



Virginia Latino Advisory Board

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*Advocating for the Interests of Latinos across the Commonwealth*

**2008  
Report**

## VLAB Members

Mrs. Beatriz Amberman, *Virginia Beach*  
**Chair**

Mrs. Gaby Rengifo, *Yorktown*  
**Vice-Chair**

Dr. Gresilda Tilley-Lubbs, *Roanoke*  
**Secretary**

Mr. Peter Loach, *Charlottesville*  
**Treasurer**

Ms. Leni Gonzalez, *Arlington*

Captain Eddie Reyes, *Stafford*

Mrs. Alicia Fernandez-Bobulinski, *Virginia Beach*

Mr. Fred Sanchez, *Fairfax*

Ms. Soraya Buckner, *Painter*

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Ms. Zuraya Tapia, *Arlington*

Ms. Maribel Ramos, *Richmond*

Dr. Maricel Quintana-Baker, *Midlothian*

Mr. Michel Zajur, *Midlothian*

Dr. Yolanda Puyana, *Roanoke*

## Ex-Officio Members

Mr. Doug Garcia, Assistant Secretary of Education  
**Education**

Ms. Alexis Thornton-Crump, VDOT's Assistant Division Administrator in Civil Rights  
**Transportation**

Mr. Michael Royster, Director, VDH Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy  
**Health & Human Resources**

The Honorable David Smith, Deputy Secretary of Commerce & Trade  
**Commerce & Trade**

Ms. Dawn Smith, Assistant Secretary of Public Safety  
**Public Safety**

Ms. Aryana Khalid, Deputy Secretary of Health & Human Resources  
**Health & Human Resources**

## Office of the Governor Liaison

Ms. Sindy M. Benavides  
Director of Gubernatorial Appointments & Latino Liaison

A complete copy of this report may be found on our website at:

[www.vlab.virginia.gov](http://www.vlab.virginia.gov)

Or by contacting:

**Office of the Governor  
Attn: Ms. Cindy M. Benavides  
1111 East Broad Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219  
804.225.4836**

Via e-mail:

[vlab@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:vlab@governor.virginia.gov)

Report prepared by members of the Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Commonwealth of Virginia

2008

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# Virginia Latino Advisory Board

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*Advocating for the Interests of Latinos across the Commonwealth*

January 25, 2009  
Governor Timothy M. Kaine  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Kaine:

It is an honor to convey greetings to you on behalf of all the members of the Virginia Latino Advisory Board. We are delighted to present to you our final report regarding the first and very successful Governors' Latino Summit 2008. We reiterate to you our gratitude for honoring us with your presence at the summit and for your unwavering support. Your use of the Spanish language when addressing our community, as you did during our event, conveys your message that our commonwealth is inclusive and welcomes its diverse population.

VLAB is proud to have fulfilled the mission that we set out to accomplish with our Summit. We informed service providers about state services and resources that are available to all Virginians with a focus on the Latino population in the areas of Demographics, Education, Health & Human Resources and Public Safety. We served As a bridge of communication so that our state agencies could bring information directly to service providers. From the voluntary surveys answered, we estimate that the information shared during the summit will have a positive impact in our community, and reach people in all geographic regions of Virginia.

To convene a state wide summit was a long term goal of our community and the members of our Board. We accomplished it by meeting 8 times between January and October 2008. Most of our meetings were in Richmond, but we managed to visit two other regions in Virginia, The Eastern Shore and Chester County. To strengthen VLAB's board, we implemented some changes by adding the positions of Secretary and Treasurer to the Executive Committee.

We capitalized and were able to reap the rewards of the good relationships that all of our board members have been able to establish during their many years of service in our community. The outstanding spirit of cooperation in our Commonwealth made possible to bring to fruition an event of this magnitude without the use of public funds. We want to acknowledge Institutions and Individuals that made our summit possible thanks to their support. A list is included after this letter to express our appreciation.

The members of the Virginia Latino Advisory Board are proud to serve under your leadership Governor Kaine, and by your side, we want to serve as a conduit to address the needs of our community and to improve the life of Latinos in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

With respect and our warmest regards,

**Beatriz Amberman**  
Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board

**Dr. Gresilda Tilley-Lubbs**  
Secretary

**Gaby Rengifo**  
Vice Chair

**Peter Loach**  
Treasurer



## Virginia Latino Advisory Board

*Advocating for the Interests of Latinos across the Commonwealth*

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### **Appreciation and Acknowledgements**

The Virginia Latino Advisory Board is proud of the great success achieved during the first Governors' Latino Summit 2008, and we want to acknowledge the valuable contribution and support of everyone that contributed to make The Governor's Latino Summit a reality.

John Tyler Community College, host of The Governor's Latino Summit 2008

Dr. Marshall W. Smith, President, John Tyler Community College

Dr. Mirta M. Martin, Executive Vice President, John Tyler Community College

Susan Bernardo, Facilities Coordinator, John Tyler Community College

Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, host of the closing reception

Ms. Marjorie Burdetsky, Chief Operating Officer, Capital Meeting Planning, Inc. host of registration

Ms. Marcie Rengifo, graphic design.

VLAB was able to offer the summit free of charge to its participants and gave attendees the option to cover the cost of their lunch or bring their own. The lower price of the lunch was made possible thanks to the support of Dr. Mirta M. Martin, Executive Vice President, John Tyler Community College, and Mr. Peter Loach's Organization, Piedmont Housing of Charlottesville, VA.

Mrs Amberman and Mrs. Rengifo, Chair and Vice Chair of the Board respectively, donated signage, coffee, water, and the paper goods during the event. The Hampton Roads Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and One of a Kind Landscapes and Home Remodeling Inc., donated door prizes.

### **Thanks to our Summit Speakers**

The Honorable Walter Tejada, Chairman, Arlington County Board

Susan Minushkin, Assistant Director, Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, DC

Douglas García, Assistant Secretary of Education, Commonwealth of Virginia

Judy Radford, ESL Coordinator, Virginia Department of Education

Craig Herndon, Director of Career and Educational Resources, Virginia Community College System

Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health

Michael Royster, MD, MPH, Director, Office of Minority Health and Public Health Programs, Virginia Department of Health

Rene Cabral-Daniels, JD, MPH, VP Grants, Williamsburg Community Health Foundation

Michel Zajur, President and CEO, Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Aida Pacheco, Program Administration Specialist, Virginia Community College System

Jose Paiz, Community Housing Officer, Virginia Housing Development Authority

Andres Tobar, Chair, Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO)

Dana G. Schrad, Executive Director, Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police

Eddie Reyes, Captain, Alexandria Police Department

Tim Freilich, Legal Director, Legal Aid Justice Center



## Virginia Latino Advisory Board

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*Advocating for the Interests of Latinos across the Commonwealth*

Dear Sindy Benavides and VLAB members:

I want to join you Sindy, and express my most sincere appreciation to all VLAB members for the outstanding work that made our Governor's Latino Summit 2008 a dream come true.

As we all heard the Honorable Walter Tejada tell the story, after the first summit several years ago, our community had talked about doing a follow up state wide event for quite a while. Thanks to the Virginia Latino Advisory Board members, we made this dream a reality this year!!

I want to specially thank our Executive Board members, Mrs. Gaby Rengifo, Mr. Peter Loach and Dr. Kris Tilley-Lubbs for their unconditional commitment to our project and for the support they gave me.

Special appreciation should be given to our members that chaired each one of our sessions during the summit, Mr. Doug Garcia, Mr. Michel Zajur, Dr. Rene Cabral Daniels, Dr. Michael Royster, Mr. Andres Tobar and Captain Eddie Reyes. All the speakers were excellent!

Our thanks go also to Mrs. Leni Gonzalez, Dr. Maricel Quintana-Baker, Mrs. Gaby Rengifo, Mrs. Marjorie Burdetsky and Ms. Marcie Rengifo, an outstanding logistics team!! Ms. Maribel Ramos, Mr. Esteban Nieto and Ms. Sindy Benavides and I worked to get the press releases out to the media.

I had the pleasure to work closely with Dr. Mirta Martin to arrange our usage of JTCC for our board meeting and to coordinate with her, Dr. Smith and her participation during our program.

Beatriz Amberman  
Chair  
Virginia Latino Advisory Board

# Introduction

## Overview

The Virginia Latino Advisory Commission (VLAC) was created by Executive Order in October of 2003 by former Governor Mark R. Warner to provide information about the growing Latino community in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The VLAC was signed into law and made a permanent board two years later on October 15, 2005.

Today the Virginia Latino Advisory Board (VLAB) serves at the pleasure of Governor Tim Kaine so that his administration can best serve the Latino constituents of Virginia. The VLAB meets four times a year to hear from local communities across the state, to discuss issues facing Latinos in Virginia, and to develop reports articulating their recommendations to the Governor on matters such as health, business, and education.

The Board consists of 21 citizen members appointed by the Governor, 15 who must be of Latino descent. The initial appointments of VLAB members are staggered to include seven members for a one-year term, six members for a two-year term, five members for a three-year term, and three members for a four-year term. After the initial staggering of terms, board members will serve a term of four years.

The Virginia Latino Advisory Board was created in recognition of one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in Virginia and the nation as a whole. The mission of the VLAB is to serve these Virginians who enrich our state and to call upon government officials, local communities, and all constituents to take part in the positive changes that are making Virginia an even better place to live.

## Authority

### CHAPTER 636

*An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 24 of Title 2.2 an article numbered 21, consisting of sections numbered [2.2-2459](#), [2.2-2460](#), and [2.2-2461](#), relating to the Latino Advisory Board..*

[H 2420]

Approved March 23, 2005

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 24 of Title 2.2 an article numbered 21, consisting of sections numbered [2.2-2459](#), [2.2-2460](#), and [2.2-2461](#), as follows:

*Article 21.  
Latino Advisory Board.*

§ [2.2-2459](#). *Latino Advisory Board; membership; terms; compensation and expenses.*

A. *The Latino Advisory Board (the Board) is established as an advisory board, within the meaning of § [2.2-2100](#), in the executive branch of state government. The Board shall consist of 21 nonlegislative citizen members, at least 15 of whom shall be of Latino descent, who shall be appointed by the Governor and serve at*



*his pleasure. In addition, the Secretaries of the Commonwealth, Commerce and Trade, Education, Health and Human Resources, Public Safety, and Transportation, or their designees shall serve as ex officio members without voting privileges. All members shall be residents of the Commonwealth.*

*B. After the initial staggering of terms, nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for a term of four years. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired terms. No member shall be eligible to serve more than two successive four-year terms; however, after the expiration of the remainder of a term to which a member was appointed to fill a vacancy, two additional terms may be served by such member if appointed thereto.*

*C. The Board shall elect from its membership a chairman and vice chairman. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. Meetings of the Board shall be limited to four per year and shall be held upon the call of the chairman or whenever the majority of the members so request.*

*D. Members of the Board shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ [2.2-2813](#) and [2.2-2825](#).*

*§ [2.2-2460](#). Powers and duties; acceptance of gifts and grants.*

*A. The Board shall have the power and duty to:*

*1. Advise the Governor regarding the development of economic, professional, cultural, educational, and governmental links between the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Latino community in Virginia, and Latin America;*

