

# LATINO AMERICAN COMMISSION

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**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Latino - American Commission is to serve as a voice in the Nebraska State Government for Latino Americans/ Latinos.

**Vision Statement:** The vision of the Latino - American Commission is to empower the Latino Community through a pro-active approach to issues that affect their access to educational, political, economical and social opportunities in Nebraska.

## 2017 Nebraska Legislative Session Update

The 2017 Legislative Session was from January 4 to May 23. The Legislative Bills listed below have been updated, and are current as of June 2, 2017. Some are subject to change:

- LB 14 (Krist) - Require successful completion of a civics examination as a prerequisite to high school graduation, still in Referral;
- LB 18 (Kolterman) - Change licensure and scope of practice for dental assistants and dental hygienists, signed into law by the Governor on March 29;
- LB 22 (Speaker Scheer) - Provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to appropriations and reduce appropriations, signed into law by the Governor on February 15;
- LB 23 (Speaker Scheer) - Provide for transfers and terminate funds, still in Referral;
- LB 24 (Speaker Scheer) - Change provisions to Cash Reserve Fund, still in Referral;
- LB 26 (Murante) - Change service requirements for harassment protection orders, still in Referral;
- LB 37 (Harr) - Adopt the Uniform Wage Garnishment Act, still in Referral;
- LB 47 (Watermeier) - Change provisions relating to the payment of fees and costs associated with grand juries and the deaths of incarcerated persons, still in Referral;
- LB 53 (Schumacher) - Change provisions relating to mandatory minimum sentencing and sentencing of habitual criminals, still in Referral;
- LB 57 (Morfeld) - Adopt the Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act and change provisions relating to perjury, signed into law by the Governor on March 29, 2017;
- LB 60 (Lindstrom) - Change Parenting Act provisions relating to limitation or denial of custody or access to a child, still in Referral;
- LB 61 (Kolterman) - Adopt Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 63 (Speaker Scheer) - Eliminate a sales and use tax exemption relating to political event, signed into law by the Governor on May 10, 2017;
- LB 64 (Hansen) - Adopt the Adrenal Insufficiency Diagnosis Information and Support Act, still in Referral;
- LB 65 (Hansen) - Provide income tax credits for caregivers, still in Referral;
- LB 70 (Pansing-Brooks) - Change provisions relating to operator's license revocation, still in Referral;
- LB 75 (Wayne) - Provide for restoration of voting rights upon completion of a felony sentence or probation for a felony, vetoed by the Governor;
- LB 76 (Wayne) - Require notice for Secretary of State regarding completion of felony sentence for purposes of voting rights, still in Referral;
- LB 82 (Blood) - Require the Department of Motor Vehicles to include certain traffic stop safety information in Driver's Manual, still in Referral;
- LB 85 (Blood) - Provide a requirement for persons seeking appointive or elective office as prescribed and to provide a duty for the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, signed into law by the Governor on March 29, 2017;
- LB 91 (Hilkemann) - Change provisions to infant health screenings, signed into law by the Governor on April 27, 2017;
- LB 92 (Kolterman) - Require health carriers to provide coverage for certain services delivered through telehealth services and change telehealth provisions relating to children's behavioral health, signed into law by the Governor on April 27, 2017;
- LB 111 (Hansen) - Provide nonpartisan election of county officers, still in Referral;
- LB 112 (Hansen) - Permit registered voters moving within Nebraska without reregistering to vote provisionally, still in Referral;
- LB 120 (Schumacher) - Provide for Medical Assistance Act coverage for family planning services as prescribed, still in Referral;
- LB 123 (Pansing-Brooks) - Provide for reimbursement when certain postsecondary institutions terminate operations, still in Referral;
- LB 127 (Groene) - Edit notice requirements of Open Meetings Act, placed in General File;
- LB 129 (Morfeld) - Increase the earned income tax credit, still in Referral;

[Continued on Page 4](#)



