this year including: **SB5261**, granting the

Insurance Commissioner veto authority over health benefit rate increases; **SB 6580**, incorporating climate change into the Growth Management Act; and, **SB 6809**, providing a state tax credit for low income families.

On the budget front, perhaps the most important figure was the amount that the House and Senate leaders left in reserves: \$835 million. The budget for the biennium grew by over \$300 million; however, most of the extra money went to education expenses, such as increases for teacher salaries and expanded all-day kindergarten programs.

We are grateful to the Legislature for the policy that came out of this session and are optimistic that next session will be one of further groundbreaking probabilities. Unquestionably, much work is still needed in the areas of Education, Health Care and Economic Development largely in the communities of color.

Uriel Iñiguez  
Executive Director  
WA State Commission on  
Hispanic Affairs



## Free English Tutoring Available

The **Bookends Literacy Project** offers free ESL (English as a Second Language) tutoring, GED and Adult Literacy services in Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Yelm. Tutoring generally takes place at one of our Timberland Libraries (Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, or Yelm).

To register please call (360) 754-7711 ext. 3734 or (360) 464-8578.

Class schedules are based on the availability of the student and the tutor. Most student and tutor pairs meet twice a week for 1.5 to 2 hours each session.

Bookends is also in need of volunteers to serve as ESL tutors. You do not have to be bilingual to serve as a tutor. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer tutor, please call (360) 464-8578.

The Timberland Regional Library also has many books, videos, DVD's, audio cassettes and CD's to help library users who are working on learning or improving their language skills.

**The following librarians can help you in Spanish.**

Susan Faubion, Centralia  
Timberland Library, (360) 736-0183

Selina Gomez-Beloz, Tenino  
Timberland Library, (360) 264-2369

Lupita Lopez, Lacey Timberland  
Library, (360) 491-3860

Sara Peté, Olympia Timberland  
Library, (360) 352-0595

Sara Peté  
Librarian Senior  
Adult Services  
Olympia Timberland  
Regional Library



## Domestic Violence in our Local Community

Domestic Violence is a serious issue within our jurisdiction. In 2007, Lacey Police Officers responded to more than 400 domestic violence calls; more than **one a day** for our city. Two of those calls were homicide investigations.

Nationally, 95% of the victims of domestic violence are women. No one profession, class, or group is immune from this crime.

The City of Lacey is involved with the Thurston County Domestic Violence Task Force. We are partners with Safeplace and encourage victims of domestic violence to seek help.

Did you know Safeplace has several Spanish speaking **Domestic Violence Advocates?** Advocates help victims seek services, assist with obtaining *No Contact* or *Protection Orders*, and may even accompany a victim to a court hearing.

For victims needing assistance or emergency shelter, please consider contacting my friend and associate Alejandro Rugarcia. He is a Spanish Speaking Community Advocate at Safeplace and can be reached at (360) 786-8754 ext. 108.

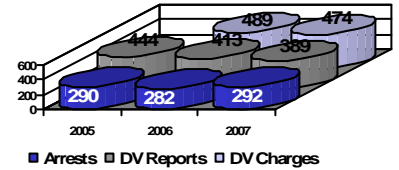
He can be your resource for guidance and assistance with a domestic violence issue.

Safeplace also has a 24 hour crisis number at (360) 754-6300. The Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline is toll free (800) 562-6025.

The Lacey Police Department also has access to **The Language Line**, which allows us to communicate with victims with little or no English speaking ability.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, **seek help!** Resources are available for you to get the help you need NOW.

Commander John Suessman  
City of Lacey  
Police Department



**Important Resources:**

Safeplace 754-6300

Crisis Clinic 586-2800

Civil Protection Orders 709-3275 or 709-3201

Victim Advocate 754-2986 ext. 7202

[www.ci.lacey.wa.us/police/DV%20Information.htm](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us/police/DV%20Information.htm)

## April is Alcohol Awareness Month

The Surgeon General of the United States has issued a **Call To Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking**. (Entire document available at [www.surgeongeneral.gov](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov))

Research indicates that alcohol kills more youth than tobacco and illicit drugs combined. According to Dr. Nora Volkow, head of the federal National Institute on Drug Abuse, regular and occasional alcohol use damages young brains that are still developing. Young drinkers score lower on vocabulary, general information, and memory recall.

The 2006 Washington State Health Youth Survey indicates that 42% of 12th grade students, 33% of 10th grade students, and 15% of 8th grade students reported having a drink in the last thirty days. When asked if they thought they would

be caught by their parents when drinking, only 67% of 8th graders, 46% of 10th graders, and 31% of 12th graders felt they would be caught. One in four 10th grade and 12th grade students will ride with someone who has been drinking.

**Another alarming statistic...**Kids who drink before age 15 are **5 times more likely** to develop alcohol problems as adults.

Across the country there will be thousands of town hall meetings held to address this issue. This year's theme is 'Saving Lives: Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking'. Please plan on attending at least one of these important community discussions locally with your children. **Free pizza while supplies last.**

Thursday, April 3, 2008  
Capitol High School, Olympia  
6:00—8:00 PM.

Monday, April 7, 2008  
Swede Hall, Rochester  
7:00—9:00 PM.

