

Compiled by Katy Haas, Alianzas, Coordinator (816-235-5840, haaska@umkc.edu, www.alianzas.us).

Note: Alianzas' role in posting information via this listserv is not one of advocacy, but rather one of fostering awareness of issues that affect the Latino community.

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1. NAAG UPDATE, www.alianzas.us/naag

As we have approached a crossroads in our planning, the NAAG asks that all community decision makers (i.e., executive directors, executive board members, agency presidents, etc.) attend its next meeting. The purpose of this is to inform the decision-makers of the one-stop resource center's concept and potential outcomes, as well as to discuss whether the decision maker's agency will make a commitment to pro-actively support the center.

The next Northeast Advisory and Access Group meeting will be on January 8th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Kansas City Public Library Northeast Branch (6000 Wilson Road, Kansas City, MO 64123, 816-701-3585).

Contact: Katy Haas, 816-235-5840, haaska@umkc.

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2. RESOURCE FOR LATINO FAMILIES WITH DISABILITIES

Visions of Hope is an information and referral service that seeks to assist Latino families with children or family members that have been diagnosed with a Developmental Disability.

The Visions of Hope office is located at the Rectory of St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 2611 E. 11th Street, Kansas City, MO 64127. Office hours are on Thursdays from 2:30 to 7:30 p.m. Please feel free to stop by or call anytime. Services are free of charge and open to everyone.

Contact: (English) Jenny Hatfield-Reed, 816-235-1763, reedja@umkc.edu; (Spanish) Maria Casas, 816-235-1771, casasm@umkc.edu <<mailto:casasm@umkc.edu>>

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3. ARTICLE: ULYSSES SYNDROME AFFECTS MEXICAN MIGRANTS IN U.S.

El "Síndrome Ulises" trastorna a los migrantes mexicanos en EU

12-09-03

Mariana Viayra Ramírez

La Cronica de Hoy

Depresión, ansiedad, soledad, sentimientos de fracaso y terror, son situaciones extremas que sufren miles de mexicanos ilegales en Estados Unidos, que van en busca de una vida mejor, pero que también se pueden topar con estos trastornos mentales que los expertos han llamado: "Síndrome Ulises".

Según los especialistas, las situaciones extremas han provocado la aparición de este nuevo trastorno con síntomas depresivos, que se expresan a través de pensamientos de muerte, ansiedad, irritabilidad hacia menores, fatigas, y en casos extremos paranoia.

Tras cinco años de investigación expertos españoles apuntan que este síndrome, caracterizado por estrés crónico y múltiple, afecta a personas que eran perfectamente sanas en sus países de origen y se agudiza cuando las leyes gubernamentales y sociales se endurecen contra ellos, por ejemplo, para los migrantes mexicanos, con la aparición de los cazas migrantes en Arizona.

Pese a los peligros, cada vez crece más la migración hacia Estados Unidos, porque representa una opción para buscar mejores oportunidades de vida; pero también aumentan las probabilidades de que más mexicanos sufran estos trastornos asociados al estrés, dijo a Crónica la psicóloga del Instituto Nacional de Psiquiatría Rosa María Aguilera-Guzmán.

De acuerdo al Consejo Nacional de la Población, actualmente hay cerca de 9 millones de mexicanos viviendo en E.U, de los cuales más de 2.3 viven en situación de pobreza extrema y al menos cinco millones de migrantes no están integrados a ninguno de los sistemas de seguridad médica privada ni a los programas de asistencia pública.

La especialista aclaró que el hecho de ser migrante "no es sinónimo de ser o estar enfermo", pero cruzar la frontera en busca de trabajo es un factor de riesgo para sufrir trastornos psicológicos, tanto para los que se van como para los familiares que se quedan en México, porque la migración exige vivir situaciones extremas.

Reconoció que la sintomatología del "Síndrome Ulises" como soledad, el sentimiento de fracaso, la lucha por la supervivencia básica y la situación de miedo, han sido también observadas entre los migrantes mexicanos.