Lazaro Arturo Spindola  
NLAC Executive Director

## Latino American Commission Commissioners

- Adrian Sanchez (Chair)**
- Daniel Castillo (Vice Chair)**
- Deyanira Salgado (Secretary)**
- Norma de la O**
- Adriana Carvajal-Rodriguez**
- Chabella Guzman**
- Aida Olivas**
- Adolfo “Danny” Reynaga**
- Leticia Rodriguez**
- Maria Valentin**

## NLAC Staff

- Lazaro Arturo Spindola, M.D.**  
Executive Director
- Jasel Cantu**  
Public Information Officer
- Dora Lima**  
Staff Assistant

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[www.latinoac.nebraska.gov](http://www.latinoac.nebraska.gov)

## A Message from the Executive Director

The 2017 Legislative Session will end in May instead of June 2nd as previously planned.

In our previous newsletter, we provided a list of Legislative Bills and Resolutions that we testified on or closely followed. You can find an update to that list of Bills and Resolutions in this newsletter and see what happened to them. Just because the Session ended does not mean that our work is done. You can still contact your elected official and tell them where you stand on an issue, and you inquire what will be done on issues or Bills that did not pass this Session. Many of them you will see again next year, such as Medicaid expansion and human trafficking-related bills.

You are welcome to contact us if there is a particular bill or issue you want to discuss. You can contact us via phone at (402) 471-2791 or [Latino.info@Nebraska.gov](mailto:Latino.info@Nebraska.gov).

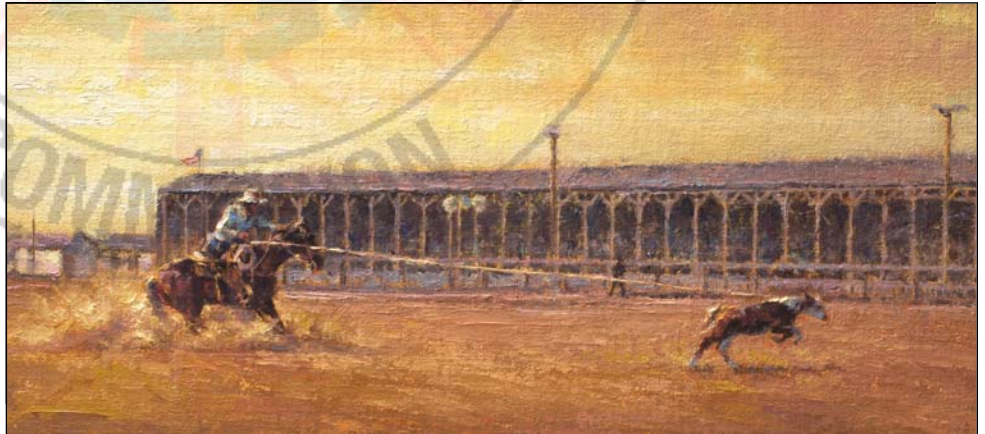
I regret to inform you that after five years of working for the Commission, our Public Information Officer, Jasel Cantu, will be leaving us. Jasel and her husband are moving to Colorado in pursuit of new opportunities, during these five years, Jasel has been instrumental in the success of the Latino Summit, the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration and the Dia de los Muertos exhibit. Jasel has also been actively involved in the Human Trafficking Task Force and several more Commission activities. Jasel will be sorely missed and we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

With Jasel’s absence we are looking for a highly talented individual to become our new Public Information Officer. We are looking for someone with a degree and background in Journalism, Marketing, Public Relations, English, Global Studies or Latin American/Chicano Studies. I do advise that we are expecting to review portfolios of work during the interview process. If you are a recent college/university graduate, your coursework, internships and student projects may be included in your portfolio as work experience.

If you are interested, or have questions about this position, please contact me at [lazaro.spindola@nebraska.gov](mailto:lazaro.spindola@nebraska.gov) and I can discuss this with you.

