



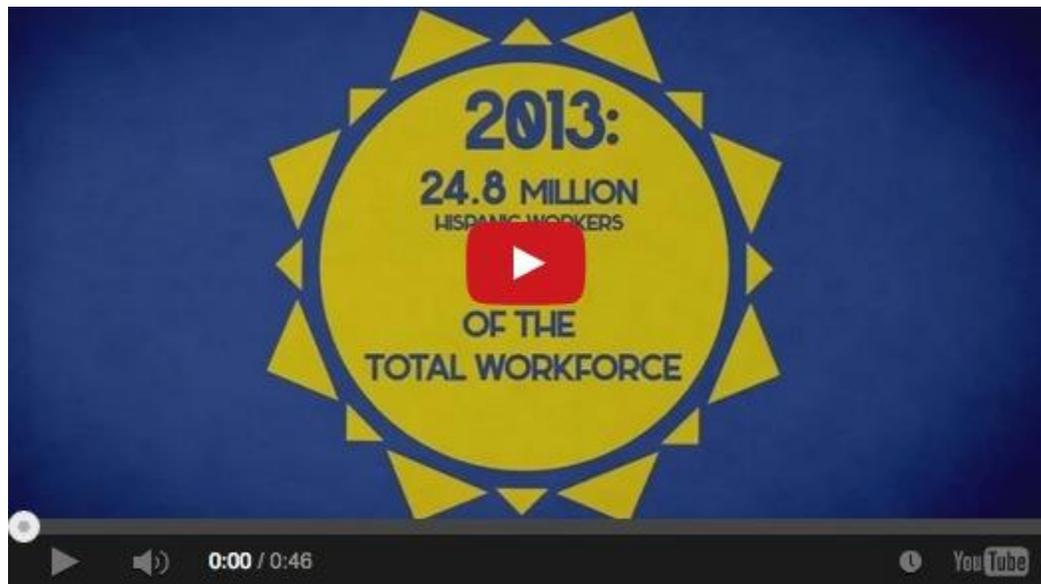
Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Saludos,

Happy Hispanic Heritage Month! During this time of the year, we celebrate and recognize the many accomplishments Latinos have contributed to American society.

On September 12, President Obama issued a proclamation recognizing Hispanic-Serving Institutions to highlight their contributions to providing educational opportunities for Latinos and Americans across the country. [Read the official proclamation here](#). Moreover, the President issued a proclamation recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month. [Click here](#) for the complete Presidential Proclamation for National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Several Cabinet Secretaries issued statements commemorating Hispanic Heritage Month as well. U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker stated that this month is important because it applauds the contributions Latinos have made to the American economy. [Read the full statement in Spanish here](#). To view a video from the U.S. Department of Labor and a blog post from Labor Secretary Thomas Pérez on Hispanic Heritage Month, please [click here](#).



In the months prior to the official start of Hispanic Heritage Month, the White House was very busy engaging with the Latino community.

On August 25, the White House announced the 2014-2015 Class of White House Fellows. The Fellows come from diverse backgrounds, and among this year's class are three Latinos: Marguerite Rose S. Jiménez, Francisco J. Lejia, and Mario Luis Ramirez. [Read the](#)

[official White House announcement.](#)

President Obama has continuously nominated several Latinos from across the country to key Administration posts, including Mari Carmen Aponte, to serve as Permanent Representative of the U.S. to the Organization of American States; P. David Lopez, to serve as General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years; Lourdes Maria Castro Ramírez, to serve as Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and Sarah Saldaña as Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), to name a few. Also, congratulations to current appointees Betsaida Alcantara who was nominated as the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as Rafael Lopez who was nominated as Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services.

On July 11, President Obama and SBA Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet announced a new project aimed to help small businesses called [SupplierPay](#), which is dedicated to giving America's entrepreneurs access to affordable and consistent working capital. This new program could help many Latinos who are owners of small businesses. To learn more, [click here.](#)

In addition to these initiatives, the President has been a strong advocate for youth development and access to education. The President's My Brother's Keeper (MBK) initiative has impacted not just young men of color but also young Latinas, such as Gladys Rosario. Gladys gained a new perspective on the Initiative after interning at the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics as a policy and communications intern this past summer. In a recent [blog post](#), she shares her thoughts on the importance of educating minority men, such as her male siblings, cousins, and uncles.