Entre las dificultades que tienen que enfrentar, ejemplificó, destacan los problemas para encontrar empleo, soportar largas jornadas laborales, desgaste físico, ocultarse de la policía fronteriza por su calidad ilegal o permanecer largas temporadas sin empleo mientras vive angustiado por su futuro y "por la familia que dejó en México".

También se enfrentan a un ambiente en que los hábitos, costumbres, valores y prácticas sociales son distintos, lo que provoca confusión, ansiedad, depresión, síntomas psicossomáticos (dolores de cabeza, de estómago, dermatitis, gastritis o colitis) y confusión de la identidad personal, advirtió la psicóloga. INVESTIGACIÓN. Tras cinco años de estudios, especialistas españoles coordinados por el psiquiatra Joseba Anchótegui, descubrieron que personas completamente sanas después de migrar hacia otro país presentaron un cuadro patológico de depresión, ansiedad, sentimientos de fracaso y terror que "les hizo la vida aún más difícil".

"Este mal afecta dramáticamente a las personas que se ven obligados a vivir en otro país dejando atrás a su familia y a su país", explica el psiquiatra Joseba Anchótegui, pionero en este campo, quien ventiló este "nuevo síndrome" al Parlamento Europeo.

Achótegui descubrió este trastorno mientras trabajaba en el Servicio de Atención Psicopatológica y Psicosocial a Inmigrantes y Refugiados, en Barcelona, "llevo desde los 80 trabajando en inmigración y este síndrome hasta hace 5 años no se observaba, las condiciones de vida se han hecho más duras

para los inmigrantes en los últimos tiempos. Me di cuenta de que todos tenían unos síntomas concretos". Los síntomas que padecen los afectados por el Síndrome de Ulises son peculiares. Por un lado, no es un trastorno estándar, "porque aunque sienten mucha tristeza, más que estar deprimidos, se encuentran apesadumbrados".

¿Por qué Ulises?

Se llama "Síndrome Ulises" porque el psiquiatra español Joseba Achótegui se basó en el poema griego de Homero, quien narra las aventuras de Ulises: sus naufragios y sufrimientos para llegar a la Tierra Prometida. Durante su Odisea se enfrenta a un gigante y al canto de las sirenas que lo seducen para hacer que se desista

--Soledad

Una vez que la persona llega a un país que no es el suyo se encuentra con un panorama más que desolador. No pueden traer a la familia porque primero tienen que tener estabilidad económica. Además, el hecho de que sus familiares más cercanos, como sus hijos, especialmente en el caso de las mujeres, se hayan quedado en el país de origen produce una nostalgia difícil de superar.

--Fracaso

Piensan que tanto esfuerzo no les ha servido porque no pueden progresar en el mercado y no pueden conseguir trabajo. Viven situaciones muy duras en la lucha por la supervivencia. Su preocupación principal es dónde comer y dónde dormir.

--Ansiedad

Presentan frecuentemente nerviosismo, tensión, viven obsesionados con sus preocupaciones. Esto les causa insomnio. Además, se encuentran solos porque no tienen ninguna red de apoyo social, con lo que están muy asustados. "Piensan que nadie les va a ayudar y no tienen ninguna confianza en las instituciones porque no tienen papeles".

--Niños afectados

En los menores, el síndrome de Ulises provoca irritabilidad que puede derivar en problemas más graves; además de problemas de conducta (rendimiento escolar calificado de insuficiente, indisciplina, ausentismo, falta de atención, relaciones conflictivas con profesores y compañeros) y entre los adolescentes puede llegar a manifestarse en problemas de identidad, tendencia a pertenecer a bandas, a cometer actos antisociales, a caer en pandillerismo y delincuencia.

--Estudios

Actualmente médicos, sociólogos y psicólogos de ocho países europeos, entre ellos España, han decidido crear una red de trabajo para la investigación y abordaje del Síndrome de Ulises, una patología emergente entre los inmigrantes.