*2. Undertake studies, symposiums, research, and factual reports to gather information to formulate and present recommendations to the Governor relative to issues of concern and importance to the Latino community in the Commonwealth; and*

*3. Advise the Governor as needed regarding any statutory, regulatory, or other issues of importance to the Latino community in the Commonwealth.*

*B. The Board may apply for, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources to enable it to carry out its objectives.*

*§ [2.2-2461](#). Staff; cooperation from other state agencies.*

*The Office of the Governor shall serve as staff to the Board. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall assist the Board upon request.*

*2. That the intent of this act is to codify the Latino Advisory Commission, which exists pursuant to an executive order of the Governor, as the Latino Advisory Board, a permanent advisory board in the executive branch.*

*3. That the initial appointments of nonlegislative citizen members in accordance with this act shall be staggered as follows: seven members for a one-year term, six members for a two-year term, five members for a three-year term, and three members for a four-year term.*

*4. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on October 15, 2005.*

# 2008 Meetings

## Board Meeting Dates & Locations

**January 1, 2008 - 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. –**

*City of Richmond Hispanic Liaison Office, 4100 Hull Street Road, Conference Room A  
Richmond, VA 23224*

**February 29, 2008 - 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

*Department of Motor Vehicles, 2300 West Broad Street, Room 119,  
Richmond, VA 23220*

**April 4, 2008 - 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. –Lack of Quorum**

*Eastern Shore Community College, 29300 Lankford Highway, Room B77  
Melfa, VA 23410*

**April 18, 2008 - 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

*Department of Motor Vehicles, 2300 West Broad Street, Room 119,  
Richmond, VA 23220*

**June 6, 2008 – 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

*Department of Motor Vehicles, 2300 West Broad Street, Room 119,  
Richmond, VA 23220*

**July 25, 2008 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

*Department of Motor Vehicles, 2300 West Broad Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Richmond, VA 23220, Conference  
Room 702*

**September 5, 2008 - 1:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Lack of Quorum**

*John Tyler Community College, 13101 Jefferson Davis Highway,  
Nicholas Student Center, Chester, Virginia 23831*

**October 14, 2008 - 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

*City of Richmond Hispanic Liaison Office, 4100 Hull Street Road, Conference Room A  
Richmond, VA 23224*

# Demographics

The current Latino presence is fairly new to the Commonwealth. It is important to note however that remote origins date back centuries to as early as 1570 when Spanish navigation of the Chesapeake and short-lived settlement in the Tidewater occurred, at least more than a generation before the English founded Jamestown. Around World War II, Latino communities arose in the Washington, D.C. area stimulated in part by the capital's diplomatic sector. The Latino population now represents a significant portion of Virginia's population. From 1990 to 2004, the Latino population in Virginia has swelled 161%. In 2004 the Latino population of 418,130 represented 6% of Virginia's total population (Andrade, Jr. 375). Today, the population is estimated to be 479,530 or approximately 6.27% of the total population. If it was possible to account for undocumented Latinos in Virginia, this would increase the official number of Latinos in Virginia by one-third.<sup>1</sup>

The Latino population is a vital part of Virginia's population that fills an integral role in the state's economy, providing an essential labor force. Among other things, it is important to note:

- 54% of Latinos were foreign-born
- 31% of the Latino population was under 18 years of age, comprising 7% of all persons in this age category
- The median age for Latinos was 27.6 and 38.7 for Whites
- 69% of Latino Spanish-speakers 5 years and older spoke English well or very well
- Virginia had the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest rate of Latino poverty nationwide.<sup>2</sup>

As a group however, Latinos, documented and undocumented alike, are now facing a growing number of barriers. Due in part to the rapid growth of the Latino population in Virginia, elected officials at all levels of government have sparked many political debates as to how localities and the state should tackle the problem of an influx of undocumented citizens to their areas and the Commonwealth.

In order to address the needs of the Latino Community, the state government has developed some measures to address the influx of immigrants to the state. The Virginia Commission on Immigration as well as the Illegal Immigration Task Force under the Crime Commission are two recent ways the state has begun to address immigration in Virginia. The Latino population faces many stumbling blocks as immigration continues to increase in Virginia. Nevertheless, the Latino population is an essential component of Virginia's population, such that Virginians must realize and address the growing importance of this group of people to the state's productivity, diversity and future.

The following maps and graphs provide the most recent data on the number and percentage of Latinos in Virginia. *Map I: Hispanic/Latino Population by County* shows the number of Latinos per county. *Map II: Percentage of Hispanic/Latino Population by County* provides a different perspective as it lists the Latino population as a percentage of the total citizens in each city/county. The subsequent table provides more specific data for the Latino population in each county. For each county, the table provides its total population, its Hispanic total population, the Hispanic population's total percentage of each county's population and each

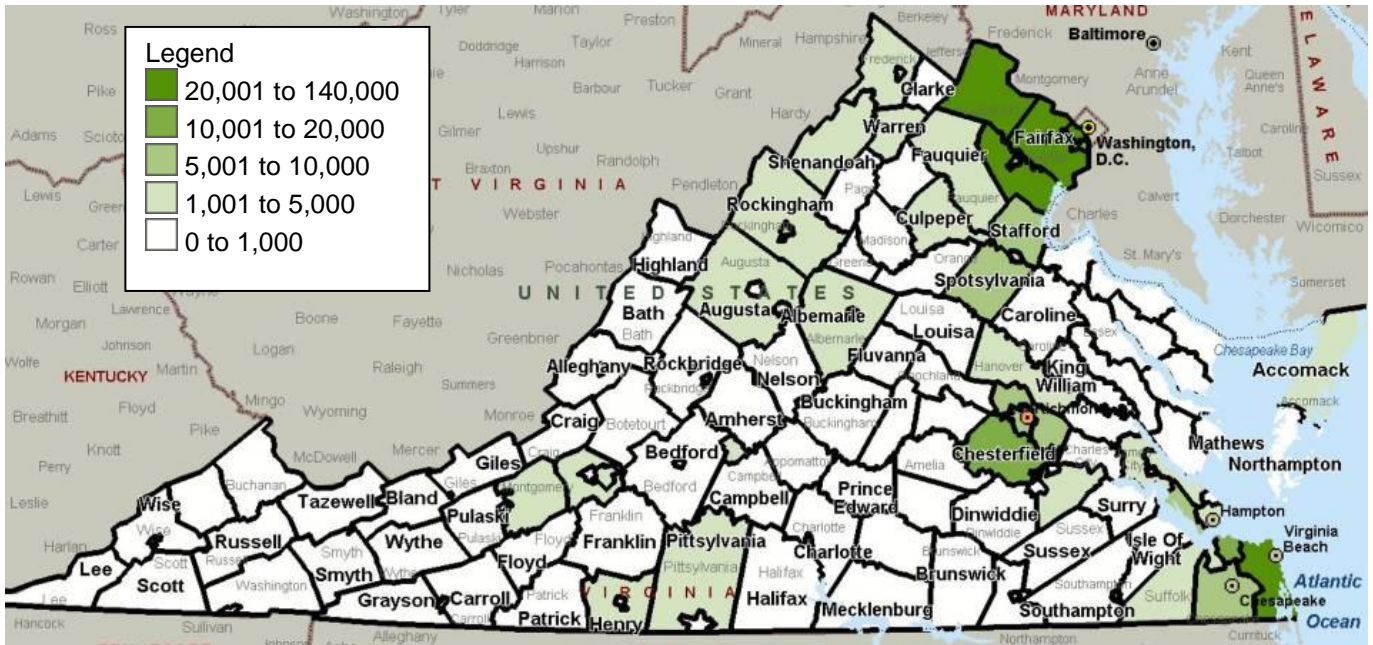
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<sup>1</sup> The Pew Hispanic Center estimates that the undocumented population in Virginia is between 250,000 to 300,000. This figure includes all undocumented populations in Virginia and does not solely reflect figures representative of only the Latino community.

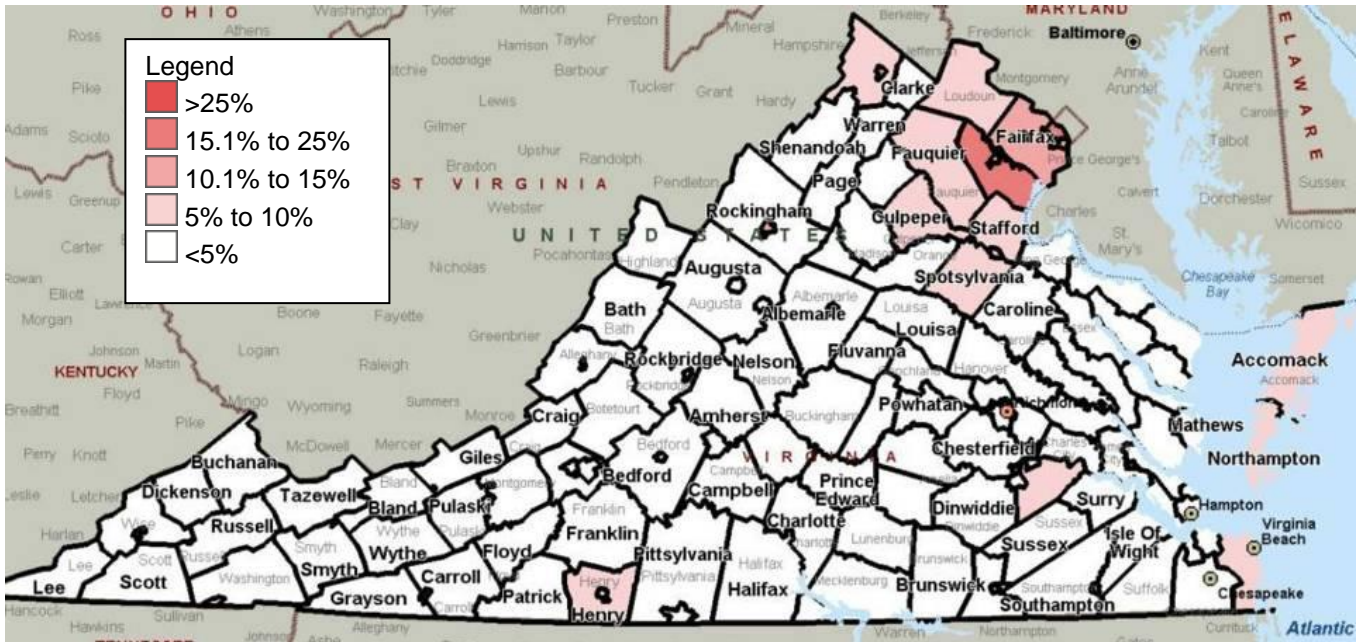
<sup>2</sup> 2004 American Community Survey

county's Hispanic population as a percentage of Virginia's total Hispanic population. These maps and table reflect the population characteristics of the known Hispanic population in Virginia.