Lazaro Spindola  
Executive Director – Latino American Commission

## NE 150 Celebration Painting



This year marks the 150th birthday of the state of Nebraska. As part of the 150 celebration, Nebraska artist Todd A. Williams created a series of 93 oil paintings to commemorate each county within Nebraska. Each painting depicts a scene of historical significance to the represented county that is vital to making Nebraska the state it is today. Williams painted the image (above) of vaquero Juan Salinas participating at Nebraska’s Big Rodeo in 1938 to represent Garfield County. This painting will be on display for the 2017 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibit from Oct. 1 to Oct. 15, 2017 on the first floor of the State Capitol Building. This painting will also travel with the Legacy of Nebraska paintings across the state in 2017 and 2018. A copy of the tour schedule is available at: <https://ne150.org/todd-williams/>

# Welcome, Commissioner Carvajal-Rodriguez

Adriana Carvajal-Rodriguez of Lincoln has been appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts to serve on the Latino American Commission's Board of Commissioners.

Carvajal-Rodriguez replaces Commissioner Jack Gutierrez who served as Commissioner since his appointment in 2013.

She is a Senior Staff Accountant at HBE Becker, Meyer Love LLP in Lincoln. Her work includes preparing federal and state income tax, personal property tax returns and examining business financial records to help businesses with tax preparation.



*Adriana Carvajal-Rodriguez*

Carvajal-Rodriguez immigrated to College Station, Texas from Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, with her family in June 1989. She took care of her children, Oscar Jr. and Adriana, while her husband, Oscar Rodriguez, was earning his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at Texas A&M University.

During this time, she started to volunteer in her local community. She helped her local church with Bible study, with reading programs at her children's school and with the Boy Scouts of America where Oscar Jr. became a Boy Scout.

"I was a member of the Board of Review, interviewing scouts that appeared before the board to be examined before moving to the next rank. I was involved with this organization from 2000 to 2012, until my son earned his Eagle Scout badge," she said.

After 13 years of being a stay-at-home mother, Carvajal-Rodriguez returned to the workforce as an accountant. She had received her bachelor's in science degree in accounting from Universidad Autonoma del Noreste, in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, in 1982.

To work as an accountant in the U.S., she earned her bachelor's of science equivalence in accounting by Josef Silny & Associates, Inc.

International Education Consultants, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, on Dec. 27, 2007.

"After moving so frequently, I lived in four different states (Texas, Florida, Idaho and Indiana) during the past 15 years, I am enjoying settling in Lincoln, Neb., where I have felt so welcomed. I moved to Lincoln in June 2014 and started working in November," she said.

Adriana graduated from Florida State University in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology. Oscar Jr., is currently a senior at University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) majoring in Mechanized Systems Management.

Her husband, Oscar Rodriguez, Ph.D. is a research professor at UNL's Dept. of Agronomy & Horticulture.

Even though she has re-entered the workforce, she still makes the time to volunteer in her local community in Lincoln.

"I started to look for opportunities to be involved in the community. The following year, I became a board member of the Haymarket Theatre (July 2015), and have been there since then," she said.

Carvajal-Rodriguez believes her past experiences will help her in her new role as a Commissioner:

"When I learned that it was an opening to apply for the Commission on Latino-Americans, I did not hesitate to submit my application. This is a great opportunity and I am honored to have been appointed by the Governor as a member of the Commission on Latino-Americans," said Carvajal-Rodriguez. "As a Mexican, a wife, a mother and professional, I know firsthand all the obstacles we encounter living in this great country. I look forward to make a contribution and serve to the Hispanic/Latino community as we work together to help the needs of our community."

## Center for Rural Affairs Honors Commissioner Olivas

The Center for Rural Affairs honored NLAC Commissioner Aida Olivas of Hastings with the 2016 Bob Steffen Pioneer Award on March 10 in York.

"Aida's main goal in her community is to make sure everyone has what they need and knows how to access the services they require," said Kathie Starkweather, Center for Rural Affairs' Farm and Community Program director. "She goes above and beyond to be a resource for migrant workers and new Americans on everything from where to get water and food to how to open a business."

Olivas serves on the migrant staff at Head Start in Hastings.

