Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey
20th Anniversary Summit
Present & Clear

A Statewide Leadership Summit to Reaffirm
The New Jersey Latino Socio-economic and Political Agenda

Saturday, March 2, 2019, 9:00am to 3:00pm
Berkeley College
44 Rifle Camp Road Woodland Park, NJ
www.llanj.org  -  llanj@mail.com
The Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey (LLANJ) is pleased to host its Summit: Present and Clear / Presente y Claro, celebrating 20 years of advocacy, leadership, and empowerment. On Saturday, March 2, 2019, leaders from around the state convene at Berkeley College in Woodland Park, to discuss their current status in education, health, civil rights, public policy, economic development and political representation.

As the board of delegates sat to plan this Summit, we tossed around ideas for a theme. We thought of Unity, Solidarity, Empowerment, Struggle, Achievement, Challenge, and other adjectives to describe what we thought should be the central theme of this Summit. LLANJ Chairman Paul Perez suggested: Presente y Claro, ‘because now more than ever, Latinos need to be Presente and committed to our honorable cause of inclusion, and Claro, as to not lose focus and keep our eyes on the prize,’ he stated.

In 1999, over 400 leaders, educators, professionals and activists convened under one roof with the purpose of unifying New Jersey Latino voices to empower ourselves. As leaders, they knew that the potential of our communities and the impact of our contribution increase exponentially when we, 2 million of us, rally around one goal. The Latino Leadership Alliance has done precisely that for the past 20 years with commendable success.

We have made strides in the fight for a thorough and efficient education for all New Jersey’s children; we have been at the forefront of the struggle for equal and fair treatment of our law enforcement officers; we have been researching, reporting and making coalitions against police brutality; we have helped establish collaboration channels between law enforcement and the New Jersey State Attorney General’s Office for the benefit of both, our law enforcement officers and the public; we have been in the frontlines of the fight for humane and dignified immigration reform; we have shined the light on health disparities and insufficient inclusion of the Latino Family at all levels of government; we have been a voice for the small business sector, which is the backbone of the economy of cities with large Latino populations; and through the Leadership Academy initiative we have identified and developed emerging, independent-minded and conscientious leaders from within our ranks that they may better represent us.

Please allow me to share three points of information where New Jersey Latinos have made substantial contributions: first, 28 million U.S. Latinos were eligible to vote in 2016, and 800,000 young U.S. Latinos turn 18 every year, becoming eligible to vote. A sizable number of these Latinos are from New Jersey. Second, studies have found that Latinos are U.S. ‘economic salvation’ as they were responsible for $2.13 trillion of gross domestic product, and 12% of the country’s $18.04 trillion Gross Domestic Product. In New Jersey, Latinos enjoy a $46 billion annual purchasing power. Third, an impressive 67% of Latino high school graduates enrolled in college in 2017 (according to the National Center for Education Statistics). A significant percentage of them are from the Garden State.

Looking back at the past 20 years, we consider with satisfaction all we have accomplished; and look forward with anticipation at all that remains to be accomplished, for all of us, hailing from our great American Continent and from our individual countries including Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Spain, Uruguay, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Mexico.

Now more than ever, we look at the diverse Latino interests represented in The Alliance, at the men and women in the front lines of the challenges we face in New Jersey, and we call on them to say: ‘Presente y Claro, our Latino Family can count on me for the next two decades!’

Presente! Claro!

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
In 1999 four hundred Latino leaders from diverse organizations across the State of New Jersey convened a conference that concluded in the creation of the Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey (LLANJ).

The mission of LLANJ is to mobilize and empower Latino communities to obtain political, economic, and social equity and; To unify organizations and individuals in advocating for the rights of Latinos throughout the state of New Jersey.

To carry out the mission, a Board of Delegates was elected and various working committees were formed on: Representation, Public Safety & Civil Rights, Culture, Economic Development, Education, Health, Immigration, and Leadership Development.

Our vision statement is a product of the work of the committees and the deliberations of the Board of Delegates. “The Vision” describes New Jersey as it ought to be. LLANJ presents it as a challenge to public and private leaders to have a State that can lead the nation in carrying out an inclusive strategy that empowers all residents to attain a superior quality of life. The LLANJ vision embraces a Latino Horizon which enriches all of New Jersey’s citizens through the following principles:

- OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO ALL
- EVERY CHILD IS EDUCATED
- IMMIGRANTS ARE A CORNERSTONE
- FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES
- HEALTH DISPARITIES ARE ELIMINATED
- DISCRIMINATION IS ROOTED OUT

This Vision is a challenge to New Jersey’s leaders in both the private and public sectors. Those who aspire to leadership in our state must unite all people if this Vision is to become reality.

LLANJ wants to work with all those possessing the will and plans to accomplish the immense task at hand. We look forward to dialogue and analysis with others to perfect this vision, and to put into motion the forces that will bring it about.
8:30AM - 9:30AM  Breakfast Plenary Session

The state of Latinos in New Jersey: Where are we in education, economic development and representation.

Welcome ......................................................Dr. Maria Teresa Montilla

Speakers:
Senator Thomas Kean, Jr. - The upcoming redistricting process and New Jersey Latinos
Honorable Gurbir S. Grewal, NJ Attorney General - Public safety, civil rights, and New Jersey Latinos
Martin Perez, Esq. - LLANJ 20 year of history mobilizing, advocating and empowering diverse communities.