### Map I: Hispanic/Latino Population by County

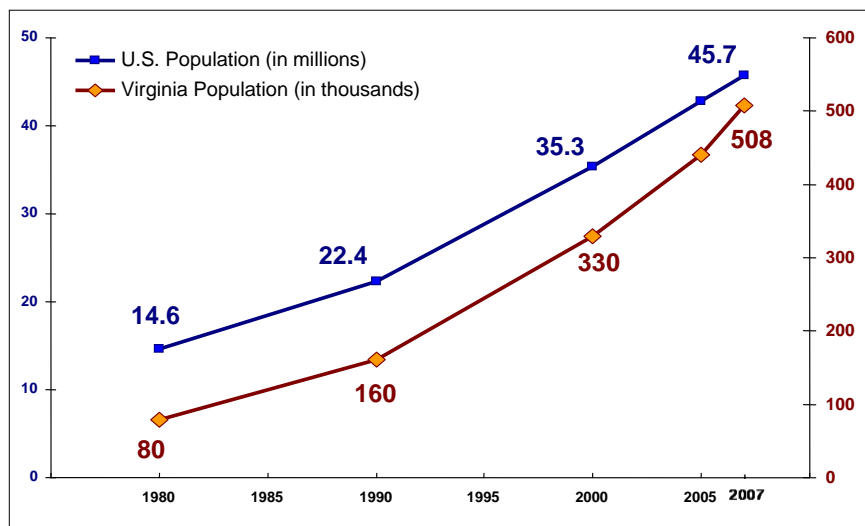


### Map II: Percentage of Hispanic/Latino Population by County



## Governor's Latino Summit 2008 Key Findings from the Demographic Session

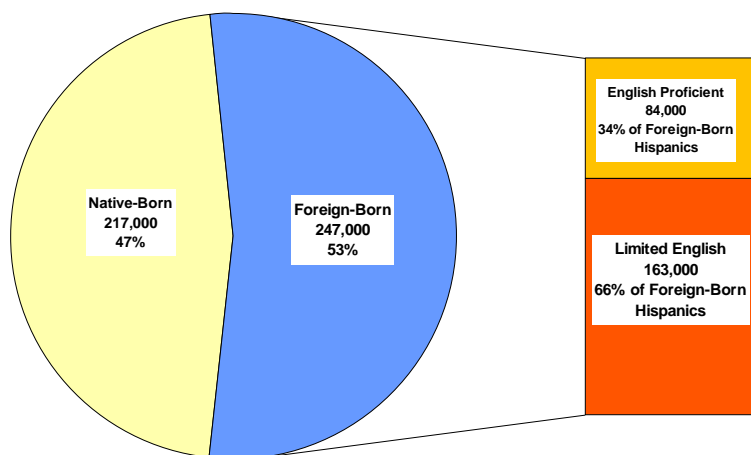
### Hispanic Population Growth in the U.S. and Virginia



Pew  
Hispanic  
Center

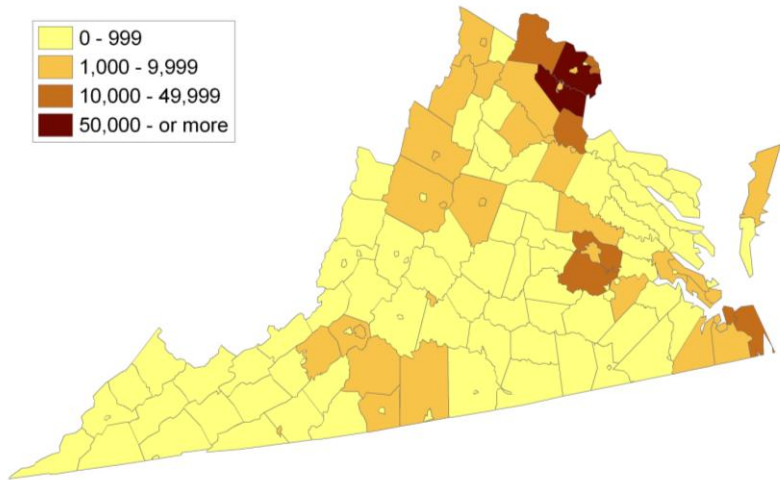
### Virginia Hispanic Population by Nativity & English Proficiency: 2006

*Total Hispanic Population — 466,000*



Pew  
Hispanic  
Center

## Hispanic Population in Virginia by County: 2007



Pew  
Hispanic  
Center

# Education

## Recommendations

The Education portion of the Governor's Latino Summit 2008 was composed of two sessions. The first session allowed for service providers in attendance the opportunity to look at data of Latinos in our K-12 system and how this particular group compares to other students in our public schools. The second session was tailored to provide the audience a first look at a new resource that will help students navigate the Higher Ed system called the Virginia Education Wizard. The Virginia Education Wizard will be available to all students to assist them in the College application process. Below are summaries of both education presentations provided to attendees at the Governor's Latino Summit.

### Department of Education

#### Demographics

From 1997 to 2007, English Language Learner (ELL) enrollment across the Commonwealth rose by 244%. The ELL enrollment for the 2007-2008 school year was 84,344, which was 7.36% of the total student population in Virginia. Superintendent's region IV had the highest enrollment at 65,534 students. Superintendent's region II had the second highest enrollment at 4,200 students. The most commonly spoken language by ELLs in Virginia is Spanish at 57% in 2007-2008.

#### Provision of Services

The *Code of Virginia* provides for English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction to LEP students §22.1-212.1 states in part: "School boards shall endeavor to provide instruction in the English language which shall be designed to promote the education of students for whom English is a second language." The *Regulations*

*Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8 VAC 20-131-10 et. seq.) set high achievement expectations for all students, including LEP students. The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* requires states to increase English language proficiency and acquisition of academic content in reading, mathematics, and science for LEP students. [*Public Law 107-110, Section 1111(b), 3102*]

### **Most Common ESL Instructional Program Types in Virginia**

#### ESL Approach

English as a second language (ESL) is an educational approach in which English language learners are instructed in the use of the English language. Their instruction is based on a special curriculum that involves little or no use of the native language, focuses on language (as opposed to content), and is usually taught during specific school periods or as part of the mainstream curriculum.

[*U.S. General Accounting Office, 1994*]

#### Sheltered English Approach (Content-based Instruction)

An instructional approach used to make academic instruction in English understandable to English language learners. The goal is for the student to acquire proficiency in English and the content areas. Sheltered English instruction differs from ESL in that English is not taught as a language with a focus on learning the language. Rather, content knowledge and skills and English language proficiency are the goals.

[*National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education, 1997*]

### **Achievement of ELLs on the Standards of Learning (SOL) for the 2007-2008 School Year**

*Standards of Learning (SOL) language arts/reading assessment*

ELLs pass rate – 79% ; Hispanic pass rate – 81%

*Standards of Learning (SOL) for mathematics*

ELLs pass rate – 75%; Hispanic pass rate – 75%

*Standards of Learning (SOL) for science*

ELLs pass rate - 74%; Hispanic pass rate – 78%

*Standards of Learning (SOL) for history/social science*

ELLs pass rate – 77%; Hispanic pass rate – 79%

### **Achievement of ELLs on the English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 2006-2007 School Year**

Progress: 85% of ELLs made progress in acquiring English.

Proficiency: 43% of ELLs demonstrated proficiency in English.

### **Virginia Education Wizard**

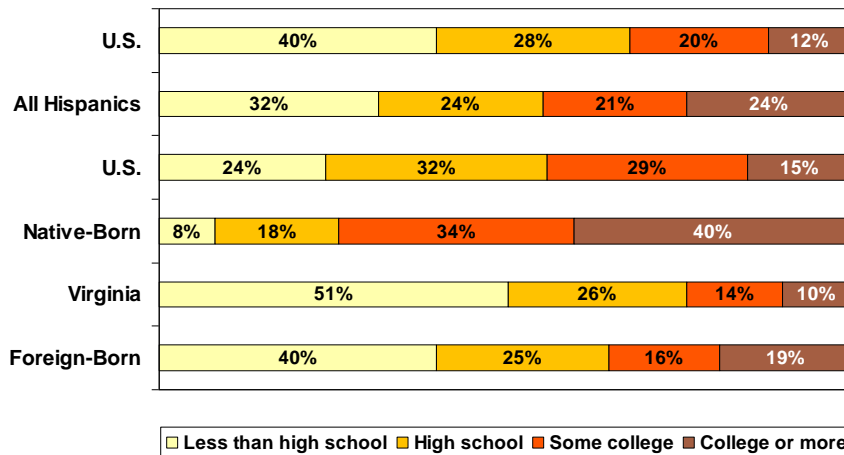
The Virginia Education Wizard is expected to be launched in early 2009, and will provide a set of comprehensive and individually tailored information on the breadth of career and educational options that stem from the offerings of Virginia's Community Colleges. Specifically, the *Wizard* will enhance the decision-making power of Virginians by providing information aimed at helping users in: selecting a career, determining the appropriate major or program that leads to their desired career, estimating and comparing the cost of attending colleges and universities throughout Virginia, finding and applying for financial aid, identifying transfer pathways from Virginia's Community Colleges to four-year institutions, and applying for admission to Virginia's Community Colleges. Since the Governor's Latino Summit, additional features have been added, testing has been conducted with students, faculty, and counselors, and a structure for marketing the Wizard has been established. To receive a personal message when the Wizard is launched, visit [www.VaWizard.org](http://www.VaWizard.org).

## Virginia School Enrollment, K-12: 1990 and 2007

	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
<b>Enrollment (thousands)</b>			
1990	1,001	27	974
2007	1,275	89	1,186
<b>Share in enrollment</b>			
1990	100%	2.7%	97.3%
2007	100%	7.0%	93.0%
<b>Change in enrollment</b>			
Change (thousands)	274	62	212
Percent Change	27%	230%	22%



## Virginia Adult Educational Attainment by Race & Nativity: 2006



# Healthcare

## Recommendations

Dr. Remley, Commissioner of Health, provided information regarding the findings from the Governor's Work Group on Early Childhood Initiatives. The presentation focused on infant mortality. Policy recommendations related to decreasing Virginia's high infant mortality rate include the following:



- Greater attention and resources should be allocated to the issue of infant mortality. It is a silent epidemic that takes the lives of more children than any other cause.
- Because the data suggest a direct correlation between a mother's years of education and the rate of infant deaths, increasing the years of education for women will likely correspond to an improvement in Virginia's infant mortality rate. In other words, funding efforts to educate women positively impact the Commonwealth's infant mortality rate.
- Educational programs designed to reduce infant mortality should certainly include medical recommendations such as the importance of good prenatal nutrition, including folate and the delivery of quality prenatal care, child and family immunization rates, but should also focus on maternal health behaviors/effects, tobacco/alcohol/substance use; environmental issues, stress, obesity, racism, etc.
- Future health policy efforts should focus on
  - educating all providers of the importance of safe sleep, back to sleep and brain growth in utero;
  - increasing healthcare access by funding the Virginia Share Program and increasing awareness of Medicaid coverage;
  - determining when/where pregnancy diagnosed and use as first "prenatal visit"; and
  - re-evaluating current approaches- collaboration with additional community resources- churches, sororities, etc.