4. HOW AMERICANS AND IMMIGRANTS FARE IN THE U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

New research supported by The Commonwealth Fund and recently published in two major peer-reviewed journals examines how minority Americans and immigrants fare in the U.S. health care system.

"Patient-Centered Communication, Ratings of Care, and Concordance of Patient and Physician Race," http://www.cmwf.org/programs/insurance/cooper_raceconcordant_itl_692.asp published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* (Dec. 2003), found that when patients and physicians were the same race, office visits lasted longer and patients rated their visits as more satisfying and participatory than when patients and physicians were different races.

"Eligibility for Government Insurance if Immigrant Provisions of Welfare Reform Are Repealed," http://www.cmwf.org/programs/insurance/carrasquillo_immigrantprovisions_itl_690.asp published in the *American Journal of Public Health* (Oct. 2003), examines the effect of 1996 regulations that restricted funding for coverage of recent immigrants, many of whom lack health insurance. While as of 1999 the law had not greatly worsened the crisis, it had shifted costs from the federal government to cash-strapped states.

"Patient-Physician Relationships and Racial Disparities in the Quality of Health Care," http://www.cmwf.org/programs/insurance/carrasquillo_immigrantprovisions_itl_690.asp also published

in the *American Journal of Public Health*, used the Fund's 2001 Health Care Quality Survey to show that patient-physician interactions contribute to disparities in the quality of care between minority and white patients.

Related publications from The Commonwealth Fund include:

Insurance, Access, and Quality of Care Among Hispanic Populations: 2003 Chartpack, http://www.cmwf.org/programs/minority/doty_hispanicchartpack_684.ppt Michelle Doty, October 2003.

Cultural Competence in Health Care: Emerging Frameworks and Practical Approaches, http://www.cmwf.org/programs/minority/betancourt_culturalcompetence_576.pdf Joseph R. Betancourt et al., October 2002.

Health Coverage for Immigrants in New York: An Update on Policy Developments and Next Steps. http://www.cmwf.org/programs/newyork/bachrach_immigrantsny_546.pdf Deborah Bachrach et al., July 2002.

Running in Place: How Job Characteristics, Immigrant Status, and Family Structure Keep Hispanics Uninsured. http://www.cmwf.org/programs/insurance/schur_running_453.pdf Claudia L. Schur et al., May 2001.

Visit the Fund's website (<http://www.cmwf.org/>) to read, download, or order reports from The Commonwealth Fund. You can also order printed copies of reports by calling toll-free 1-888-777-2744 or by sending an e-mail to publications@cmwf.org publications@cmwf.org.

5. ARTICLE: LATINOS REMAIN MARGINALIZED BY NETWORK NEWS COVERAGE

www.nahj.org/NAHJbrownoutreport03.pdf <http://www.nahj.org/NAHJbrownoutreport03.pdf>

Crime, Terrorism and Illegal Immigration Make Up Majority of Latino-Related Stories

Washington , D.C. - Despite the enormous growth of the nation's Latino community, Latinos continued to be marginalized on the evening newscasts of ABC, CBS, CNN and NBC in 2002, according to the National Association of Hispanic Journalists eighth annual *Network Brownout Report* released today. The report found that out of approximately 16,000 stories that aired in 2002, only 120 - less than 1 percent (0.75) -- were about Latinos. In 2001, only 99 stories (0.62 percent) were about Latinos. Hispanics now make up more than 13 percent of the nation's population.

"This year's report once again highlights the dismal progress the networks have made in their coverage of the nation's Hispanic community," said NAHJ President Juan Gonzalez , a columnist with the New York Daily News. "When Latinos are covered by the networks, the stories are too often unbalanced and fail to accurately reflect the role that Latinos play in the United States ."

