



BHCC

6TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Las Vegas



BOARD OF
HISPANIC
CAUCUS CHAIRS

BHCC Conference Agenda Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2011

11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Latina State Legislative Caucus Summit: Networking Luncheon Keynote Address by Punam Mathur <i>Vice President of Employee & Community Engagement, Nevada Energy</i> Conference Room Six - Bellagio Hotel
12:00 - 12:30 pm	LSLCS: Wellness Break
12:30 - 3:00 pm	LSLCS: Leadership Forum Presentations by: Lulu Flores, <i>Political Activist and Former President of the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC)</i> Robert Bard, <i>President and CEO, Latina Style Magazine</i> Lupita Colmenero, <i>Associate Publisher, El Hispano News</i>
5:30 - 7:30 pm	Viva BHCC Opening Night Reception - Hosted by the Nevada Hispanic Legislative Caucus Shadow Bar, Caesars Palace

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2011 - PISA/PALERMO CONFERENCE ROOM

8:00 am	Breakfast - <i>Served outside conference room</i>
8:45 am	BHCC Conference Commencement Welcome Senator Ross Romero, Utah <i>Chair, Board of Hispanic Caucus Chairs</i>
9:00 - 10:15 am	Environmental Regulations and the Future of American Energy - <i>Regulatory standards and private sector impact</i> The term energy in the United States usually invokes a myriad of images and issues depending on the perspective. The need to ensure our generation levels are adequate to meet consumer demands while navigating through established state and federal regulations aimed at addressing health and environmental concerns creates complex systems of energy production and consumption that have defined American energy over the last few decades. Our energy sector is a dynamic makeup of private industry, public interest and environmental sustainability efforts that creates some difficulties when attempting to meet our energy needs and adhering to regulatory policies. This session will explore the intricate balance of federal versus state regulations over energy matters and how to facilitate differences between the two. We will discuss how best to navigate the controversial interplay between the states and federal government when attempting to create a business environment that is conducive to sufficiently meeting our energy needs while maintaining necessary environmental protections. We will also explore how these regulatory measures affect the energy industry and ultimately the consumers. Finding legal, statutory and regulatory clarity on this issue is extremely pertinent in order to advance our energy sector responsibly into the future. Moderator: Rose McKinney-James - <i>Managing Principal, Energy Works LLC</i> Kipp Coddington <i>Partner, Mowrey Meezan Coddington Cloud LLC</i> Hilda Pinnix-Ragland <i>Vice President of Corporate Public Affairs, Progress Energy</i> Rev. Efrain Pineda <i>Executive Director, NHCLC</i>

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2011 - PISA/PALERMO CONFERENCE ROOM

10:30 - 11:45 am

Issues in Contemporary Education - *Reforming education standards, maximizing resources and increases academic achievement*

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the U.S. has fallen to 14th in reading skills, 17th in science and an astonishing 25th in mathematics out of OECD studied countries in 2010. Clearly, something has gone terribly awry over the decades to take an exceptional education system and turn it into an “average” to “below-average” system by international comparative standards. However, federal calls for education reform are not enough. Education is fundamentally controlled at the state level, which means this is where the solution has to begin. Revolutionizing teaching methods, reforming curriculum standards, and finding additional and new sources for educational funding are all ways to reconceptualize the way we view education in this nation. Furthermore, the importance of parental and community involvement in the educational success of students cannot be overlooked. These types ancillary support mechanisms are critical in fostering the next generation of America’s leaders and providing students with an environment conducive to the high educational achievements. In order to find a viable solution, state policy-makers must come together and analyze the problem from a macro and micro level and consider solutions that go beyond party lines. This session will explore new and innovative ways for the American education system to reclaim its former excellence and discuss strategies to improving the system from a multi-faceted approach.

Moderator: Delia Garcia - *Senior Liaison, National Education Association/ BHCC Ex-officio Member*

Cynthia Swann
Director of the Office of Minority Community Outreach, National Education Association

Louis Malfaro
National Vice President, American Federation of Teachers

Lupita Colmenero
Founder, Parents Step Ahead/ Associate Publisher, and Co-Founder El Hispano News

11:45 am - 12:30 pm

Lunch Keynote - Redistricting and the 2012 Elections

Arturo Vargas - Executive Director, NALEO

12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

Latino Health Forum

Of all the health concerns facing contemporary American society, certain conditions disproportionately affect the Latino community. Whether it be diabetes, obesity or any of the other Latino health concerns, it is important that our state legislators are armed with the latest research, data and strategies for combatting health issues that negatively impact the Latino community. This session will explore advances in research, new data and emerging issues in the realm of Latino health to better prepare state legislators in advancing the public health and well-being of the Latino community.

Moderator: Gaspar Laca - *Vice Chair, BHCC Business Advisory Council*

Cecilia Pozo Fileti MS, RD, FADA
President, Latino Health Communication

Mary Liveratti
Deputy Director of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2011 - PISA/PALERMO CONFERENCE ROOM

2:00 - 3:15 pm

The American Financial Crisis & the Latino Community – *How a lack of borrowing capacity impedes growth and economic opportunities*

The state of the American economy has fluctuated greatly since the start of the recession in 2008. Since that time, we have witnessed a full housing market crash, a rise in unemployment figures, the stock market in various phases of free-fall and recovery, businesses shutdown, and an embattled national budget and deficit deal that ultimately led to a drop in the U.S. credit rating. This confluence of economic woes and regulatory uncertainty has left all Americans wondering how to navigate these uncharted financial waters. Exacerbating the problem are barriers that impede local growth. These barriers to economic opportunities are the lack of borrowing power and finance capacity in our local communities. This lack of available capital in our communities is especially prevalent in urban centers and is a problem that can adversely affect the Latino community. Equitable access to essential capital is paramount to strengthening our local economies and is the mechanism by which most entrepreneurial ideas can flourish. This session will explore how best to facilitate new federal regulations that will impact state financial markets and how policymakers can help create an atmosphere that encourages economic opportunities and supports the vibrant small businesses that are the backbone of our national economy.