Dr. Royster, Director of the Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy presented along with Dr. Remley. His part of the session was entitled, "Promoting Health and Health Equity Among Latinos". Dr Royster's session explored the role social determinants of health play in health equity. Health policy recommendations made during his presentation include the following:

- The "Latino Paradox," refers to the fact that although Latinos have a lower socioeconomic status relative to non-Latinos, their mortality and morbidity rates are actually lower. Their lower mortality rate reflects a combination of factors that seem to play a role in buffering the deleterious effects of poverty, limited education, and marginalization among many Latinos. Yet research also shows that as immigrants remain in the U.S. longer, their health deteriorates. Therefore, health policymakers need to focus on promoting health and health equity among Latinos because health risks will likely increase as they remain in the U.S. longer.
- The greatest barrier to access to healthcare is lack of health insurance. Latinos have significantly lower rates of health insurance coverage which precludes their ability to receive care in general, and preventive care in particular. Efforts to cover the uninsured should target the Latino population.
- Community involvement in health policy decisions is imperative. Health policies should be based on what the local community identifies as its priorities. Identifying these priorities would require developing equitable partnerships with the local Latino community, to include residents, community leaders, and service providers. Efforts to engage the Latino community should look beyond traditional health services and also address some of the broader issues that influence the health of community members, such as mental health, domestic violence, discrimination, job opportunities, housing, etc.

## Economy

### Recommendations

#### Hispanic Business

Virginia needs a dynamic and skilled world-class workforce that meets the needs of workers and employers throughout the Commonwealth and our nation. Virginia's Hispanic population fills many of the voids in today's labor market by ensuring a globally competitive business environment in Virginia. There are approximately 2 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the country that generate almost \$300 billion in annual gross receipts. Virginia has been rated the number one state to do business in the United States from 2006-2008 according to Forbes.com.

According to a March 22, 2006, article in the *Washington Post*, Hispanic owned business has increased 67% in the past nine years. Northern Virginia/DC reported to be leading the nation with an increase in Hispanic-owned

technical/professional services at 12.6%. That figure was followed by Los Angeles at 8.2% and Houston at 6.1%. Additionally, the national growth rate for Hispanic-owned business is (do we have a specific #) compared to Virginia's growth rate being 20% higher. Virginia's Hispanic Business has a growing positive impact in our Commonwealth's economy.

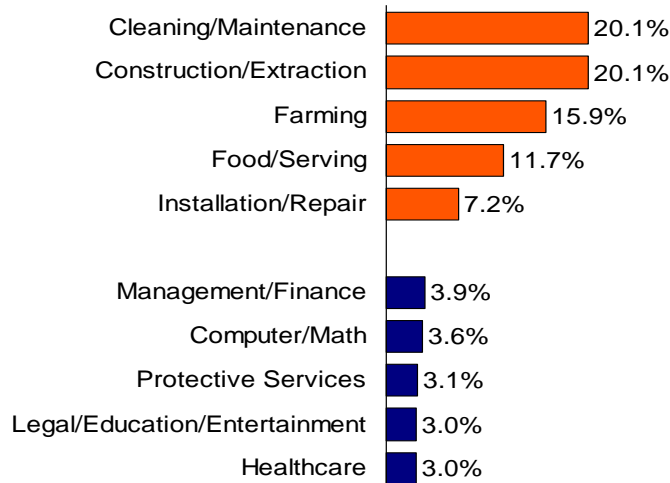
**Workforce**

- 90% of the fastest growing jobs will require some form of postsecondary education.
- Business is spending billions each year to train new employees and remediate the educational skill gaps of those already in the workforce.
- The American workforce is aging – 77 million baby boomers are set to retire over the next several decades.
- The current lack of U.S. trained scientists and engineers is a direct threat to the leadership of U.S. innovation.

**Legislation and Globalization**

Virginia needs to do business with the world in order to stay competitive. Being conscious of this fact, legislation should not be “short-sighted” when implemented. Careful consideration of the merits should outweigh fears. Additionally, workforce availability requires a talented and viable pool of bilingual candidates, individuals with a diverse range of expertise, professional backgrounds and competency; therefore, development and growth of this sector is necessary for overall future success within the Commonwealth.

**Hispanic Share of Employment for Selected Occupations, 2006: 5 Highest and Lowest**



# Public Safety

## Recommendations

Working day-to-day with immigrant communities can sometimes be challenging for law enforcement agencies across the United States who often face language barriers and cultural differences, not to mention political pressure from the highest levels of municipal governments. But if done right, there is no greater reward than a thriving and diverse community where most will trust and work with law enforcement towards the highest levels of quality of life. Trust is the most crucial ingredient of any community-based solution, yet it is not earned overnight. It takes years of firm, fair and honest treatment of all persons in the community. But when the sincere focus of any law enforcement agency is human rights, treating all with dignity and respect, this magical phenomenon of “trusting the police” begins to occur almost automatically.

### Law Enforcement

Here are some key issues to consider from the perspective of law enforcement.

- High quality of life in any community can be attained by focusing on the family.
- The strategy that works best is one that is addressed by multi-disciplinary agencies in collaboration with the private sector.
- Having regular community meetings at neutral locations, such as schools or faith-based organizations promotes collaboration.
- Most Hispanic immigrants come from countries where law enforcement is often corrupt or often abuse human rights. Consequently, those who recently arrived in the Commonwealth have a natural tendency to mistrust the police.
- A common myth is that strict immigration enforcement leads to lower crime. In fact, it can lead to a higher crime rate because it often goes unreported by undocumented persons for fear of being deported. Criminals can operate in a comfort zone because they know victims are not likely to report a crime (especially when the suspect knows the victim is undocumented and threatens the victim with getting them deported).
- Alcoholism and alcohol-related offenses are often common in these communities, therefore, education and treatment need to be major components of any solutions.
- Human rights begin at the highest levels of government. If the highest levels of municipal government do not focus on trust and human rights, it should not be expected from the law enforcement agency.
- Most immigrant communities are willing participants in search of leadership.
- Some of the best partners when working with immigrant communities are schools, faith-based organizations and community-based organizations, coupled with law enforcement agencies that have a thorough understanding of most issues in the community.
- It is very important to work with the Spanish media to broadcast significant events and news and is often the catalyst towards the trust building effort.
- Having bilingual personnel and literature demonstrates a municipality's commitment towards achieving the highest quality of life in any community.

### Immigration Status

In order for law enforcement and other service providers in Virginia to reach our immigrant communities effectively, it is important to understand the fear that exists right now among many of Virginia's immigrants due to their immigration status.

This fear exists for three primary reasons: Increased immigration enforcement by federal agents; increased involvement of state and local police in the enforcement of federal immigration law; and a climate of fear created by candidates and elected officials who attack immigrants in an effort to gain political support.

The fear in our communities is real, and we need to work together with our immigrant communities to rebuild the trust that has been severely tested during the past year if we wish to effectively reach out to these communities. Specifically, we need:

- Comprehensive immigration reform on the federal level that recognizes the contributions of immigrants to the diversity and strength of our communities;
- Local police need to focus on keeping our communities safe and secure. They should not divert our limited law enforcement resources away from fighting crime and towards chasing hardworking immigrants.
  - Enforcement of civil violations of federal immigration law is a federal responsibility.
  - Successful community policing efforts depend on a relationship of trust between law enforcement and our immigrant communities.
- We need law enforcement, service providers, employers, and other concerned Virginians to speak out in defense of our tradition as a nation of immigrants.

## APPENDIX

# Summit 2008 Program

**Who:** Service providers to the Latino community in Virginia

**What:** Information sessions, resources, networking reception

**Why:** To supply information and resources to service providers working with the Latino population about the following areas:

- Demographics
- Education
- Health and Human Resources
- Public Safety and Law Enforcement
- Economic Development

### Plenary Sessions:

**Shifting Demographics In Virginia: The Latino Dimension**

*Susan Minushkin*, Assistant Director, Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, DC

### Session I:

**Tools to Optimize Education for Latinos**

*Judy Radford*, ESL Coordinator, Virginia Department of Education  
*Craig Herndon*, Director of Career and Educational Resources, Virginia Community College System

### Session II:

**Tools to Access Healthcare Services and Eliminate Barriers**

*Karen Remley*, MD, MBA, FAAP, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health  
*Michael Royster*, MD, MPH, Director, Office of Minority Health and Public Health Programs, Virginia Department of Health  
*Rene Cabral-Daniels*, JD, MPH, VP Grants, Williamsburg Community Health Foundation

**Lunch**

Remarks by the Honorable Timothy M. Kaine, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia (to be confirmed)

### Session III

**Tools to Help Latinos Achieve Economic Prosperity**

*Michel Zajur*, President and CEO, Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
*Aida Pacheco*, Program Administration Specialist, Virginia Community College System  
*Jose Paiz*, Community Housing Officer, Virginia Housing Development Authority

### Session IV

**Tools to Promote Public Safety In the Latino Community**

*Dana G. Schrad*, Executive Director, Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police  
*Eddie Reyes*, Captain, Alexandria Police Department  
*Tim Freilich*, Legal Director, Legal Aid Justice Center

### Networking Reception



JOHN *Tyler* COMMUNITY COLLEGE

13101 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY  
CHESTER, VA 23831-5316



## Virginia Latino Advisory Board

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*Advocating for the Interests of Latinos Across the Commonwealth*

**Contact:** Beatriz Amberman  
Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board  
**Phone:** 757-619-5728  
**E-mail:** [bmexart@aol.com](mailto:bmexart@aol.com)  
**Internet:** <http://www.vlab.virginia.gov>

### THE GOVERNOR'S 2008 LATINO SUMMIT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 18, 2008**

The Virginia Latino Advisory Board will host a Summit to inform service providers regarding state services and resources that are available to all Virginians specifically focusing on the Latino population in the areas of education, health and human resources, public safety, housing and workforce issues. Those attending will gain information and resources that will be invaluable in their work with the Latino community.

The Summit will be held:

**Friday, September 19, 2008**  
**9:00 am. – 4:30pm**  
**John Tyler Community College**  
**13101 Jefferson Davis Highway**  
**Chester, VA 23831-5316**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Latino community in Virginia more than doubled between 1990 and 2006 -- from a population of about 160,000 to 470,871 in 2006 - and comprises approximately 6% of the state's population. In fact, Latinos are among the fastest- growing ethnic groups in the state, with native-born U.S. citizens of Latino heritage coming here from all parts of the country, and foreign-born residents coming from all over the world.

“The members of the Virginia Latino Advisory Board are proud to serve as a conduit to empower service providers to address the needs of our community. We appreciate the Governor's support in our efforts to improve the life of Latinos in our Commonwealth,” said Board Chair Beatriz Amberman.

The Latino Advisory Board was created to advise the Governor regarding the development of economic, professional, cultural, educational, and governmental links between the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Latino community in Virginia, and Latin America. Board members are appointed by the Governor and conduct meetings, hearings, and briefings across the Commonwealth. The goal of the Board is to ensure that the specific needs of the growing Latino population are being met by our elected officials.

This event is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required, and available on a first come first serve basis. Please visit [www.vlab.virginia.gov](http://www.vlab.virginia.gov) to register and for more information.