She arrived in Hastings from Mexico more than 20 years ago with her two young children. Since then, she has worked to overcome the challenges of learning the language and navigating the culture.



*Aida Olivas with her Steffen Pioneer Award.*

With Olivas' help, a team of community leaders was formed in Hastings to promote the values of intercultural understanding and inclusion. The team regularly meets to encourage inclusive practices, identify existing barriers to inclusion and promote easy and straightforward access to city services and programs.

More local women entrepreneurs were also awarded at the ceremony.

Ana Gonzalez was awarded Latino Business Center Entrepreneur of the Year, and Sandra Barrera (both of Grand Island) was awarded the 2016 Latino Business Center Partner of the Year.

Olivas recently ran for the Hastings school board. She was unsuccessful, but will continue to pursue elected office. NLAC extends their congratulations to Commissioner Olivas for her achievement.

# Nebraska 2017 Legislation Continued...

- LB 139 (Crawford)-Change nonpartisan election of county officers, still in Referral;
- LB 145 (Hansen) - Provide for a hearing to determine financial ability to pay fines and costs and traffic citations and provide for community service, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 163 (Vargas) - Require additional polling places prior to elections in certain counties, still in Referral;
- LB 169 (Wayne) - Exempt social security benefits and retirement income from income taxation, still in Referral;
- LB 173 (Morfeld) - Prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity, placed in General File;
- LB 175 (Morfeld) - Adopt Student Online Personal Protection Act, still in Referral;
- LB 178 (Bolz) - Provide for sexual assault protection order, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 183 (Hughes) - Authorize change of nomination and election provisions for county officers, still in Referral;
- LB 191 (Pansing-Brooks) - Provide for renewals of domestic violence protection orders, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 195 (Craighead) - Require notification following mammography, signed into law by the Governor on April 26, 2017;
- LB 233 (Smith) - Change revenue and taxation provisions, placed in General File;
- LB 258 (Hansen) - Provide opportunity for inmates to obtain state identification card or driver's license before discharge, placed in General File;
- LB 260 (Hansen) - Provide for state food insecurity nutrition incentive grant program and state intent regarding appropriations, still in Referral;
- LB 267 (Linehan) - Change provisions relating to onsite vaccinations at health care facilities, signed into law by the Governor on April 27, 2017;
- LB 272 (Vargas) - Change procedures for tax credits under the Nebraska Job Creation & Main Street Revitalization Act, still in Referral;
- LB 283 (Riepe) - Change and eliminate provisions relating to licensed practical nurses, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 285 (Linehan) - Change and eliminate provisions to HIV testing, placed in General File;
- LB 289 (Pansing-Brooks) - Change provisions and penalties relating to pandering, human trafficking, labor trafficking, and sex trafficking and prohibit solicitation of a trafficking victim, signed into law by the Governor on May 22, 2017;
- LB 290 (Vargas) - Modernizes voter registration to sync with eligible applications at the Depts. Of Motor Vehicles, Education, and Health & Human Services, still in Referral;
- LB 295 (Smith) - Adopt the Opportunity Scholarships Act and provide tax credits, placed in General File;
- LB 308 (Brasch) - Provisions relating to Americanism committee, still in Referral;
- LB 407 (Pansing-Brooks) - Create and provide duties for the Whiteclay Public Health Emergency Task Force, signed into law by the Governor on April 27, 2017;
- LB 416 (Vargas) - Appropriate funds to Dept. of Labor and make changes to uses of the Employment Security Administration Fund, still in Referral;
- LB 417 (Riepe) - Change and eliminate provisions relating to public health and welfare, signed into law by the Governor on April 27, 2017;
- LB 420 (McCollister) - Adopt the Fair Chance Hiring Act, placed in General File;
- LB 425 (Crawford) - Change and eliminate provisions relating to

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## 2017 Cesar Chavez Day & Farmworker Awareness Week Proclamations in Nebraska