This year's study found that two-thirds of all Latino-related stories that aired on the network news were about crime, terrorism and illegal immigration. There were 47 stories alone dealing with Latinos as either perpetrators or victims of crime. Of those crime stories, more than half were about kidnapping. The kidnapping and murder of five-year-old Samantha Runnion (18 stories) in California , and the subsequent arrest of Alejandro Avila for the crime, dominated that coverage.

Terrorism and the arrest of Jose Padilla for allegedly seeking to detonate a "dirty bomb" made up the second largest number of stories with 21. There were 11 stories about illegal immigration.

"The network's emphasis on crime, terrorism and immigration is troublesome since these institutions play a critical role in defining public perceptions and opinions in American society," said Serafín Méndez-Méndez, co-author of this year's study.

This year's study found several significant improvements. The use of Latinos as interview subjects increased. Out of 120 Latino-related stories that aired in 2002, 89 stories (74 percent) featured interviews

with Latinos, with ABC leading the other networks by a noticeable margin. In 2001, 68 percent of Latino-related stories featured interviews with Latinos.

The average length of Latino-related stories increased from an average of two minutes and 25 seconds in 2001 to two minutes and 51 seconds in 2002, with the length of CNN stories far surpassing the other networks.

Of the four networks, ABC led the way with more balanced coverage of Latinos and with stories on a wider range of topics.

For the first time, several network correspondents covered the Latino-related stories a number of times, allowing them to become more knowledgeable about issues affecting the Latino community. ABC's Judy Muller filed the most with six stories.

For the third consecutive year, the *Network Brownout Report* included a qualitative analysis of Latino-related news stories. And for the first time, NAHJ conducted focus groups in New York and Los Angeles to supplement the qualitative analysis.

The qualitative analysis found that Latinos continued to be portrayed as a dysfunctional underclass that exists on the fringes of mainstream U.S. society. Despite the growth of the Latino middle class and resources, Latinos were often depicted as living in poverty and as criminals. Illegal immigrants were depicted as a security threat to the country.

The focus groups of Latino viewers commented that the portrayal of Latinos was often stereotypical, with poverty, anti-social behavior and immigration being the most common themes in Latino-related stories. NAHJ is concerned about the effect unbalanced news coverage of the Latino community will have on the majority of U.S. television viewers whose main source of news and information comes from watching television.

NAHJ believes the lack of Latinos working in network newsrooms and in broadcast management is a major reason for the poor coverage of the Latino community. For several years, NAHJ has called on the networks to report annually the racial and ethnic make up of their newsrooms. The networks have so far refused the association's request.

The report was prepared by Serafín Méndez-Méndez, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Communication at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Conn., and Diane Alverio, a communication consultant and co-owner of Baldwin/Alverio Media Marketing, a media research, marketing and public relations firm. Alverio is also a past president of NAHJ.

visit NAHJ's Web site at www.nahj.org to print out a copy of the report or call NAHJ at 202-662-7143 for a faxed copy.

6. UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS AND TEMPORARY DRIVER'S LICENSES: LOBBY DAY IN TOPEKA

A date has been scheduled for the Senate Judiciary Committee's hearing on HB2039, to allow undocumented immigrants to apply for temporary driver's licenses in Kansas. In response, El Centro is organizing a major lobby day, press conference, and statewide initiative to coincide with this hearing on Tuesday, January 27, 2004.

Although El Centro continues to work with their statewide coalition, Kansans For Road Safety, to finalize the details of this day, it is certain that it will involve testimony at the hearing from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m., with a simultaneous rally outside the capitol building (speakers to include representatives of the Catholic Church, NAACP, Machinists' Union, several immigrant organizations, and law enforcement officials); a press conference from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. that will highlight Kansas' immigrant history, the diverse support that HB2039 has attracted, and the ways in which this legislation would be positive for our state's safety,

economy, and sense of justice; and visits with legislators, particularly key members of the Senate, from 10:30 a.m. - noon.