Moderator: Arturo Vargas - *Executive Director, NALEO*

Agnes Talamantez Carroll
President, Talamantez & Associates LLC

Victor Stango
Professor of Economics, University of California at Davis

Daniel Ebihara
Deputy Attorney General, State of Nevada Financial Institutions Division

3:30 - 4:15 pm

Member Roundtable

4:30 pm

Group Photo

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Dinner Reception at Boa Steakhouse, Forum Shops - Caesars Palace

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2001 - PISA/PALERMO CONFERENCE ROOM

8:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 - 10:00 am	<p><i>Drought and Water Resources Keynote - Lessons learned from the 2011 drought</i></p> <p>We are living in an unprecedented age. The future of our renewable fresh water resources is in peril. Parts of our nation are currently witnessing the worst drought in recorded history. Some states are dealing with extreme to exceptional droughts in almost the entirety of their territory, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor Report (May 2011). This trend of severe drought has now engulfed almost the entirety of the southern United States, and although severe droughts are much more pervasive in the south, these trends and the need to preserve our collective resources endangers our entire nation. These types of devastating droughts can disrupt agricultural production, energy resources and potable water for millions of Americans. What is more is that there are unfortunately some parts of this country where populations already struggle to acquire fresh drinking water, and these historical droughts will only exacerbate the plight of resource-deficient communities. Now more than ever before, it is essential to discuss how these droughts and their future projections will impact our country. Furthermore, it is critical that states and the federal government work together to coordinate and plan for these projected water shortfalls ahead of time to mitigate any detrimental effects. Water is our most precious resource, and in order to ensure every citizen and state has sufficient supplies, it will take the efforts of all of our states, public officials, and citizens to plan and prepare so as to stave off an impending water shortage disaster.</p> <p>Dr. Michael Hayes <i>Director, National Drought Mitigation Center</i> <i>School of Natural Resources</i> <i>University of Nebraska - Lincoln</i></p>
10:15 - 11:30 am	<p>Wealth Creation and Political Empowerment</p> <p>The recent release of the 2010 Census data confirm the tremendous potential our community holds in strengthening the future of our nation. Leaders at all levels of government can help facilitate and foster the growth of Latino leadership and increase our presence in the top tiers of corporate and political realms. This session will present methods, strategies and approaches Latinos can implement when working to secure prominent and high-ranking corporate and political leadership positions. Speakers will highlight past successes, the importance of taking action now and new strategies for the future. They will also highlight The Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility's Corporate Inclusion Index Report. The report outlines strategies for working with elected officials to encourage both public and private entities to do more business with Hispanic-owned enterprises, ways to build wealth in the Latino community and ways to utilize those resources for the advancement of policy and philanthropic work.</p> <p>Moderator: The Honorable Ross Romero - Senator (UT), BHCC Chair</p> <p>Tom Tollison <i>Senior Assistant General Counsel, Marketing Group, U-Haul International, Inc.</i> <i>Regional President, Hispanic National Bar Association</i></p> <p>Marc Rodriguez <i>Legislative and Nominations Chair, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce</i></p>

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2011

11:45 am - 12:30pm	Lunch
12:30 - 2:45 pm	<p>State Budgets and Public Pensions</p> <p>State governments across the country are witnessing incredible budget shortfalls that threaten to impact the daily lives of their respective citizens in the near future. From cutting pivotal social programs to the need to find new revenue streams, state governments are having to find ways to cope with projected shortfalls affecting 44 out of our 50 states, totaling \$112 billion dollar for the 2012 fiscal year.</p> <p>One aspect of public funds up for debate is the use and structure of state-backed pension funds for state government employees which has been the hallmark for retirement infrastructures over the last several decades. However, pensions, on the whole, have almost entirely been eliminated as a practice in the private sector. Many state-backed pensions are severely underfunded and the general irrevocable characteristics of these pensions and their benefits once approved are providing a huge financial burden on the state administration and their available funds. Reconstructing and revising state pension systems is one approach to help resolve the major shortfalls in which many of our states find themselves. This approach, however, needs to be properly planned with all available means being considered. Balancing state budgets for fiscal year 2012 is proving to be a herculean endeavor; one that will take the cooperation of all political ideologies and stakeholders. This session will explore strategies for resolving problems in current public pension systems while maintaining adequate protections for our public employees.</p> <p>Moderator: The Honorable Louis Ruiz– <i>Representative, Kansas</i></p> <p>Billy Hamilton <i>State Budget Financial Consultant, Billy Hamilton Consulting</i></p> <p>Diane Oakley <i>Executive Director, National Institute on Retirement Security</i></p>
2:45 pm	<p>Red Rock Canyon and Spring Mountain Ranch Tour and Dinner Meet by Shuttle Pickup - Caesars Palace</p>

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2011 - PISA/PALERMO CONFERENCE ROOM

8:30 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	<p>Legislative Member Meeting (Legislative members only)</p> <p>BAC Member Meeting (BAC members only)</p>