*Lt. Governor Foley presented Proclamations on March 8 to recognize March 31, 2017 as Cesar Chavez Day and March 24th to March 31st, 2017 as Farmworkers Awareness Week in Nebraska. At the ceremony, from left to right, a Lincoln community member, Vicar Santi Keinbaum of Lincoln's Christ Lutheran Church, Jody Stutzman of Proteus, Inc., Lt. Governor Foley, NLAC Director Arturo Spindola, NLAC PIO Jasel Cantu, Susan Rabick of Proteus, Inc. and NLAC Commissioner Deyanira Salgado from the Dept. of Labor. (Right) Christ Lutheran Church delivered more than 100 long-sleeved shirts collected for the Proteus, Inc. Farmworker Shirt Drive.*



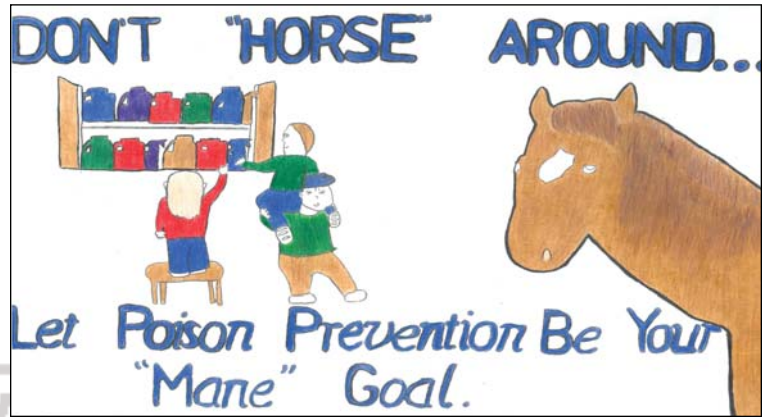
# Latina Students Win 2017 State Poster Contests

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) announced the winners of their annual youth poster contest in observance of National Ag Day on March 21st. The contest, open to first through sixth grade students in Nebraska, featured the theme "Good Life, Great Roots," and received over 1,850 entries.

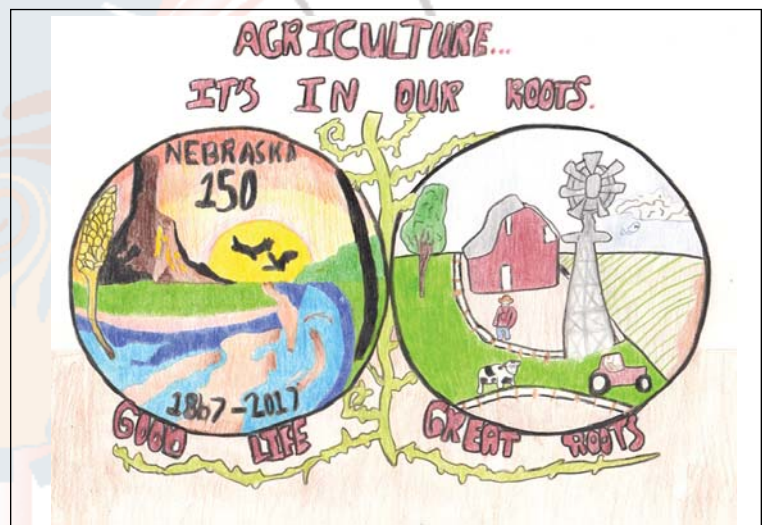
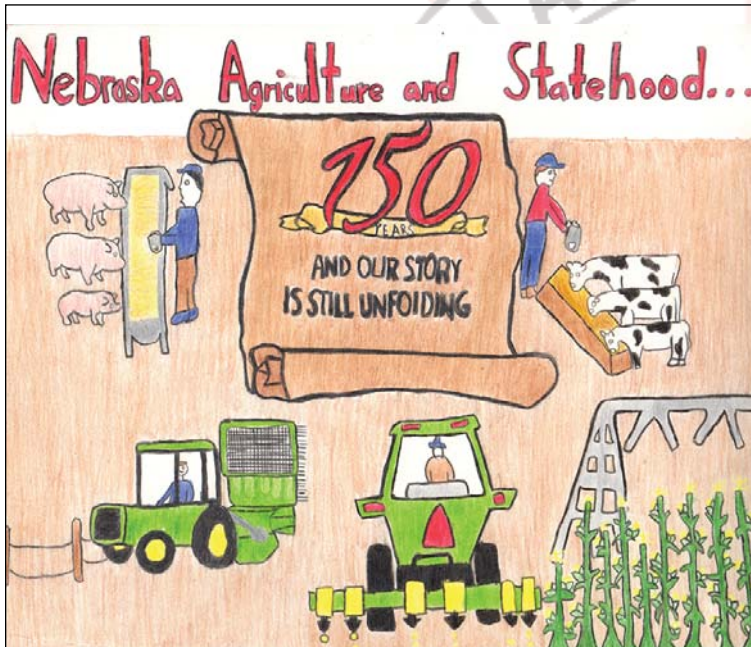
The posters were judged in three separate categories: 1st-2nd grade, 3rd-4th grade, and 5th-6th grade divisions. Out of the 12 winners, two were Latina students from Knickrehm Elementary in Grand Island: Daisy Villatoro won first place and Bryana Vargas-Paiz won second place, both in the 5th grade division.