If you are unable to attend but would like more information visit [www.starttalkingnow.org](http://www.starttalkingnow.org).

If you know of someone who needs help with drugs or alcohol please call (800) 662-9111 or go to [www.countycd.org](http://www.countycd.org) for a list of resource agencies. *Se habla español.*

Kristi Strup  
Chemical Dependency  
Prevention Specialist  
Thurston & Mason Counties



**One if four 10th grade and 12th grade students will ride with someone who has been drinking.**

## Awards and Recognition

**Congratulations to Jose L. Diaz, HRT President!** He was recently honored as one of TOGETHER's! *Champions for Kids* and as a nominee for the Rhonda Quash Coats Award for Excellence in Multicultural Student Services for his work with the Hispanic Roundtable and as the Diversity Outreach Coordinator at Centralia College.

Twenty three Thurston County residents were recognized at **TOGETHER's! Champion for Kids Celebration** at Saint Martin's University on February 24, 2008.

Jose was among the winners of this award for tireless efforts and commitment to provide programs and

opportunities for the young residents of our community.

Jose was also nominated for the **Rhonda Quash Coats Award for Excellence in Multicultural Student Services** by many of his colleagues in the Hispanic Roundtable.

The award, sponsored by the Washington State Multicultural Student Services Director's Council, recognizes significant contributions made in the area of Multicultural student services in the Washington state community and technical colleges system.

The council acknowledged Jose's leadership, advocacy, and pioneering activities in support of multicultural

student services and student achievement.

Jose was deeply honored to have been recognized for his leadership role in the Hispanic Roundtable and the Latino Youth Summit, but he pointed out that he is only a small piece of the puzzle.

Without the commitment and efforts of the other members of the Hispanic Roundtable, none of this important work could have been accomplished.

He is truly grateful for the strength behind the Roundtable, and looks forward to continuing sharing honors like these with the organization as a whole.

### Are you a CURRENT, paid member of the HRT?

If you have been a member in the past, ***we need you!***

And if you are new to our group, ***we welcome you!***

Please take a moment to fill out the information below and send in your dues according to membership level.

Thank you for your support.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Level

- \$25 General Individual
- \$100 Agency
- \$500 Individual Lifetime

Send completed forms and checks made payable to:

**Hispanic Roundtable  
PO Box 6368**

**Olympia, WA 98507-6268**

## Calendar of Events



### HISPANIC ROUNDTABLE (HRT)

**GENERAL MEETINGS** are open to the public. We hope you can join us!

All meetings are held at North Thurston Public Schools, 205 College Street, Lacey.

Scheduled dates are:

May 29, 2008, 9-11 AM

July 24, 2008, 9-11 AM

September 25, 2008, 9-11 AM

To be added to our E-mail distribution list and kept informed of upcoming HRT meetings and changes, please contact [membership@hispanicroundtable.org](mailto:membership@hispanicroundtable.org)

### 2008 LATINO YOUTH SUMMIT

Proudly sponsored by the Hispanic Roundtable  
October 29, 2008, 8 AM—2 PM  
South Puget Sound  
Community College

Center for the Arts Building 20  
2011 Mottman Road, Olympia  
FREE event. Open to Hispanic high school students in Thurston, Lewis, Mason, Grays Harbor and Pacific counties. Registration begins early fall.  
[www.hispanicroundtable.org](http://www.hispanicroundtable.org)

**Be part of the LYS planning committee.** Contact Steve McRavin (360) 596-5417 or [smcravin@spsc.ccc.edu](mailto:smcravin@spsc.ccc.edu). **Register now for Community and College Information Tables!** (360) 789-3183 or [cmurphy@comcast.net](mailto:cmurphy@comcast.net).

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### CITIZENSHIP DAY

April 19, 2008, 10 AM—4 PM  
Various locations statewide.  
\$20 per person. Volunteer attorneys, paralegals, and interpreters will assist with citizenship applications.  
[wacitizenshipday@gmail.com](mailto:wacitizenshipday@gmail.com)

#### APPLYING FOR CITIZENSHIP ON YOUR OWN, Debbie Dohrmann

May 2, 2008, 6-8 PM  
South Puget Sound  
Community College  
2011 Mottman Road, Olympia  
\$40 per person. Intensive workshop for legal, permanent residents to complete the naturalization application and process. Visit [www.spsc.ccc.edu](http://www.spsc.ccc.edu) (Community Education)

### LATIN CAREER EXPO 2008

May 22, 2008, 1-8 PM  
Seattle Central Community College  
October 30, 2008, 1-8 PM  
Everett Community College  
Workshops and networking opportunities with businesses. For more information visit [www.latincareerexpo.com](http://www.latincareerexpo.com), call (206) 963-9521 or E-mail [Info@latincareerexpo.com](mailto:Info@latincareerexpo.com).

### LATINA WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

October 4, 2008, 10 AM—2 PM  
South Puget Sound Community College  
Student Union Building 27  
2011 Mottman Road, Olympia  
Workshops for professional and personal enrichment. Call (360) 359-5384 or visit [www.HispanicWomensNetworkWA.org](http://www.HispanicWomensNetworkWA.org) for details.