

La Voz

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Free/Gratis



by Lorraine SanMiguel

People in the News



Rossanna Salazar Elected to Board of Regents

The Texas State University System Board of Regents elected **Rossanna Salazar** of Austin chairwoman of the board of **Sam Houston State University** in Huntsville.

Ms. Salazar is managing partner of **ROSS Communications Inc.**, a Texas-based public affairs and strategic communications firm that has served domestic and international clients since 1993. Prior to founding **ROSS Communications**, she served as press secretary to the successful U.S. Senate campaign of **Kay Bailey Hutchison**.

Ms. Salazar began her career as a reporter for Texas newspapers. She was a political writer for the **San Antonio Light** and a member of the newspaper's editorial board. Her reporting experience in **San Antonio** began in 1983 at the **San Antonio Express**, where she covered local government affairs.

Ms. Salazar is a member of the Executive Committee of the **Texas Association of Business**, a member of the board of the **Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute** and serves as chairman of the **Clements Legislative Scholars**, a program of the Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the **University of Arizona** in Tucson.



Catherine Cortez Masto, Becomes First Latina Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto, a Democrat, won the Nevada Senate race to fill the seat of **Senator Harry Reid**, who is retiring after three decades in the Senate.

Ms. Cortez Masto, 52, a former Nevada attorney general and the granddaughter of a Mexican immigrant, focused her campaign on immigration overhaul and future Supreme Court picks before the Senate. She capitalized on the extensive ground operation built by **Hillary Clinton** and energized Latinos by railing against **Mr. Trump's** plan to build a border wall, while trying to pin **Mr. Trump's** most controversial views on her opponent.

Cortez Masto earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in finance from the **University of Nevada, Reno** in 1986 and a J.D. from **Gonzaga University School of Law** in 1990.

She was admitted to the **State Bar of Nevada** in 1990, the **U.S. District Court, District of Nevada** in 1991 and the **U.S. Court of Appeals**, for the Ninth Circuit in 1994. She is married to **Paul Masto**, a former **Special Agent** in the **United States Secret Service**.



Chief Art Acevedo Accepts Position in Houston, Texas

After almost a decade as the **Chief of Police** in **Austin, Texas**, **Art Acevedo** has resigned to take the same position in **Houston, Texas**.

A well liked public servant in **Austin**, **Acevedo** was not shy about speaking out and letting people know how he felt. A couple of times it got him in trouble with the city manager and included getting his pay docked, but he had strong feelings about some issues.

Acevedo came to **Austin** from **California** where he was a **Commander** with the **California Highway Patrol**. A native of **Cuba**, his family came to the **United States** in 1968 when he was four years old. Now at age 52, **Acevedo** is going to be leading a police department in the 4th largest city in the **United States**.



Susana Almanza Receives 2016 NAACP Social Justice Award

Susana Almanza, long time Director of **PODER**, (People Organized in the Defense of Earth and her Resources) received the 2016 NAACP Social Justice Award at its **51st Annual De Witty/Overton Freedom Fund Community Service Awards** on Saturday, December 3rd. This award is given to someone to celebrate the work and the spirit of some of the best members of the community. Pictured above with **Susana** is **Nelson Linder**, long time leader of the local NAACP chapter.

Regina Lopez Finally Earns Ph.D

Only 1.68 percent of Americans over the age of 25 have a Ph.D. This equates to approximately 2.5 million people. The number of men holding a Ph.D is approximately 1,678,000, compared to 817,000 women. In fact, the drop out rate among those pursuing graduate degrees is 43%. When it comes to Latinos with graduate degrees, as of 2013, 141,000 Latinos had earned a doctoral degree, compared to Whites (2.6 million), Asians (502,000), and African Americans (192,000).



For all of the above reasons, we are pleased to acknowledge **Gina Lopez** who was awarded her Ph.D. after 30+ years of going to night school and summer school (non-stop), and whenever she could, as she juggled working full-time, playing in her family's mariachi and conjunto groups and being a supportive sister to her 7 siblings, a devoted *tia* to her countless nieces and nephews and loving *mija* to her parents. **Gina** successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, "Mexican American Women, Urban Educational Leaders in Oklahoma: A Hermeneutic Phenomenology," at **The University of Oklahoma**.