# La Comisión Asesora de Asuntos Latinos de Virginia

*El Abogar para los intereses de Latinos en Virginia*

**Contacto:** Beatriz Amberman  
**Presidente, Comisión Asesora de Asuntos Latinos de Virginia**  
**Teléfono:** 757-619-5728  
**E-mail:** [bmexart@aol.com](mailto:bmexart@aol.com)  
**Internet:** <http://www.vlab.virginia.gov>

## CUMBRE INFORMATIVA 2008 DEL GOBERNADOR

### Para Distribución Inmediata

**27 de Agosto del 2008**

La Comisión Asesora de Asuntos Latinos de Virginia tendrá una conferencia para informar a proveedores de servicios de la comunidad Latina sobre servicios y recursos disponibles para todos los Virginianos. Nuestra conferencia se enfocará en los servicios para la población Latina en las áreas de educación, salud, recursos humanos, seguridad pública, asuntos de vivienda y asuntos de labor. Los que asistirán tendrán información y recursos que serán invaluableles en su trabajo con la comunidad Latina.

La conferencia se llevará a cabo:

**El Viernes, 19 de Setiembre del 2008**  
**9:00 am. – 4:30pm**  
**John Tyler Community College**  
**13101 Jefferson Davis Highway**  
**Chester, VA 23831-5316**

Según el Censo de los Estados Unidos, la comunidad Latina en Virginia creció desde 1990 al 2006 – desde una población de 160,000 a 470,871 en 2006 – y es aproximadamente 6% de la población en Virginia. La comunidad Latina es el grupo étnico que ha tenido mayor crecimiento, una población de Latinos Americanos que vienen a nuestro estado de todas partes del país, y inmigrantes que vienen de todo el mundo.

“Los miembros de la Comisión Asesora de Asuntos Latinos de Virginia están orgullosos de servir como un conducto para educar a proveedores de servicios de la comunidad Latina. “Nosotros apreciamos el apoyo que el Gobernador nos brinda para mejorar la vida de Latinos en nuestro estado” dijo la presidente de la Comisión Beatriz Amberman.

La Comisión Asesora de Asuntos Latinos de Virginia fue creada para aconsejar a el gobernador sobre el desarrollo de asuntos económicos, profesionales, culturales, educativos, y gubernamentales entre Virginia, la comunidad Latina en Virginia y America Latina. Miembros de la comisión son designados por el gobernador y conducen reuniones, audiencias, e informes en Virginia. La meta de la Comisión es asegurar que las necesidades específicas de la comunidad Latina están siendo resueltas por nuestros funcionarios electos.

Este evento es gratuito y abierto al público. Se requiere el pre-registro, favor de registrarse lo más pronto posible. Cupo limitado para 300 personas. Por favor visite [www.vlab.virginia.gov](http://www.vlab.virginia.gov) para registrarse y para más información.



## Virginia Latino Advisory Board

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*Advocating for the Interests of Latinos across the Commonwealth*

**Contact:** Beatriz Amberman  
**Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board**  
**Phone:** 757-619-5728  
**Internet:** <http://www.vlab.virginia.gov>

### **VIRGINIA LATINO ADVISORY BOARD TO MEET APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> IN THE EASTERN SHORE**

*~ Board to discuss issues that affect Latino Virginians ~*

**RICHMOND** - The Virginia Latino Advisory Board will meet on April 4th for the first time in the Eastern Shore. Health and education of migrant workers and data on the undocumented population are among the topics to be presented at the meeting. Presenters include Ms. Deborah J. Daniels, Coordinator for Even Start Program, Ms. Nancy J. Stern, BS, C.H.E.S., Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Shore Rural Health System Inc. and, Mr. Michael Cassidy, Executive Director of the Commonwealth Institute.

For the past three years the Board has held meetings with the community across the state. According to the latest U.S. Census, the Latino community in Virginia is approximately 6.27 percent of the state population. Latinos are among the fastest growing ethnic groups in Virginia and represent native-born U.S. citizens from all parts of the country, and foreign-born residents from all over the world. Virginia's Latino community represents a diversity of cultures and languages, unique needs and skills, countless contributions, and endless potential for the Commonwealth.

The Virginia Latino Advisory Board is charged with the duty to advise the Governor regarding the development of economic, professional, cultural, educational, and governmental links between the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Latino community in Virginia, and Latin America. The Board is working on a possible Governor's Latino Summit targeting community service providers that work with Virginia's Latino families and workers across the Commonwealth. The Summit is tentatively scheduled for Fall of 2008 in Central Richmond.

#### **Friday, April 4, 2008**

**What:** VLAB Meeting in the Eastern Shore  
**When:** 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Eastern Shore Community College  
29300 Lankford Highway  
Room B77  
Melfa, VA 23410

###

**Governor's Latino Summit 2008 \* September 19, 2008 \* Richmond, Virginia  
Pre-Registered**

Mario	Alfaro	Virginia Latino Advisory Board	marioalfaro@unionradio1350.com
Jennifer	Allman	Virginia Community College System	jallman@vccs.edu
M. Abby	Amalbert-Seoane	MADD VA and DC Offices	office@maddva.org
Beatriz	Amberman	Virginia Latino Advisory Board	bmexart@aol.com
George	Amberman, MD	Virginia Beach, VA	
Hope	Amezquita	ACLU of Virginia	hamezquita@acluva.org
Ginell	Ampey	Chesterfield Health District	ginell.ampey@vdh.virginia.gov
Elliott	Anderson	Chesterfield County Police Department	andersone@chesterfield.gov
Carlos	Aragon	Radio Fiesta 1480AM	radiofiesta1480@yahoo.com
Dolores	Arce-Kaptain	Winchester Police Department	arcekaptaind@gmail.com
Regla	Armengol	Prospera Initiatives	regla@prosperaweb.org
Elizabeth	Auten	AHC, Inc.	auten@ahcinc.org
Hank	Azais	Virginia Coalition of Latin American Organizations	hazais@msn.com
Nannette	Bailey	VCU Center on Health Disparities	nbailey@mcvh-vcu.edu
Alyson	Ball	BoardWorks	yoga11111111@aol.com
Cecilia	Barbosa	Virginia Public Health Association	cecilia.barbosa@vapha.org
Linda Marie	Barnes	Creative Candles & Gifts	lindussus@yahoo.com
Eleanor	Barrese	Charlottesville Department of Social Services	barrese@charlottesville.org
Carmen	Baxley	Sowers of Justice, Catholic Diocese	munguia@hotmail.com
Patsy	Bedford	Southside Virginia Training Center	patsy.bedford@svtc.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov
Benita	Bediako	Bon Secours Care-A-Van	benita_bediako@bshsi.org
Sindy	Benavides	Office of Governor Timothy M. Kaine	sindy.benavides@governor.virginia.gov



Tina	Bessent	2-1-1 Virginia United Way	bessentt@yourunitedway.org
Susan	Birdsong	Chester Campus	
Patricia	Bishop	Internal Revenue Service	patricia.s.bishop@irs.gov
Robert	Bobulinski	Making a Difference Fund	aliciabobulinski@yahoo.com
Wilfredo	Bohorquez	ASTRACOR	info@astracor.org
James	Bond	Albemarle County Police	bondj@albemarle.org
Patricia	Brice	Chesterfield County Public Library	bricep@chesterfield.gov
Claudia	Brodkin	Virginia Tech	clbrodki@vt.edu
Laurie	Brogdon	Virginia Tech Alumni Association	lbrogdon@vt.edu
R. McKenna	Brown	Virginia Commonwealth University	mbrown@vcu.edu
Sandra	Brown	Department of Medical Assistance Services	sandra.brown@dmas.virginia.gov
Erin	Bryant	Office of the Governor	erin.bryant@governor.virginia.gov
Julie	Bryant	Richmond County Schools	ojalaksi@yahoo.com
Ana R.	Buckman	Bon Secours Richmond Health System	ana_buckman@bshsi.org
Soraya	Buckner	Virginia Latino Advisory Board	sbuckner@telamon.org
Magda	Bullock	Virginia Cooperative Extension	bullockm@vt.edu
Daniel	Bunn	Chesterfield County Domestic and Sexual Violence Resource Center	bunnd@chesterfield.gov
Sarah	Burke	International Rescue Committee	sarah.burke@their.org
Rene	Cabral-Daniels	Williamsburg Community Health Foundation	rcabraldaniels@wchf.com
Diana	Calderon	Loudoun County Public Schools	Diana.Calderon@loudoun.k12.va.us
Sharon	Caldwell	LINC - Legal Information Network for Cancer	sharon.caldwell@cancerlinc.org
Ramona	Cardy	Alexandria Head	rdecardy@campagnacenter.org

		Start	
Brunilda	Caro-Justin	Virginia Department of Health	ba.caro-justin@vdh.virginia.gov
Angie	Carrera	Fairfax County Government	angie.carrera@fairfaxcounty.gov
Dulce	Carrillo	Arlington County	dcarrillo@arlingtonva.us
Anayancy	Cascante	Department of Medical Assistance Services	anayancy.cascante@dmas.virginia.gov
Marcela	Chavan-Matviuk	Regent University	mmatviuk@gmail.com
Cristina	Chiappe	Obama for America - VA	chiappe_cristina@yahoo.com
Nanci	Clary	Chesterfield County Public Library	claryn@chesterfield.gov
Cathy	Clement	Chesterfield Extension Office	clementc@chesterfield.gov
Dilcia	Colindres	Shelter for Help in Emergency (SHE)	dilciacolindres@msn.com
Karen	Constance	Liberty Tax Service	karen.constance@libtax.com
Oscar	Contreras	Radio Poder 1380AM	oscar@wbtk.com
Barbara	Cornicello	La Voz Hispana Magazine On-line	editor@lavozhispana.us
Rosalie	Corona	Virginia Commonwealth University	racorona@vcu.edu
Mayra	Creed	Newport News Hispanic Advisory Council	mayra_creed@cox.net
Alexis	Crump	Virginia Department of Transportation	alexis.crump@vdot.virginia.gov
Stephen	Crump	Department of Labor and Industry	stephen.crump@doli.virginia.gov
Sidnee	Dallas	Virginia Department of Health	sidnee.dallas@vdh.virginia.gov
Iris	Davis	Bon Secours	iris_davis@bshsi.org
Norma	Day-Vines	Virginia Tech	ndayvine@vt.edu
Francine	De Ferreire Kemp	Diversity Works! Inc.	fdkemp@earthlink.net
Lavenda	Denney	The Laurel Center	l.denney@shelterforabusedwomen.org
Blanche	Deponte	Chesterfield County Public Library	deponteb@chesterfield.gov
Nelson	Diaz	Telamon Corporation	ndiaz@telamon.org
Beverley	Donati	Virginia Department	bev.donati@doli.virginia.gov

		of Labor & Industry	
Rheudena	Dotson	Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation	Rheudena.Dotson@vcbr.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov
Ray	Drinkwater	John Tyler Community College	ldrinkwater@jtcc.edu
Ricardo	Drumond	Alexandria Department of Human Services	ricardo.drumond@alexandriava.gov
Mahalia	Dryden-Mason	DPOR (Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation)	mally.mason@dpor.virginia.gov
Jannette	DuHart	Petersburg City Public School	jaduhart@petersburg.k12.va.us
Leaf	Elhai	American Red Cross	lelhai@gsgis.k12.va.us
Lydia	English	CHIP of Greater Richmond	lydenglish@yahoo.com
Carolina	Espinal	VA Victory '08	carolina.espinal@vavictory08.org
Juan	Espinoza	Virginia Tech	juespino@vt.edu
Carlos	Evia	Virginia Tech	cevia@vt.edu
Brenda	Exum	Norfolk State University / NASW-VA	bexum@nsu.edu
Rosalia	Fajardo	Parent Educational Advocy Training Center / Parent Information Resource Center	fajardo@peatc.org
Tammy	Feaster	Southside Virginia Training Center	Tammy.Feaster@svtc.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov
Wilken	Fernández	Hispanic Liaison Office - City of Richmond	wilken.fernandez@richmondgov.com
Alicia	Fernandez-Bobulinski	Making a Difference Fund	aliciabobulinski@yahoo.com
Mahki	Fernandez-Bobulinski	Making a Difference Fund	aliciabobulinski@yahoo.com
Jorge E	Figueredo	American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia	jfigueredo@acluva.org
Milagritos	Flinn	Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing	flinnml@vcu.edu
Erima	Fobbs	Virginia Department of Health	erima.fobbs@vdh.virginia.gov