The winning students received a certificate signed by Governor Pete Ricketts and NDA Director Greg Ibach.

Bryana Vargas-Paiz would also win the poster contest for National Poison Week sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Poison Center.



Above: Winning poster for National Poison Week by Bryana Vargas-Paiz, a fifth grader from Knickrehm Elementary, Grand Island. Below Left: Bryana's second-place winning poster in the fifth-sixth grade division for National Ag Week. Below: National Ag Week first-place winning poster in the fifth-sixth grade division by Daisy Villatoro, a fifth grader at Knickrehm Elementary, Grand Island.



## Nebraska 2017 Legislation Continued...

- the Nurse Practitioner Practice Act, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 427 (Vargas) - Require breast-feeding accommodations to student parents, signed into law by the Governor on May 8, 2017;
- LB 428 (Vargas) - Direct school districts to develop and implement an absence policy that accommodates student parents, placed in General File;
- LB 447 (Chambers) - Change penalty provisions relating to criminal conspiracy and certain drug-related offenses, placed in Select File;
- LB 505 (Brewer) - Adopt Refugee Resettlement Notification Act, still in Referral;
- LB 534 (Vargas) - Provides funding for a statewide housing coordinator to support regional behavioral health districts, still in Referral;
- LB 595 (Groene) - Provide for the use of physical force or physical restraint or removal from a class in response to student behavior, placed in General File;

- LB 608 (Linehan) - Adopt the Parental Choice Scholarship Program, still in Referral; and
- LB 653 (Murante) - Adopt the Redistricting Act, still in Referral.

The following is an updated list of Legislative Resolutions NLAC has testified on or is following (Supported LR 26 and Opposed LR 1CA):

- LR 28 (McDonnell) - Interim study to research how the state and each of the counties handle, process, and test sexual assault evidence collection kits, still in Referral;
- LR 15CA (Morfeld) - Constitutional amendment prohibiting requiring a voter to present identification prior to voting, still in Referral;
- LR 26 (Vargas) - Oppose federal action rescinding DACA, signed by Speaker of the House on May 16, 2017; and
- LR 1CA (Murante) - Constitutional amendment to require voter identification, placed on General File.

# Pieces of Nebraskan Hispanic/Latino History

## Mexican Migration to Nebraska: 1900-1940

The following was written by Dr. Ralph F. Grajeda and published in "Nuestros Tesoros (Our Treasures): A Celebration of Nebraska's Mexican Heritage / Una celebración de la herencia mexicana de Nebraska," a special publication by the Nebraska Historical Society, Humanities Nebraska and the Mexican-American Commission in 1998. To view the entire publication, visit: <http://nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/whadoin/mexampub/index.htm> The Nebraska State Historical Society has granted permission for reprinting information.