9:45AM - 12:30PM   Concurrent Workshops

II. Youth Leadership - Community Room……Angela Harrington & Hector Bonilla

NJ Latinos status on Education, Economic Development & Representation

III. A Puerto Rican Perspective - RM M102…….Paul Perez & Dennys Talavera
IV. A Dominican Perspective - RM M101……Heidy Hernandez, Gino Hernandez & Delfin Vasquez
V. A Mexican Perspective - RM M103.......... Rosa Vasquez Zaremba
VI. A Cuban Perspective - RM M104............Frank Miqueli & Jorge Ciprian
VII. A PanAmerican Perspective RM 272......... Sara Batres, Waldemar Ronquillo
VIII. DANR Board of Directors RM 023..........President Alejandro Benjamin, VP Dr. Miguel Hernandez,
     Claribel Martinez-Marmolejos & DANR Board Members

1:00PM   Lunch Plenary Session

I. The State of NJ Latinos Address...........LLANJ President Nestor Montilla, Sr.

II. America’s hidden Hispanic Heritage….Historian/Journalist Miguel Perez

III. Thoughts on empowerment………………U.S. Representatives Albio Sires and Josh Gottheimer, Senator
     Loretta Weinberg, Mayor Wilda Diaz, Mayor Hector Lora, Mayor Yris Incarnation, Councilman Luis Quintana,
     Councilman Anibal Ramos, Councilman Luis Velez, and NYC Councilman Carlos Menchaca
10:30AM - 12:30PM

Raising awareness about the importance of building a coalition and a network of faith-based leadership, organizations and civic leaders to advance the Latino/Hispanic Agenda in their respective communities.

II. Youth Leadership ………………… LLANJ Delegates Angela Harrington & Hector Bonilla
Puerto Rican Cuchifrito / Leadership and Personal Branding

III. Advancement & Representation
Discussion forums per ethnic group, will consider New Jersey Latinos status on Education - innovative methods of guaranteeing a thorough and efficient education for all New Jersey students; Economic Development - contributions and challenges of New Jersey small business community; & Representation - the journey of various Latino groups in political representation, and the challenges faced on their way forward.

A. A Puerto Rican Perspective….. LLANJ Chairman Paul Perez & Dennys Talavera
Panelists: Commissioner Manny Martinez, Eddie Gonzalez, LLANJ Delegate Jose Colon, John Sanchez, Essex County Latino American Chamber of Commerce, Julio Pabon, Willie Sanchez, Felipe Luciano, Council Member Luis Velez, Council Member Luis Quintana. Councilman Anibal Ramos Lydia Valencia, PR Congress, Dr. Edwin Melendez, Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College, Sonia Rosado, and Mayor Wilda Diaz

B. A Dominican Perspective…. LLANJ Delegates Heidy Hernandez & Gino Hernandez
Moderator: NDAC VP Delfin Vasquez
Panelists: Ivan Lamourt, St. Benedict’s Preparatory School, Eleazar Bueno, Empanadas Monumental, John Estevez, FoodTown Supermarkets, Mayor Yris Encarnacion, Sebastian Rodriguez, Ariagna Perello, Julio Malone, Juana Edmond, Commissioners Altagraacia Barcelo and Joel Ramirez, Rossanna Genoa, Fernando Aquino, Teofilo Javier, Dr. Carlos Lugo, Councilwoman Milady Tejeda, Erick Cedano, and NDAC Members

C. A Mexican Perspective……… LLANJ Delegate Rosa Vasquez Zaremba

D. A Cuban Perspective………… LLANJ Delegates Frank Miqueli & Jorge Ciprian
Panelists: Patricia Bombelyn, Esq., Guillermo “Will” de Veyga, Ph.D., New Jersey City University, Maria Trusa, CEO of Forme Health Care, Jose Arango, Antonio Ibarria, Editor El Especialito, Nieves Pimienta, and Hon. Caridad Rigo

F. A PanAmerican Perspective… LLANJ Delegates Sara Batres & Waldemar Ronquillo
Panelists: Maria Ortega Cubas, Berkeley College, Roberto Bustamante, SHCC President Luis de la Hoz, Gregorio Antonio Luciano, Bergen County Freeholder Board President Germaine Ortiz. Dr. Hector Castillo, Rev. David Rios, Maria del Pilar, Alejandro Roman, Natalie Limon, & Arieia Herzog, Esq., Center for Immigrant Representation, Antonio Martinez, Esq., Union County Freeholder Sergio Granados, and from Alianza Ecuatoriana de Passaic, Joffre H. perez Acosta, Presidente, Jorge Canarte, Paquita Delgado, Marco Bautista, and Ana Perez.
Executive Committee

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Amiris Perez, Vice President
Angela Harrington, Secretary
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Patricia Bombelyn, Esq.
Luis Vargas
Nelly Celi

Economic Development
Jose Colon
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Heidy Hernandez

Faith-Based Initiative
Rev. Jose Lopez
Rev. John Muniz

Culture
Maria Alvarez
Nelson Baez

Representation
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Maria Teresa Montilla
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Santiago Paniagua
Sara Batres
Waldemar Ronquillo

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Alejandro Jaramillo
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Cuqui Rivera
Daniel Santo-Prieto
Elisa Charters
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Guillermo “Guillo” Beytagh-Maldonado
Hector Bonilla
Isabel Nazario
Jaime Lucero
Jorge Cruz
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Miguel Cartagena
Miguel Rivera
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Oscar Barbosa
Pablo Albilal
Santiago Rodriguez

Thank you for your service!

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Miah Seetahal
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Ashley Kulesa
LLA-PAC Endorses

LLANJ Retreat 2018

Latino Leadership Academy Graduation - May 2017

LLANJ Chairman Paul Perez

Candidates’ Interviews 2018

LLANJ Annual Leadership Summit - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 8:30am to 3:00pm at Berkeley College
Berkeley College congratulates the Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey on its 20th anniversary of mobilizing and empowering communities. We are proud to be a sponsor of the 2019 Latino Summit and to contribute to the dialogue that helps shape the future of education in New Jersey.