George	Font	James Madison University	fontgx@jmu.edu
Maria	Fornella	Old Dominion University	mfornell@odu.edu
Lori	Fox	Hopewell City Public Schools	rfox@hopewell.k12.va.us
Robert	Franklin	Virginia Department of Health	robert.franklin@vdh.virginia.gov
Teresa	Franson	Chesterfield County Public Schools	terry_franson@ccpsnet.net
Constance	Freeman	Arlington County Government	cfreem@arlingtonva.us
Tim	Freilich	Legal Aid Justice Center - Immigrant Advocacy Program	tim@justice4all.org
Charlotte	Fritts	City of Winchester	cfritts@gmail.com
Celia	Fryer	Midlothian Campus	
Esteban	Garces	Tenants and Workers United	egarces@twsc.org
Robert	Garcia	Washington-Lee High School	bob_garcia@apsva.us
Douglas	García	Commonwealth of Virginia	
Sheryl	Garland	Virginia Commonwealth University Health System	sgarland@mcvh-vcu.edu
Andres	Gaviria	American Cancer Society	andres.gaviria@cancer.org
Bernie	Gerring	Southside Virginia Training Center	george.gerring@svtc.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov
Alejandro	Gomez	Tidewater Hispanic newspaper	twhispanic@msn.com
Heather	Gomez	Lucha Ministries	gomez@vcc-net.org
Regina	Gomez	Tidewater Hispanic newspaper	twhispanic@msn.com
Victor	Gomez	Rural Family Development of the Virginia Council of Churches	vgomez@vcc-net.org
Leni	Gonzalez	Department of Motor Vehicles	leni.gonzalez@dmv.virginia.gov
Rick	Gonzalez	ASTRACOR	rick@astracor.org
Tanya	Gonzalez	City of Richmond Hispanic Liaison Office	tanya.gonzalez@richmondgov.com
Teresa	Gonzalez	James Madison	gonzalta@jmu.edu

		University	
Jason	Good	Eastern Mennonite University	jason.good@emu.edu
Mayra	Granados	Department of Medical Assistance Services	mayra.granados@dmas.virginia.gov
Shelagh	Greenwood	Department of Medical Assistend Services	shelagh.greenwood@dmas.virginia.gov
Cheryl	Hall	Seven Gables Apartments	sevengables.assistantmanager@bbrmail.com
Ana	Hamlett	SUDS	curlieseven@yahoo.com
Charmagne	Hamlett	Chesterfield County Public Schools	charmagne_hamlett@ccpsnet.net
Thomas	Hanks	Siguiendo los Pasos de Jesús	siguiendo@verizon.net
Barbara	Harding	Virginia Commonwealth University Health System	bharding@mcvh-vcu.edu
Mark	Haufrect	Tahirih Justice Center	mark@tahirih.org
Amanda	Healy	Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc.	ahealy@phonehome.org
Patricia	Hein	City of Richmond - Early Childhood Development Initiative	patricia.hein@richmondgov.com
Shari	Henry	Chesterfield County Public Library	henrys@chesterfield.gov
Arthur	Hernandez	PNC Mortgage	art.hernandez@pncmortgage.com
Maria	Hernandez	Refugee & Immigrant Services	mhernandez@richmonddiocese.org
Craig	Herndon	Virginia Community College System	
Janice	Hicks	Office of Family Health Services	janice.hicks@vdh.virginia.gov
Trenton	Hightower	Virginia Community College System	thightower@vccs.edu
Deborah	Hinton	Chesterfield County Adult Continuing Education	deborah_hinton@ccpsnet.net
Luz Maria	Hogwood	Williams Mullen	lhogwood@williamsmullen.com
Julie	Hopkins	Chesterfield County Public Schools	julie_hopkins@ccpsnet.net

Todd	Hopwood	Albemarle County Police Department	hopwoodt@albemarle.org
Barbara	Ingber	Richmond Public Schools	bingber@richmond.k12.va.us
Linda	Jones	Total Life Solutions	linray56@yahoo.com
Matthew	Jones	Securitas Security	ospreymec@yahoo.com
Timothy	Kaine	Commonwealth of Virginia	
Brandi	Kellam	Chesapeake City Council	kellam07@yahoo.com
Mari Olga	Kelley	Prince William County Schools	kelleymo@pwcs.edu
Susan	Kennedy Spain	Virginia Department of Health	susank.spain@vdh.virginia.gov
Aryana	Khalid	Office of the Governor	
Rigüey	King	American Cancer Society	rigüey.king@cancer.org
Miriam	Kirkendall	Loudoun County Public Schools	miriam_kirkendall@loudoun.k12.va.us
Elsa	Kiser	Augusta County Public Schools	ekiser@augusta.k12.va.us
Karina	Kline-Gabel	James Madison University	klinegkx@jmu.edu
Jacqueline	Kotvas	Office of the Attorney General	jakotvas@oag.state.va.us
Adela	Lamson	C&F	adela.lamson@verizon.net
Marlene	Larios	Telamon Corporation	mlarios@telamon.org
Deanna	Lavery	Rural Infant Services Program	deannanoel@gmail.com
Carmen	Leon	Community Outreach Program	gocarmen@yahoo.com
Blanca	Leyva	The Child and Family Network Centers	bleyva@cfnc-online.org
Krishna	Leyva	The Campagna Center	kleyva@campagnacenter.org
Peter	Loach	Creciendo Juntos	peterl@piedmonthousing.org
Twandra	Lomax-Brown	Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension City of Richmond	twandra@vt.edu
Marcy	Lopez	Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention	mlopez@nlcatp.org

Tim	Loughran	CENTRO de Richmond Newspaper	tloughran@timesdispatch.com
Toby	Lyons	MACAA Head Start	tlyons@macaa.org
Lucy	Mackall	Monticello Area Community Action Agency: Head Start	thomack98@yahoo.com
Scott	Malan	Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Health Administration	malansj@vcu.edu
Jhancarla	Maldonado	Loudoun Community Health Center	jmaldonado@loudounchc.org
Tamara	Mann	DRIVE SMART Virginia	tamara.drivesmart@verizon.net
Monica	Marchand	Southside Virginia Training Center	Monica.Marchand@svtc.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov
Matthew	Markee	Casa Mosaic	mmarkee@casamosaic.com
Mirta	Martin	John Tyler Community College Foundation	mmartin01@jtcc.edu
Susan	Martin	Virginia Commonwealth University	jlsmartin@netscape.net
Marcela	Martinez	WRAP - Washington Regional Alcohol Program	
Sandra	Martinez	Inova Health System	sandra.martinez@inova.org
Jorge	Matallana	James Madison University	matallji@jmu.edu
Sergio	Matviuk	Regent University	sergmat@gmail.com
Ileana	Mayorga	Arlington Volunteer Center	imayor@arlingtonva.us
JoAnn	McCaffrey	Bon Secours Health System	joann_mccaffrey@bshsi.org
Tim	McCarthy	Sowers of Justice, Catholic Diocese	mccarthyt@aol.com
Jennifer	McCloud	Virginia Tech	jsinkmcc@vt.edu
Alejandra	Medina-Flintsch	Virginia Tech	ale@vtti.vt.edu
Judy	Mejia	University of Richmond	jmejia@richmond.edu
Julia S.	Melendez	OLMC Hispanic	jsmvistav@aol.com

		Ministry	
Sara	Melendez	Latino Federation of Greater Washington	humacao@comcast.net
Rebecca	Mendoza	Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services	rebecca.mendoza@dmas.virginia.gov
Drema	Mexicano	Families First	mexicanod@chesterfield.gov
Ruth	Micklem	Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance	rmicklem@vsdvalliance.org
Laura	Middlebrooks	Virginia Commonwealth University	middlebrooks@vcu.edu
Susan	Minushkin	Pew Hispanic Center	
Rhonda	Miska	Church of the Incarnation	rhonda@incarnationparish.org
Caitilin	Mohr	PVCC-Construction Academy	cmohr@pvcc.edu
Alba	Montano	Orange County Public Schools	amontano@ocss-va.org
Luisa Fernanda	Montero	Hispanic Communications Network	luisamontero@hotmail.com
Gloria	Morales	Network For Latino People	gloriam@cdr.org
Cesar	Moreno	United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, USHLI	cmoreno@ushli.org
Amber	Morgan	Virginia Cooperative Extension	almorgan@vt.edu
Sandra	Mueller	St. Patrick Catholic School / Bryant & Stratton College	deyanira77us@yahoo.com
Hope	Murphy	Chesterfield County Schools	hope_murphy@ccpsnet.net
Jon	Nafziger	United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area	jnafziger@unitedwaytja.org
Monica	Nebe	Chesterfield County Public Schools	Monica_Nebe@ccpsnet.net
Barbara	Newlin	Richmond Early Childhood Development Initiative	Barbara.Newlin@richmondgov.com
Lee	Niederman	LULAC Council 4609	lniederman@aol.com