Two buses will leave from the Kansas City area (one from Olathe and one from El Centro's office at 290 S. 10th Street), and more buses will be arranged if needed. A brief overview of the issue and training on lobbying on the bus ride to Topeka will be provided.

Anyone with interest is welcome to participate either by connecting in Kansas City or at the Capitol between 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. (1st floor) on January 27th. Please contact Melinda Lewis by Monday, January 5th. See attachments for further details.



English FAQs.doc DLtalkingpoints03.doc

Contact: Melinda K. Lewis, 913-677-0100, mlewis@elcentroinc.com; Sulma Arias, (316) 264-9972

7. CHCI PROGRAMS APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

The CHCI Summer Internship Program (June-August) provides 30 undergraduates from across the country, including Puerto Rico, the opportunity to spend two months in Washington, DC, working for a Member of Congress, getting a "behind the scenes" look at how U.S. government functions. Interns receive a \$2,000 stipend, roundtrip transportation, and housing in a university dormitory. Postmark deadline is January 31, 2004.

Attached is the 2004 application for the internship program.



04 internship app.pdf

Contact: Rocio Gandara-Briones, (202) 543-1771 or (800) EXCEL-DC, rgandara@chci.org

8. ARTICLE: NEW HOPE ON IMMIGRATION

NY Times Editorial

12/15/03

www.nytimes.com/2003/12/15/opinion/15MON2.html?th

Without more detail, it was hard to determine, exactly, what Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge meant when he called for an ambitious plan to give millions of illegal immigrants some kind of legal status. But his candid comments in Miami last Tuesday, which apparently caught the White House off guard, offer the first hopeful sign since the World Trade Center attack that the Bush Administration is returning to immigration reform.

For over two years now, the White House has been virtually silent about how to relieve an immigration mess that has been building for nearly 20 years. Because the 9/11 terrorists were foreigners, talk about immigration shifted to the security of our borders. That concern was understandable, but it stalled a bipartisan effort to deal with the 8 million to 10 million illegal immigrants who live, work and even pay taxes in this country.

The United States is plainly conflicted about these illegal immigrants. We work to keep them from crossing our borders. But we take advantage of those who make it by giving them some of the toughest, lowest-paying jobs, like harvesting crops, cleaning hotel rooms or busing tables.

A few members of Congress are working on this convoluted issue. The "Ag-jobs" bill would start giving temporary legal status to 500,000 workers from Mexico and elsewhere, as a step toward offering more opportunities for legal farm jobs. The "Dream Act" would allow children of illegal aliens who are raised in the United States to pay in-state tuition rates at public colleges. Neither bill is a solution, but they would both be improvements and deserve the administration's backing. Another idea, to make police and even hospital workers turn in people they believe might be illegal, is less helpful. Immigrants should not be scared away from seeing a doctor or reporting a crime.

There are many reasons to give the nation's illegal immigrants some legal status, and national security is one of them. Mr. Ridge and his staff want to know who these people are and whether they pose a risk. But those who now survive in secret will not emerge unless they get assurances that at least some can, through some new route, become citizens. It will be complicated, since they can't jump ahead of those already in line legally. But the White House needs to begin working on the problem, and it's good to hear Mr. Ridge at least bring the matter up.

9. THE NEW AMERICANS: TRAINING AND ORIENTATION TO VIDEO SERIES

The New Americans is a video series produced by the makers of Hoop Dreams that PBS stations nationwide, including KCPT, our local affiliate, will be airing in March. In conjunction with this airing, Active Voice has created three modules, "Supporting Families," "Building Bridges," and "Finding Community" that organizations can use to build momentum for the March premiere and, more importantly, to spark important new understandings and conversations about issues of diversity, inclusion, and justice for immigrants and refugees.

