



Pennsylvania Migrant Education



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2005

Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs
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Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs to Host PA Migrant Students General Assembly at the Capitol

HARRISBURG, PA – The Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs (GACLA) will be hosting its 2nd Annual PA migrant Students General Assembly Session at the Capitol. This event is scheduled to begin at 10:00AM in the Floor of the House of Representatives where students will be acting as legislators and will propose a **Migrant Students Agenda for Pennsylvania** on **Thursday, August 4th** during the Migrant Student Leadership Institute's Day at the Capitol.

In the fall of 1966, Congress amended the ESEA to create the Migrant Education Program specially to address the needs of mobile farm worker children. In Pennsylvania, we have more than 17,000 migrant students enrolled in the program and in our public education system. One of Pennsylvania's summer programs is the **Student Leadership Institute**, a week long program at Penn State–University Park. This is a great opportunity for migrant students to develop strong civic, academic and leadership skills while encouraging them to pursue higher education and beyond. In addition to the problems associated with mobility, these students are often challenged by limited English fluency, poverty, lack of academic skills, and--to help support the family—the need to work or care for younger children. Migrant students, in short, are at great risk of dropping out of school.

“We strongly believe in migrant students and their potential to achieve academic and personal success against all odds. Providing students with the opportunity to take ownership of their civic duty is our mission by allowing them to experience Pennsylvania government as its best and in the magnificent Capitol. Let’s provide them with some seeds of hope and aspirations,” said Mr. Norman Bristol Colón, Executive Director of GACLA.

Over 50 migrant students will be participating during this year’s event. These statewide students will be acting as legislators and will be speaking, debating and voting in the Floor of the House on issues they have researched and believe are of great importance to Pennsylvania’s migrant community. GACLA will also be hosting its monthly Latino Luncheon (*the monthly state networking Latino gathering*) beginning at 12 noon in the East Wing of the Capitol.

Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll; PA Secretary of Education Francis Barnes; PA Secretary of State Pedro Cortés; Deputy Secretary of PA Department of Health Robert Torres; Harry Kao, Executive Director of the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Asian American Affairs; Norman Bristol Colón, Executive Director of the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs; Carmen Medina, Chief, Division of Student Services and Migrant Education-Pennsylvania Department of Education; Dr. Manuel Recio, US Department of Education; York County GACLA Commissioner Debra Martinez; Dr. Patricia Yaeger, AES/PHEAA; Assistant Director of Admissions for Millersville University Luis Garcia; Willie Melendez from Wienken & Associates; Ramiro de Jesus from Synergy Financial Group; and national motivational speaker Carlos Ojeda, Jr., are among the invited speakers to address these students.

For more information on this youth leadership development and educational initiative please contact Mr. Norman Bristol Colón at 717-783-3877.

A collaborative effort between the Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs and the Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program

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