Esteban	Nieto	Pilgrim's Pride Corporation	nieto99@gmail.com
Marcus	Nieves		marcus.nieves@hotmail.com
Anne	Oliver	Big Brothers Big Sisters Charlottesville	anne@bbbscharlottesville.org
Jorge	Ortiz	Rosman & Associates, PLC	jortiz@rosmanlaw.com
Jorge P.	Osterling	George Mason University	josterli@gmu.edu
Adrian	Otero	Chesterfield County Police Department	oteroa@chesterfield.gov
Blanca	Owens	Jefferson Area CHIP	blanca.owens@vdh.virginia.gov
Linda	Owens	The College Board	lowens@collegeboard.org
Aida	Pacheco	Virginia Community College System	apacheco@vccs.edu
Jose	Paiz	Virginia Housing Development Authority	jose.paiz@vhda.com
Tom	Parrott	John Tyler Community College	tparrott@jtcc.edu
Beatriz	Paz	Hispanic College Fund	bpaz@hispanicfund.org
Miguel	Pena	H&R Block	nadiya.abraham@hrblock.com
Noemi	Perez	Desert Runner, LLC	noemi@desertrunner-llc.com
Raquel	Perez-Lopez	Liberty Tax Service	raquel.perezlopez@libtax.com
Manuel A.	Perez-Quinones	Virginia Tech	perez@cs.vt.edu
Rhonda	Perkins	Legal Aid Justice Center	rhonda@justice4all.org
Marilyn	Pietri	Alzheimer's Association	marilyn.pietri@alz.org
Marco T	Pineda	Virginia Department of Labor	marco.pineda@doli.virginia.gov
Katy	Pitcock	Winchester Medical Center	kpitcock@valleyhealthlink.com
Raymond	Plaza	Virginia Tech	rp25@vt.edu
Terrell	Pollard	The Bridge CDC	ed.thebridge@gmail.com
Rachel	Price	Health Careers / Education Virginia Commonwealth University	rbprice@vcu.edu
Yolanda	Puyana	Virginia Latino Advisory Board	mcyrp@hotmail.com

Maricel	Quintana-Baker, Ph.D.	State Council of Higher Education for Virginia	maricelquintanabaker@schev.edu
Marvin	Quintero	Johns Hopkins University	m46@verizon.net
Roberto	Quintero	Anthem Health Keepers	roberto.quintero@anthem.com
Judy	Radford	Virginia Department of Education	
Maribel	Ramos	Virginia Latino Advisory Board	maribel_ramos@webb.senate.gov
Thelma	Ranellone	Employee Benefits	ranel2@verizon.net
Omar	Rashid	Virginia Latino Advisory Board	orashid@mcvh-vcu.edu
Karen	Reed	Virginia Department of Health	karen.reed@vdh.virginia.gov
Francesca	Reilly-McDonnell	Arlington Public Schools	freilly@arlington.k12.va.us
Karen	Remley	Virginia Department of Health	
Gaby	Rengifo	Virginia Latino Advisory Board	gaby@oneofakindlandscapes.com
Eddie	Reyes	Alexandria Police Department	eddie.reyes@alexandriava.gov
India	Ridout	DMHMRSAS	india.ridout@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov
J. Martin	Rios	Reston Interfaith Inc.	martin.rios@restoninterfaith.org
Luz	Rios	Independent Realtor	LUZ4U2000@HOTMAIL.COM
Ofelia	Robaina	Refugee & Immigration Services	orobaina@richmonddiocese.org
Kirsten A	Roberts	MADD VA and DC Office	programspecialist@maddva.org
Juan	Roca	Victory Tab Church of God	jcroca438@yahoo.com
Elizabeth	Rocha	Liberty Tax Service	e_liz_rocha@yahoo.com
Cecily	Rodriguez	Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services	cecily.rodriguez@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov
Estuardo	Rodriguez	The Raben Group, LLC	estuardo@rabengroup.com
Madelyn	Rodriguez	Bridging Community Communications	bccomms3@aol.com
Shannon	Rodriguez	Virginia	shannon@voraonline.org

		Organizations Responding to AIDS	
Vladimir	Rodriguez	New York Life	vrodriguez@nyl.com
Eduardo	Romero	Nonprofit Roundtable	eromero@nonprofitroundtable.org
Windell	Roquemore	Chesterfield Adult Continuing Education	windell_roquemore@ccpsnet.net
Michael	Royster	Virginia Department of Health	michael.royster@vdh.virginia.gov
Dolores	Rubalcava	LULAC Council 4610	drubalca@yahoo.com
Lourdes	Rubio	Arlington Public Schools	lrubio@arlington.k12.va.us
Mario	Rubio	NVAR	mario@rubiorealestate.com
Fidel	Rubio, Jr.	Chesterfield Community Corrections Services	rubiof@chesterfield.gov
Martee	Saldaña Pierson	Liberty Tax Service	martee.pierson@libtax.com
Sharon	Saldarriaga	Telamon Corporation	ssaldarriaga@telamon.org
Fred	Sanchez	Virginia Latino Advisory Board	Fsisback@aol.com
Olga Lucia	Sanchez	Catholic Diocese of Richmond	osanchez@richmonddiocese.org
Laura	Sanchez del Solar	VA Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation	laura.sanchezdelsolar@vahcc.com
Vivian	Sanchez- Jones	Refugee and Immigration Services	vivians22@ris-roa.org
Juan	Santacoloma	Chesterfield County	santacolomaj@chesterfield.gov
Martha C.	Santacoloma	Family First	santacolomam@chesterfield.gov
Santiago	Santos	Best Buy	santiago@santiagosantos.com
Dana	Schrad	Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police	
Diana	Sen	Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund	diana_sen@prldef.org
Vilma	Seymour	Virginia Commonwealth University Health System	vseymour@mcvh-vcu.edu

Tom	Shepley	Chesterfield County Public Library	shepleyt@chesterfield.gov
Shahid	Siddiqi	NCAM	sidbayan@cox.net
Guadalupe	Silva-Krause	T.C. Williams High School	guadalupe.silva-krause@acps.k12.va.us
Mary Jo	Sisson-Vaughan	Virginia Department of Business Assistance	maryjo.sissonvaughan@vdba.virginia.gov
Carolyn	Slagle	Chesterfield County Public Library	slaglec@chesterfield.gov
David	Smith	Office of the Governor	
Georgia	Smith	Chesterfield County Police	smithgw@chesterfield.gov
Greg	Smith	LUCHA Ministries, Inc.	greg.smith@vbmb.org
Marshall	Smith	John Tyler Community College	
Luz	Stroh	Arlington County Government	lstroh@arlingtonva.us
Zuraya	Tapia	Virginia Latino Advisory Board	zurayat@gmail.com
Santiago	Tavara	Metro Latino USA	stavara@hotmail.com
Billie	Tebbens	Henrico Division of Police	teb02@co.henrico.va.us
Walter	Tejada	Arlington County Board	waltertejada@yahoo.com
Alexis	Thornton-Crump	Virginia Department of Transportation	
Nell	Tiller	Blue Ridge Community College	tillern@brcc.edu
Gresilda	Tilley-Lubbs	Virginia Tech	glubbs@vt.edu
Andres	Tobar	Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations	andrestobar@comcast.net
Brigitta	Toruno	UNO Communications	btoruno@unocommunications.net
Carlos	Tricoche	Hampton Roads Hispanic Chamber	prone58@yahoo.com
Susan L	Triggs	Virginia Department of Health Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy	susan.triggs@vdh.virginia.gov
Martha	Trujillo	United Way	mtrujillo@unitedwaytja.org
Claudia	Trznadel		claudiatrznadel@aol.com
Vance	Trznadel		vtrznadel@aol.com

Juvenal	Valdez	Norfolk Police Department	juvenal.valdez@norfolk.gov
Jill	Vargas	Richmond County Public Schools	jvargas@sylvaninfo.net
Julie	Vargas	Liberty Tax Service	jvargas@libertytax.com
Mayra	Vargas-Pritchard	Virginia Commonwealth University Health System	mpritchard@mcvh-vcu.edu
Ann	Vargo	Chesterfield Cooperative Extension	vargoa@chesterfield.gov
Logan	Vetrovec	Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Health Administration	lavetrovec@vcu.edu
Xiomara	Vidal	Virginia Health Department	xiomara.vidal@vdh.virginia.gov
Martha	Villanigro-Santiago	Equity Programs Division	martha.villanigro-santiago@fairfaxcounty.gov
Carrie	Vincent	CCPS	carrie_vincent@ccpsnet.net
Emma	Violand-Sanchez	Arlington Public Schools	evioland@verizon.net
Peter	Von der Lippe	American Red Cross, Greater Richmond Chapter	vonderlippep@usa.redcross.org
Charlotte	von Lilienfeld	Orange County Public Schools	cvonlilienfeld@aol.com
Edwin	Walent	Chesterfield County Public Schools	ed_walent@ccpsnet.net
Linda	Wallinger	Virginia Department of Education	linda.wallinger@doe.virginia.gov
Millie	Watson	CCPS - Social Workers	millie_watson@ccpsnet.net
Marilyn	Wenner	Virginia Department of Health	marilyn.wenner@vdh.virginia.gov
Melinda	Whitehurst	Infant Development Project	mwoverlook@gmail.com
Sylvia	Whitney Beitzel	Academy for Families	sb6whitney@gmail.com
Winata	Wicker	H&R Block	winatawicker@comcast.net
Carmen	Williams	Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance	cwilliams@vsdvalliance.org
Maria	Williams	IDP at the Arc of The Piedmont	elbambutercero@hotmail.com

Stephanie	Williams	Spanish & English Regional Language Academy & Training Center, LLC	grancharla@aol.com
Rita	Willis	Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	rita.willis@vahcc.com
Cathy	Woodson	Virginia Organizing Project	cwoodson@virginia-organizing.org
Beth	Worley	Department of Medical Assistance Services	beth.worley@dmas.virginia.gov
Maria	Yancey	Chesterfield County Department of Social Services	yanceymd@chesterfield.gov
Lisa	Zajur	Spanish Academy & Cultural Institute	lisa.zajur@spanishwithin.com
Michel	Zajur	Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	zajur1@aol.com
Ruth	Zajur	Virginia Commonwealth University	<a href="mailto:ruthz8@yahoo.com">ruthz8@yahoo.com</a>

**Governor's Latino Summit 2008 \* September 19, 2008 \* Richmond, Virginia  
Registrations on site**

Tammy	Nichols	Legal Information Network for Cancer	<a href="mailto:tnichols@cancerlinc.org">tnichols@cancerlinc.org</a>
Christine	Chmura	Chmura Economics and Analytics	<a href="mailto:chris@chmuraecon.com">chris@chmuraecon.com</a>
Elkin	Rodriguez	Petersburg Public Schools ESL Teacher	<a href="mailto:elkinrodriguez118@gmail.com">elkinrodriguez118@gmail.com</a>
Jane	Hubbell	James Madison University	<a href="mailto:hubbeljx@jmu.edu">hubbeljx@jmu.edu</a>
Rachel	Contreras	Cross Over Ministry, Inc	<a href="mailto:rcontreras@crossoverministry.org">rcontreras@crossoverministry.org</a>
Martha	De la Rosa	Amor y Paz UMC, Pastor	<a href="mailto:carneker@visulalink.com">carneker@visulalink.com</a>
Karen	Lawson	Photographer	<a href="mailto:KLAWSON8@COX.NET">KLAWSON8@COX.NET</a>
Laura	Mason	Norfolk Police Department	<a href="mailto:laura.mason@norfolk.gov">laura.mason@norfolk.gov</a>
Adriana	Mendoza	Student	
Victor Hugo	Ramirez		<a href="mailto:vic@yahoo.com.mx">vic@yahoo.com.mx</a>