As always, thank you for your tireless leadership and steadfast commitment to improving the lives of Latinos and all Americans. Please share the newsletter with your friends and colleagues and encourage them to [sign up for updates!](#)

Feliz Mes de la Herencia Hispana!

Jorge Neri
Associate Director
White House | Office of Public Engagement

Administration Updates

[President Obama Nominates Two to Serve on the United States District Courts](#)

On August 5, President Obama nominated two Latinos to serve on the United States District Courts. Judge Jorge Luis Alonso and John Robert Blake both received nominations from President Obama due to their steadfast commitment to public service. Judge Alonso, who is originally from Cuba, has served as an Associate Judge for the Cook County Judicial Circuit and also served as an Assistant Public Defender for the same county.

Agency Updates

[Departments of Justice and Education Reach Settlement Agreement with Public School System to Ensure Equal Access and Non-Discrimination in Schools](#)

On July 9, the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education entered into an agreement with the Jefferson Parish School System in Louisiana due to complications over enrollment of Latino students due to their or their parents' immigration status. As a result, students who reside in

Jefferson Parish can enroll in school regardless of their immigration status.

Consumers Have Saved \$9 Billion in Premiums

On July 24, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that Americans have saved \$9 billion on their health insurance premiums since 2011 as a direct result of the Affordable Care Act.

CFPB Launches Nationwide Effort to Provide Financial Education and Tools to Low-Income Consumers

On July 30, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau announced that they will be partnering with many national and local organizations across the country with the goal of training social services staff to provide financial education and literacy to their clients. The CFPB unveiled a new online toolkit, *Your Money, Your Goals*, which can serve as a guide on how to make smart financial decisions. The agency aims to help people of low-to-moderate incomes and has the potential of assisting thousands of Latinos.

Ayúdenos a Elaborar Una Nueva Marca Para Productos Más Seguros

On September 13, the EPA began to work on a project to identify what type of logos on cleaning supplies catch consumers' eyes the most. The ultimate goal is to use logos that identify products that are not only safe for your family, but also safe for the environment.

Blog Highlights

Three Years of Standing up for Consumers

By Chris Vaeth | July 21, 2014

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau was created in the wake of the financial meltdown to stand up for consumers, make sure they're treated fairly, and restore trust in the consumer financial marketplace ... We officially opened our doors on July 21, 2011 -- three years ago today. Since then, we've used a range of tools in our toolbox to protect consumers: writing rules of the road, supervising and enforcing those rules, responding to consumer complaints, and much more. [Read more here.](#)

More than 7.2 Million Additional Americans Covered Under Medicaid and CHIP

By Cindy Mann | August 8, 2014

Over the last year, we've seen the Affordable Care Act deliver on a number of important milestones as we work toward more accessible, affordable, quality health care. New options have meant that 10.3 million previously uninsured Americans can now rest a little easier knowing that they are covered. And millions more can rest assured that quality, affordable health insurance will be available through the Marketplace if they ever need it, without worrying about being charged more or denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition. [Read more here.](#)

Reach Higher: Improving Education for Hispanics

By Eric Waldo | August 25, 2014

The future of our nation is strongly linked to the educational success of the Hispanic community. Hispanics are the largest, youngest, and fastest-growing minority group that will represent 70 percent of population growth in our country between 2015 and 2060, and for that reason, it is crucial to invest in the educational future of Hispanic youth right now...Fortunately, we have made some significant progress in the last decade -- the Hispanic dropout rate has fallen by more than half from 28% in 2000 to less than 13% in 2012 and is still improving. But there is more to do. [Read more here.](#)

[Capacitando a los trabajadores para más oportunidades laborales](#)

By Cecilia Muñoz | August 13, 2014

El Presidente Barack Obama cree firmemente que nuestra economía es más fuerte cuando todas las personas que trabajan duro tienen una oportunidad justa. Los trabajadores hispanos, tanto los inmigrantes como los que ya son ciudadanos, son un pilar fundamental de nuestra economía. Sin embargo, determinados obstáculos se interponen a menudo en nuestro camino, lo cual no solo perjudica a las familias hispanas sino también a nuestro país en general. Por esa razón, el Presidente Obama ha lanzado medidas dirigidas a derribar esas barreras y ayudar a las personas a adquirir los conocimientos y habilidades que necesitan para competir en la economía global del siglo XXI.

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www.whitehouse.gov/issues/immigration.

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