A majority of Mexican-Americans in the Midwest are descendants of parents and grandparents who were part of two massive migration waves: the first from 1900 to 1920, and the second from 1920 to 1930.

Very few Mexicans lived in the Central Plains states prior to 1900. According to an early study of Mexican immigration to the United States, there were only 27 Mexicans living in Nebraska. By 1910, the Mexican-immigrant population had increased to 3,611 people.

The event in Mexico that pushed people to the north was the Mexican Revolution during the period of 1910 to 1920.

The major attracting force that pulled Mexican immigrant north was the economic development in the southwestern part of the United States at this same time, and its corresponding need for cheap labor.

In 1897, the U.S. Congress imposed a 75 percent tax on the importation of foreign sugar, thus encouraging the development of the U.S. sugar beet industry. Hence, by 1906, sugar beet acreage in the U.S. had more than tripled from the 135,000 acres planted in 1900. By 1920 that acreage had increased to 872,000, with the Great Plains region (which includes the North Platte Valley in Wyoming and western Nebraska) producing 64 percent of the total crop grown in the U.S.

From 1923 to 1932, Nebraska ranked second in the U.S., behind Colorado, in annual sugar beet acreage (74,000 acres), and first in the nation in yield-per-acre (12.7 tons). The increased need for beet laborers were met by the regular and methodical recruiting of Mexican agricultural workers.

The first of the Mexican railroad section-hands responded to railroad recruiters and crossed the border at El Paso in 1900. Living in boxcars, they began to establish small boxcar and tent communities that since have become the community *barrios* throughout the Southwest and the Midwest.

By 1906 several carloads of workers a week were moving into southern California, establishing *colonias*, and then reloading for movement to locations in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Kansas, and Nebraska. In 1908, 16,000 Mexicans were recruited in El Paso alone for railroad work. By 1910, every month 2,000 workers were crossing the border for railroad work.

To this day there remain a few remaining Mexican elders who, in fact, came to Nebraska through Kansas City as railroad workers for the Union



Victoria de Ortiz and her daughter pose for the Lincoln Star (now Lincoln Journal Star) newspaper on Sept. 26, 1920 for an article on her journey to Nebraska to escape from the Mexican Revolution. Photo courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society and reprinted with permission.

Pacific and the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe. Across the breadth of the state (Sidney, Scottsbluff, Ogallala, North Platte, Kearney, Grand Island, Lincoln, and Omaha) one can find Mexican-Americans whose grandfathers or other male relatives worked as railroad section-hands.

Others came to the slaughter and meat-packing plants in Omaha. In 1920, there were 682 Mexicans in Omaha; in 1923 there were about 1,000. They lived in South Omaha, close to three meat-packing plants.

Still others, particularly in the western part of the state, began work in the sugar beet fields around 1914, more than a decade after original experimentation with the raising of sugar beets in Hall County by the University of Nebraska. In 1905, there were only 250 acres of sugar beets in the entire North Platte Valley. In 1906, the Great Western Sugar Company started raising beets in that part of the state, and in just two years the increase in acreage warranted the building of a factory. It was during this time that the Ames factory was moved to Scottsbluff, and enlarged, making Scotts Bluff County the top sugar beet-producing county in Nebraska.

Many of the beet workers came originally to the North Platte Valley as railroad hands, and then changed jobs as more and more field work became available. After 1920 many came unassisted as *betabeleros* (beet workers). Many more were recruited by the Great Western Sugar Company. In 1915, the Company recruited and transported 500 workers into its Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Nebraska sugar beet territory. By 1920, this figure had increased to more than 13,000. In 1926, the Great Western Sugar Company provided transportation for 14,500 people, employed 55 labor agents, and sent out advertising materials consisting of thousands of booklets, cardboard posters, hand bills, newspaper advertisements and calendars—all in Spanish.