Yolanda	Sanchez	USCIS/Production Mgmt.	<a href="mailto:Yolanda.Sanchez@dhs.gov">Yolanda.Sanchez@dhs.gov</a>
Markus	Schmidt	Progress Index/Reporter	<a href="mailto:MSCHMIDT@PROGRESS-INDEX.COM">MSCHMIDT@PROGRESS-INDEX.COM</a>
Gloria	Starr	Arlington County Govt	<a href="mailto:gstarr@arlingtonva.us">gstarr@arlingtonva.us</a>
Dawn	Strickland	Spanish for the Workplace and Beyond	<a href="mailto:Dawn@SpanishForTheWorkplace.com">Dawn@SpanishForTheWorkplace.com</a>
Holly	Torres	Henrico Coalition	<a href="mailto:londontowne@gsc-apt.com">londontowne@gsc-apt.com</a>
Rose Marie	Leyva	St. Luke Catholic Church	<a href="mailto:MONET151@AOL.COM">MONET151@AOL.COM</a>
Michelle	Jimenez	Shenandoah Co. Department of Social Services	<a href="mailto:mit171@dss.state.va.us">mit171@dss.state.va.us</a>
Luis	Espinoza	Shenandoah Co. Department of Social Services	
Armando	Jimenez		<a href="mailto:jimenez0623@yahoo.com">jimenez0623@yahoo.com</a>
DC	Amarasinghe	Medical Care+	<a href="mailto:DrDC2006@cox.net">DrDC2006@cox.net</a>
Alberto	Ojeda	Horizontes News	<a href="mailto:alberto.ojeda@horizontesonline.com">alberto.ojeda@horizontesonline.com</a>
Daniel	Lubbs	Roanoke City Schools	
Leslie	Peterson	Chmura Economics and Analytics	<a href="mailto:leslie@chmuraecon.com">leslie@chmuraecon.com</a>
Judith	Moran	Willonwood Presbyterian Church/Hispanic Ministries	
Ramon	Moran	Willonwood Presbyterian Church/Hispanic Ministries	<a href="mailto:drmoran@cox.net">drmoran@cox.net</a>
Nicholas	DeRatto	Village News	<a href="mailto:nderatto@villagepublishing.com">nderatto@villagepublishing.com</a>

## Survey Analysis

Governor's Latino Summit 2008 - Participant Questionnaire

Total number of participants pre-registered: 313

Participants registered on site: 26

Total number of service providers registered: 339

Voluntary surveys answered # 69

Education: 21 surveys

**Public Schools Systems Represented:**

**Prince William County; Arlington; Richmond; Albemarle County; Petersburg; Chesterfield County.**

Estimated number of clients that these organizations serve in a month: 125,000 students.

Percentage of Latino students served varies in the different localities, between 1% (Arlington, Petersburg), 5% (Albemarle County).

**Richmond Public Schools Office of ESL Parent Liaison** reports 98% of their student population of 200 to be of Hispanic/Latino origin

**Universities and Educational Organizations:**

**Virginia Tech University, Virginia Tech Hispanic Caucus, Virginia Tech Office of Equity and Inclusion, Blue Ridge Community College, Norfolk State University, Eastern Mennonite University, The Arc of the Piedmont.**

**The Chesterfield County Public Library** estimates serving 160,000 clients per month, 5% of them Latino.

**The College Board** serves to connect students to colleges. Through their National Hispanic Scholar Recognition Program, they serve 3 million students annually and 2,500 schools.

When asked about having Spanish speakers on site and whether they had service providers who worked directly with the Latino community, the great majority of institutions participating in our survey responded in the affirmative. They also expressed their need for more people with foreign language skills.

11 participants rated the summit as excellent and 10 as good.

Health: 13 surveys

**Organizations Represented:**

**Virginia Department of Health**, approximately 500 clients per month, 250 of them Latinos.

**Virginia Department of Health Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control**, the majority of their clients are adult populations over the age of 18.

**Winchester Medical Center**, offers access to pre-natal care and sees over 3,000 patients per month. Average age 25.

**Bon Secours Rich Health System**, 2,000 clients per month, 75% Latinos, equal number of Males and females, children and adults. The majority of clients under 30 years of age.

**Bon Secours Care-A-Van**, average clients per month 300, 90% Latino.

**VCU Health Careers**, pre-health programs geared toward minority and economically disadvantaged and rural students grades 4 through undergraduate.

**VCU Department of Health Administration**, average students' age is 24.

**VCU Health Systems**, 30 to 40 clients per month, 95% Latino.

**Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation**, is a treatment center for civilly committed sexual violent predators. They average 100 clients per month, 300 beds, do not collect data regarding the percentage of clients/residents that are Latino.

**Chesterfield County Domestic and Sexual Violence Resource Center**, offers victim advocacy services. The predominant age of the Latino population served is between the ages of 26 to 40 years of age.

**Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance**. Serves approximately 3,500 clients per month. No Latino data available.



**Cross Over Ministry Inc.**, offers health care services for people at or below the 200% the poverty line and without insurance. 50 to 60 % of their clients are Latino. They have 3 clinics.

**Alexandria Head Start, The Campagna Center.** Comprehensive services offered such as health, and education for low income families and children ranging from ages 0-5. The organization serves approximately 1000 families. Head Start program serves 362 low income families.

When asked about having Spanish speakers on site and whether they had service providers who worked directly with the Latino community, all the institutions participating in our survey responded in the affirmative except for one. They also expressed a need for more personal with foreign language skills.

7 participants rated the summit as excellent and 6 as good.

Community/Human Resources/Mentoring: 13 surveys

**Organizations Represented:**

**City of Richmond Hispanic Liaison Office**, serves approximately 1000 clients per month, 90% of them Latino. They offer information, referral, interpreting and translation services for city departments. They provide outreach and information dissemination for the community.

**City of Richmond Early Childhood Development**, on average they serve 100 clients per month. Between 5 to 15% of them are Latino. They offer parenting education, workshops and programs.

**United Way, 2-1-1 VA**, offers information and referral services for human services, about 10% of their clients are Latinos.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension**, serves approx. 900 clients and 1 to 2% of them Latinos. Provides services to the community on parenting, economical and financial management, health and nutrition.

**London Town Apartments**, 693 units, approximately 2000 individuals, 70% Latino, mostly men between the ages of 20 to 35 years of age.

**Telamon Corporation**, provides services for workforce development, employment training, housing rehabilitation, weatherization, home ownership, pesticide and workplace safety training. 200 to 250 clients pr month, 85% Latino.

**Rural Family Development, Migrant Head Start.** Serves around 400families per year, 99% Latino, average age form birth to 5 years old.

**Department of Mental Health RSAS**, offers leadership and oversight in mental health, ID, and social assistance services around the state.. They are working on collecting more demographic data.

**Families First, Chesterfield County**, parenting, child development, connects families with resources in the community. They see approximately 84 clients per month, 30% Latino teen and adolescent females between the ages of 15 to 25, first time moms or new parents.

**Community Outreach, (Arlington, VA)**, provide workshops, emergency management, referrals, assistance with forms. About 500 clients per month, 470 of them Latinos, 70% of them males ages 18 to 49.

**United Way, Charlottesville**, provides information, referral, child care and prescription assistance. 200 persons per month, 10 to 20% Latinos ages 20 to 30.

**Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Charlottesville**, mentors for children ages 5 to 14 years old.

Most organizations reported having Spanish speakers on site and service providers who worked directly with the Latino community. Some organizations had up to nine Spanish speakers, one works with outside interpreters, one uses community volunteers. For departments with offices around the state, they reported lack of translators in some locations.

3 participants rated the summit as excellent, 1 very good, and 9 as good

Public Safety/Legal/ Human Rights: 7

**Organizations Represented:**

**Chesterfield Police Department**, crime prevention, no Spanish speakers on site

**Virginia Department Emergency Services**, provide emergency assistance to localities in case of disasters in Virginia. They count with one Spanish speaker in Richmond. No known data about localities throughout the state with emergency respondents that speak Spanish.

**ACLU, American Civil Liberties Union**. Legal, lobbying, public education services, 2 Spanish speakers.

**MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers**. Victim services, advocacy, educational programs. Spanish outreach available. (2 people from this organization answered the survey)

**SHE, Shelter for Help in Emergency (Charlottesville)**. Shelter, legal outreach for abused women.

Approximate people served in shelter, 25 women, 20 kids. Average outreach per month 27 women, 17 kids, 2 men. One Spanish speaker available.

**LINC, Legal Information Network for Cancer**. Legal debt management services for cancer patients and their care givers. Serves approximately 25 to 30 people per month. They are in the process of recruiting Spanish speaking translators.

4 participants rated the summit as excellent and 3 as good.

Language Translation/Interpreting: 4

**Organizations Represented:**

**Monticello Area Community Action Agency**. Interpreting, translating and support to Spanish speaking families. 213 clients . 26 Latino Children. (a total of 40 children were helped last year)

**Spanish for the Workplace and Beyond**. Offers occupational Spanish to English speakers and Survival English for Spanish speakers

**International Rescue Committee** provides services to 70 local contracting agencies, such as hospitals, schools, social services, courts, etc. They offer services to refugees. A good portion of their clients are Spanish speakers.

**Bridging Community Communications**. Spanish/English interpreting and translating services. Approximately 120 clients per month, 100% Latinos in their mid to late 20's.

3 participants rated the summit as excellent and 1 as good.

Faith Based Organizations: 4

**Organizations Represented:**

**Amor y paz VMC, Winchester**. Religious services, referrals to different social services

Lucha Ministries, Fredericksburg. Christian and spiritual support services, social ministry services such as food, transportation, translation. Community Advocacy. Serves between 75 to 100 people, 95 % Latino.

**Willowwood Hispanic Ministry, (Willowwood Presbyterian Church USA.) Norfolk, VA**

Provides ESL classes, computer literacy, community information services on radio, Spanish church services on Sunday. During peak times the ministry serves between 400 to 500 Latinos.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Hispanic Ministry, Newport News, VA.** No count is kept on the numbers of people served per month. They offer outreach and resource referrals, they also serve in an advisory role to the city manager.

1 participant rated the summit as excellent and 2 as good. One attendee rated the summit as average.

Economic/Financial/Labor: 4

**Organizations Represented:**

- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Richmond, VA**
- Hampton Roads Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.**
- Virginia Department of Labor, Winchester, VA**
- Internal Revenue Services, Richmond**

4 participants rated the summit as excellent.

## Governor's Latino Summit 2008 ~ Participant Questionnaire ~

Dear Service Provider:

We hope you found the Summit to be useful and had an opportunity to make some great contacts that will help you in addressing the needs of the Latino community in the future. Please take a few minutes to fill out this questionnaire that will provide us with information on your organization and feedback on how to better serve you in the future.

Thank you for your participation in the Governor's Latino Summit 2008 and we look forward to continuing to work with you!

Name of Organization: _____ Contact Person: _____
Phone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____
Mailing Address: _____

1. What topics would you like us to address at our next summit?

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2. Did you find this summit to be informative? Why?

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3. Please provide us with any suggestions on how the Virginia Latino Advisory Board can better meet the growing needs of the Latino community?

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4. How many Latino/a clients do you estimate serving in a month?

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5. What type of service do you provide?

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6. What would improve your service?

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7. Average age of your Latino/a client?

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8. Have you encountered language barriers and how did you solve them?

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9. Do you have Spanish speakers on-site? Do you have any service providers that work directly with the Latino community?

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Additional comments:

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