The series highlights the lives of several immigrant families from Mexico, India, Nigeria, Palestine, and the Dominican Republic. The Mexican family actually spends some time in Garden City, Kansas. The modules are accompanied by facilitator guides that help to bring out some of the themes from the videos and help participants talk about their reactions and their own experiences. And, thanks to the generosity of the Jewish Vocational Services, the lead partner for Active Voice in Kansas City, organizations in this area can also get a free screening of one of the modules and training about how to use it and the other modules in your community-building, education, and/or outreach work.

This training will be held in January and is tentatively scheduled for January 20 or 21 (it will be a four-hour training, with lunch provided).

Contact: Rebecca Dye, 816-471-2808, rdye@jvskc.org.

10. COLLABORATIVE UPDATES FROM YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED

Please see the attached document for upcoming collaborative meetings, grant information, employment opportunities, and more.



December 12.doc

Contact: Shawna Davis, 913-722-1115, shawna@youinwyco.org

11. KC STAR ARTICLE: EDUCATING IMMIGRANTS BENEFITS ALL

Posted on Tue, Dec. 16, 2003
Educating Immigrants Benefits All
By Angela Ferguson
Special to The Star

www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/7499409.htm

Education is the cornerstone of American society. It is the true equalizer in this country where anyone who wants to go to school and work to realize their true potential can do so.

Everyone, that is, except the 50,000-65,000 high school graduates who annually are unable to continue their education because they were born to parents who immigrated to this country illegally.

This number is actually much higher when you factor in those who realize the futility of continuing their studies and drop out of school. These students have done nothing wrong and yet they are being severely punished. Not only are these students suffering, but we as a society are also suffering.

These children of undocumented immigrants are suffering because they are unable to realize their full potential. And we Americans are suffering because we are unable to realize the benefits to society that could be produced by these children.

Among these children who are denied the opportunity to continue their studies could be the person who one day would find a cure for cancer, AIDS or another horrible disease. Another could be responsible for a major innovation in the field of transportation, communication, or even the debate about whether there is life on Mars.

But even if none of these children were able to achieve anything as grandiose as this, they would still be able to contribute to society if they were allowed to continue their education and one day obtain a decent job and realize a moderate standard of living. This would be a major benefit to our society as these individuals would be contributing tax revenues to our state and national treasuries.

Allowing children of undocumented immigrants to continue their studies after high school makes good financial sense for two reasons. First, this would prevent our government from having to spend so much on social service and law enforcement issues that are directly caused by this denial of higher education.

Second, this would allow these children the opportunity to reach their full potential and contribute much-needed tax dollars into national and state coffers.

So not only would less money be going out from our national and state treasuries, but in the long run, more money also would be coming in. That is why we need to contact our elected officials and encourage them to pass meaningful legislation so that these children can realize their full potential ? something that would be of great benefit to us all.

Senators should be encouraged to support a clean version of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (SB 1545) and representatives should be encouraged to support the Student Adjustment Act (HR 1684).

All Americans are encouraged to take a few minutes to ask their elected officials to support this very important issue.

Angela Ferguson is an immigration attorney who lives in Raytown.

12. UPCOMING PROGRAM: UNDERSTANDING HEALTH OF U.S. YOUTH IN COMPARISON TO YOUTH IN OTHER COUNTRIES

The MCH Information Resource Center is pleased to announce that the DataSpeak entitled "U. S. Teens in our World: Understanding the Health of U.S. Youth in Comparison to Youth in Other Countries," originally scheduled for September, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2004, 2 p.m. eastern time.

This DataSpeak program will provide an overview of health and well-being among U.S. adolescents in relation to adolescents from other countries, as highlighted in a new chartbook developed by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) entitled "U.S. Teens in Our World: Understanding the Health of U.S. Youth in Comparison to Youth in Other Countries." The report is based on data from the international Health Behavior in School-aged Children (HBSC) study.