In Scottsbluff, a community developed near the Great Western Sugar refinery on land formerly owned by the factory and sold to individual families. To this day, that area remains the Mexican-American *barrio* in that city, bordered on the north by East Overland Drive, and on the south by South Beltline Road between Fifth and Fifteenth Avenues.

## Upcoming Events

- **Legislative Session: May 23**  
Last Day of Nebraska Legislative Session
- **Holiday: May 29**  
Memorial Day
- **Exhibit: April 28-June 30**  
“Pan” Exhibit, El Museo Latino, Omaha
- **Holiday: July 4**  
Independence Day
- **Proclamation: July 10**  
Dr. Hector Garcia Day, Lincoln
- **Meeting: June 17**  
NLAC Spring Quarterly Meeting, Lincoln
- **Holiday: July 4**  
Independence Day
- **Holiday: September 4**  
Labor Day

## Contact Information

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[www.pinterest.com/nlacommission](https://www.pinterest.com/nlacommission)



# 2017 Latino Summit Registration & Scholarship

The 2017 Latino Summit will be taking place on Monday, October 16, 2017 at the Younes Conference Center at 416 Talmadge Road in Kearney, Nebraska.

The Latino Summit is an all-day educational conference open to high school students in Nebraska and features a Keynote Speaker, break-out sessions and lunch. The purpose is to encourage high school graduation and offer information, advice and tips on college readiness. There will be several college representatives at the Summit accepting applications and answering questions.

The breakout sessions provide information on financial aid, college programs and career panels.

This Summit will be the second year a scholarship will be offered for eligible high school seniors and juniors who plan to graduate in 2018. Last year, the scholarships were \$250 to \$500, this year they will be raised to 10 scholarships each worth \$1,000.

In addition, NLAC and the Dept. of Education would like to recognize Latino student leaders with the Gallery of Stars. School staff are encouraged to nominate 3 to 5 juniors or seniors who have shown strong leadership skills and goals for educational success. Students can be nominated by school staff members and their leadership may be in the classroom, community, and/or extracurricular activities, etc. Nomination forms can be found at <http://www.latinosummit.org/>

Students selected for the Gallery of Stars will have their biography and photograph featured in a slideshow that will play during lunch and will be included in a commemorative booklet handed out at the Summit. The students' photograph must be submitted with the Gallery of Stars nomination. A school portrait or a school appropriate photograph will be accepted. A high quality JPEG or TIFF at 300 dpi is preferable, and the image should not be too bright or dark.

Graduating high school seniors and juniors who are nominated for the Gallery of Stars can also apply for the Latino Summit Leadership Scholarship worth \$1,000. The scholarship is for tuition, student fees, or lodging at an accredited community college, college or university in the U.S. This scholarship is open to all nominated graduating high school seniors and juniors including citizens and non-citizens. Students must be a Nebraska resident and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale, or a 3.5 or higher on a 5.0 scale.

A school counselor, teacher or principal must submit one signed letter of recommendation on behalf of the student. Applications will not be accepted without the letter of recommendation.

In addition to the scholarship application and letter of recommendation, the student is requested to submit a statement of purpose and a leadership essay. Both the statement of purpose and essay must be limited to 500 words each, be typed on separate documents and need to include the students' name and school name at the top right corner of the page:

1. **Statement of Purpose:** Describe your educational goals. Response may include: Which college/university you plan to attend, and when. What you plan to study in college. Describe your future goals including career goals you may have and how you plan to attain them.
2. **Leadership Essay:** Describe why you consider yourself to be a leader. (This may or may not be school related) Response may include: What leadership experience you have. What have you learned about your individual strengths and weaknesses through your leadership experience?

The scholarship recipients will be announced and recognized at the Latino Summit during lunch.

Registration will open soon. The deadline to nominate a student for the Gallery of Stars and to apply for the Scholarship is September 22. Please send nominations to: [sherri.landis@nebraska.gov](mailto:sherri.landis@nebraska.gov). If you do not receive a confirmation by Sept. 29, please contact Sherri at (402) 471-8306.

To register for the Summit, download and complete the registration form at: <http://www.latinosummit.org/>