

**Minutes
Education Area Team**

October 20, 2008

1. Attendees: Al Lopez, Victor Ruiz, Eli Santiago, Judith De Crane, Nelly Gonzalez, Gloria Ruiz, Roberto Chavez, Rudolph(RJ) Chavez, Moises Torres, Liliana Morales
2. All new members of the Education Area Team were welcomed and Al Lopez gave an overview of the Hispanic Roundtable (HRT) and the Education Area Team.
3. Ed. Area Team plans and budget requests were approved by the HRT. Sub committee chairs will have the responsibility to ensure receipts are obtained for reimbursement purposes.
4. Al Lopez announced that Victor Ruiz and Dr. Jorge Gatica will be the co chairs of the Education Area Team starting January 1, 2009.
5. The Convencion Mid Term report was well received by the community and the funders. There is every reason to expect that Convencion 2010 will be funded by past contributors.
6. The Padres Unidos continue to meet every month. Their meetings will be the second Monday of the month at 6:00 PM. Meetings will be held at the Scranton library (At Scranton & Clark).

Dolly Velez is no longer going to be the facilitator for the padres Unidos. The Padres intend to recognize Dolly for all her years of service to the Padres.

Judith De Crane volunteered to be the sub committee chair for the Padre Unidos. Moises Torres also volunteered to help the Padres. . Victor will send Judith a copy of the Colectivo grant.

The Padres will have a combination meeting/dinner on December 8, 2008. Recognition of Dolly Velez will take place at this meeting.

The Padres reemphasized that OGT testing, mental health issues, and language barriers (even at the Convencion meetings and celebrations) are their most pressing problems. In addition, the Padres identified that leadership development and securing a home base, with telephone access and messaging, as high priorities for this year.

The Padres have been religiously attending all meeting called for parents at the CMSD.

The Padres will be part of CSU's community forum to be held in the Spring semester of 2009.

There is continuing concern with the restructuring of the CMSD Bilingual program. The Padres continue to feel they should be part of the group that advises the district. Natividad Pagan shared with the parents that the restructuring was put on hold until the new Chief Academic Officer gets acclimated to the District. The Padres will be involved, hopefully on a restructuring advisory committee.

7. The College and Universities sub committee has postponed the next (3rd) forum until the Spring semester of 2009. The sub committee felt not enough progress was made during the summer to really present some concrete achievements to

the group. The proposed summer intern never materialized; therefore the sub committee is rethinking the internship approach.

John Carroll has offered to host the next forum. They have also offered to assist with technical support.

There was a meeting with Chancellor Fingerhut and Melissa Cardenas from Ohio Board of Regents on August 12, 2008. The meeting was productive and Ms Cardenas was assigned to work with the HRT & Education Area team.

There were also talks with Ezra Escudero from the Ohio Commission on Latino Affairs. He pledged his support to the HRT & Education Area team.

There was another individual meeting with President Durst from B-W to solicit feedback on the forum's efforts to date. He was very helpful and he pledged continued support for the HRT & the Education Area team.

The subcommittee is reevaluating the purpose and goals of the forum. The sub committee is exploring housing the initiative in a Latino agency.

The Sherwin Williams Company donated a lap top computer for use by the sub committee. A thank you letter was sent to Thomas E. Hopkins, Sr. Vice President Human Resources, the administrator who secured the lap top for the sub committee.

Roberto Chavez gave an update on the initiatives at Cleveland State University. The Latinos Unidos Student group is up and running with over 20 participating students. There is a new Latino Faculty/Staff Association. It is very active and this year the association was a big part of the Latino heritage celebrations. The Latino luncheon was a great success with over 140 attendees. Professor Dalia Galvan was recognized, as was our own Jamie Vega. Jamie was recognized by the Latino Unidos and she also received the Sister Alicia Alvarado award. Congratulations Jamie!! Lastly, in the Spring semester of 2008, the University had an event honoring all recent Latino graduates. This event will be repeated each year.

R J Chavez volunteered to serve on the College and University & the Drop Out sub committees.

8. Drop Out sub committee Report.

- Victor again stated that he *needs more team members* to volunteers for the drop out rate sub committee.
- Victor and Eli summarized their meeting with Nelson Ramirez and the "Closing the Achievement Gap" team. As a result of the meeting, the Drop-out

subcommittee will work with the CTAG program and help find resources for those students.

- Moises agreed to join the subcommittee
- Al suggested that we work with Ezra Escudero and OCHLA to get data on the drop out/graduation rates.
- It was also suggested that we do focus groups with students to get their perspective on this situation.
- Liliana Morales offered to help with the organization of the focus groups.
- Liliana spoke about John Carroll's commitment to Hispanic students

9. Things to do.

- There will be no meeting in December of 2008. Sub committees are to meet and continue to work on their plans.
- Attend Padres meetings.
- Plan next Dialogue/forum.
- Encourage more Latino organizations to be involved with the Ed. Area Team.
- Recruit more Education Area Team members

**Our next meeting will be Monday, January 19, 2009; 6:00 PM.
Location TBA.**