To register for this program, visit the DataSpeak web site at: <http://www.mchirc.net/dataspeak/>

Contact: 202-842-2000, mchirc@hsrnet.com

13. NOMINATIONS NEEDED: HISPANIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR MISSOURI

Please review the list below and recommend individuals for the Hispanic Affairs Commission for Missouri. Specific goals have not been formally outlined at this point, but criteria for commissioners are listed below:

1. Registered voter
2. Over 21
3. Knowledgeable of the state's Hispanic issues, local issues
5. Three year terms (two consecutive terms allowed)
6. Need for both urban and rural candidates (four will be from KC and four from St. Louis - unclear if St. Louis will have a specific number as well), others from central Missouri and out laying areas

The meeting locations may initially be in Jefferson City; however, the hope is to rotate to various locations throughout the state.

If you or others would like to be considered, please forward a resume and bio to estebanc@umkc.edu or fax to the Coalition of Hispanic Organizations (COHO) office, 816-920-7668. The COHO office will review the candidates and forward the names to Governor Holden's office the first week in January. This is an opportunity to provide information, advocacy, and public awareness to all Missourians regarding the needs and contribution of Hispanics in Missouri.

Contact: Christina Esteban, 816-235-6286, estebanc@umkc.edu <mailto:estebanc@umkc.edu>

14. GRANT INFORMATION

www.Grants.Gov Web Site Offers One-Stop Shopping for Information on Applying for All Federal Grants

Site Supports President's E-Gov Initiative by Improving Grant Application Process

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson today unveiled a single, comprehensive Web site that will contain information about finding and applying for all federal grant programs.

The Web site, Grants.gov, makes it easier for organizations to learn about and apply for federal grants. Its launch marks an important milestone in President Bush's Electronic Government (E-Gov) Initiative.

"For the first time, there will be a single government-wide source for information about grants programs across the federal government," Secretary Thompson said. "By putting relevant information in one place, we're helping to level the playing field for organizations less familiar with federal grant programs so that they too can identify and apply for appropriate grants."

Grants.gov is a key element of President Bush's E-Gov initiative, which aims at harnessing Internet-based technology to make it easy for citizens and businesses to interact with the government, save taxpayer dollars and streamline citizen-to-government communications.

The White House Office for Management and Budget named HHS as the lead agency for this Grants.gov initiative. HHS awards more than half of all the competitive grants across the federal government.

"President Bush has made it a priority for his administration to provide government information and applications in ways that are more accessible and easier to understand," OMB Director Joshua Bolten said. "Grants.gov is a strong step forward in that effort, as it makes the federal grant-making process simpler and more efficient for applicants. The launch of this important Web site is a milestone in progress on the President's Management Agenda."

HHS led the development of the cross-agency Web site, which now has information about more than 800 available grant programs involving all 26 federal grant-making agencies. These agencies together award more than \$360 billion in grant funds. The site provides information in a standardized format across agencies and includes a "Find Grant Opportunities" feature to help applicants find potential funding opportunities.

The site also contains an "Apply for Grants" feature that greatly simplifies the application process by allowing applicants to download, complete and submit applications for specific grant opportunities from any federal grant-making agency.

To date, application packages have been posted to the Grants.gov Web site by five agencies -- the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Education, Energy, Justice and HHS. This section will be expanded in the coming months as federal agencies continue to post application information about additional grant opportunities.

The site has been developed with extensive input from organizations that apply for and receive federal grants to maximize its potential to simplify the process and meet the needs of the grant community.

Grants.gov is a collaborative effort involving HHS and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Labor and Transportation, as well as the National Science Foundation.

More information about Grants.gov is available at www.grants.gov. More information about the President's E-Gov Initiative is available at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov.

15. MALDEF LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND ACTION ALERT

Please see the attached document for details.

Contact: Marisa Demeo, 202-293-2828, mdemeo@maldef.org <<mailto:mdemeo@maldef.org>>



DC December
egislative Update...

16. ARTICLE: CENSUS ESTIMATES 9 MILLION MEXICANS ARE ESTABLISHED U.S.

José Carreño
El Universal
12-18-03 18

31.1 million foreign residents in U.S AND 9,177,487 are Mexican, according to the 2000 Census report published yesterday.

Mexico has the largest number of Mexicans in the U.S. followed by China (1.5 million), Philippines (1.36 million), and India (1million).

51.7 percent of foreign residents are from Latin America. Some regions in the U.S. increased their population by more than 200 percent; North Carolina-274 percent, GA, 233 percent; and Nevada, 202 percent.

California has 8.9 million foreign residents, New York 3.9 million and Texas 2.9 million.

More than half of the foreign residents, 18.6 or 59.7 percent, have not become naturalized citizens.

No report between legal and undocumented people.

17. YOUR RESPONSE REQUESTED: DRAFT REPORT - STATE OF MISSOURI'S WORKFORCE

In January of 2003, Governor Holden asked the Missouri Training and Employment Council (MTEC) to assess the state of Missouri's workforce, identify the essential and technical skills needed by business and industry, and make recommendations for improving the workforce investment system. To assist in this effort, the Council contracted with the nationally recognized Corporation for a Skilled Workforce. Over the past year over sixty workforce investment system practitioners, business and labor leaders have worked with the consultant to evaluate Missouri's status based on Comparative Workforce Indicators, among other factors.

The draft report on The State of Missouri's Workforce has been refined based on proposed changes recently received from MTEC. We have shortened the Web address to improve accessibility: www.ded.mo.gov/employment/mtec.

We are soliciting public feedback through January 5th. We encourage you to share the draft with your colleagues and constituents and ask that they respond with suggestions for improving the document. Please use the Web site e-mail link for sending your comments and suggestions.

In response to the Governor's call for identification of the essential and technical skills needed by business and industry, MTEC has recommended a set of standards: If Missouri is to be competitive in the 21st Century economy, the State must adopt an adaptation of nationally recognized skills standards, such as, National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI), Competency-Based Curriculum (DESE Profiles), National Institute for Metalworking (NIMS), Work Keys(r), etc.

The final report on The State of Missouri's Workforce will be a suite of products that includes an executive summary, full report, performance scorecard, comparative workforce indicators and education appendix. The executive summary will be printed in a format, similar to the MTEC policy brochure. The balance of the suite of products will be included as a CD attached to the executive summary. The report should be published by the end of January.

After reviewing Missouri's Comparative Indicators, the Missouri Training and Employment Council and the Missouri Workforce Policy Academy Team have approved recommendations/strategies for the workforce investment system that focus on three areas:

--Education and Training - Education/training can provide Missouri a competitive edge in the 21st Century economy or be the State's weakness. Missouri's focus should be on improving literacy and the competencies (skills) of its citizens, as well as building powerful business/education partnerships.

--Business-Based Solutions - Local Workforce Investment Boards must conduct regional supply/demand gap analyses to identify the needs of business and industry, identify targeted industries/occupations and develop regional state of the workforce reports that include business-based strategies.

--Performance Accountability - The workforce investment system must be accountable to the public. Missouri's system accountability scorecard will include both "leading" and "lagging" performance indicators that reflect the performance of the education system, Missouri Career Centers and the economic system.

Contact: David D. Mitchem, 573-526-3880, david.mitchem@ded.mo.gov
<<mailto:david.mitchem@ded.mo.gov>>

18. CHILD ADVOCACY DAY

There are many ways to get involved in Child Advocacy Day this year including: highlighting the work of your organization with an exhibit in the Capitol (see attached exhibit form), nominating an outstanding individual for Child Advocate of the Year, signing on as an organizational sponsor of Child Advocacy Day, and coordinating a local group to travel to Child Advocacy Day. Rather than include many attachments to this email please visit our website to print out the necessary forms and to get more information on how to participate.

www.mokids.org/childadvocacyday.htm



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Contact: Elizabeth Gaines, 314-647-2003 ext. 207, egaines@mokids.org