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Pensamientos

By now everyone has had the opportunity to reflect, rethink, and react to the reality of a **Donald Trump** presidency. Whether you like him or not, you have to admit he pulled off a stunner in beating 16 other Republican opponents in the primaries and then **Hillary Clinton** in the Electoral College. (Hillary as we go to print did beat Trump in popular vote by almost 3 million votes.)

To be sure his presidency is going to be full of surprises. Partly because you never know if he is telling the truth, is being sarcastic or just kidding. He says one thing only to deny it the following week.

But here is something we do know for a fact. Approximately 46.9% of the registered voters in the country did not turn out to vote. Here in Texas, 40% of the registered voters did not bother to turn out. So as people are beginning to say, fasten your seat belts, porque no se sabe lo que va pasar.



Cambiando de Tema

The passing of **Fidel Castro** was indeed a major news item around the world. What ever you thought of him, he will go down in history as one of few people who refused to bow down to the **United States**.

In this issue of **La Voz** de asked **Dr. Mariano Diaz-Miranda**, a professor of history at



Austin Community College and a native of **Cuba**, to reflect on **Fidel Castro** and the Cuban revolution. As you will discover, he has provided a context for understanding the what has taken place in Cuba and also some personal insights. You will find his thoughts on pages 6 and 7.

Cambiando de Tema

Also in this issue of **La Voz** you will find information on the new initiatives taking place with Ethnic Studies in the **Austin Independent School District**. **Dr. Angela Valenzuela** and **Dr. Cinthia Salinas**, both professors at **The University of Texas at Austin**,

have played instrumental roles in getting this initiative on track. This story can be found on page 10.

Cambiando de Tema

In the coming months **La Voz Newspapers** and several partners will be publishing lists that highlight individuals in **Austin** and **Central Texas** that have been working in their respective fields to improve the community at large. Among the lists are:

1. The 25 Hardest Working Community Activists in Central Texas
2. The 25 Most Influentials Latinos in Austin
3. The 25 Most Powerful Latinos in Austin
4. The 25 Most Unrecognized Latinos in Austin

These lists along with biographical sketches will be released over the next several months in **La Voz**.

On the Cover



Lorraine San Miguel is the artist who produced our cover for December.

EDITORIAL



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor and Publisher

La Raza Round Table



Where friends and enemies come together for breakfast tacos every Saturday and discuss the important issues of the day. We meet at 4926 East Cesar Chavez Street in Austin, Texas every Saturday at 10:00am



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Pan para el Mundo Apoya Medida para Proteger a ‘Dreamers’

Pan para el Mundo anunció hoy su apoyo a la ley **Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy Act** (BRIDGE por sus siglas en inglés), introducida por los senadores Richard Durbin (D-IL) y Lindsay Graham (R-SC) la semana pasada.

La bipartidista Ley BRIDGE protegería a inmigrantes indocumentados jóvenes (conocidos como dreamers, o soñadores) de la deportación, de lo cual se beneficia Estados Unidos teniendo en cuenta las contribuciones económicas y el servicio militar que brindan éstos. Se espera que **Durbin y Graham** introduzcan de nuevo la legislación en el 115º Congreso, el cual asume su cargo en enero de 2017.

“Pan para el Mundo apoya esfuerzos bipartidistas como la Ley BRIDGE, la cual protegería a jóvenes traídos a Estados Unidos de niños, de la deportación”, aseguró el reverendo David Beckmann, presidente de Pan para el Mundo. “Aplicaría a aquellos que han estudiado o servido valientemente en nuestras fuerzas armadas, y que están aportando mucho a nuestra economía, tanto a nivel local como nacional. Están comprando coches, casas, fundando comercios, creando empleos, y pagando impuestos”.

La Ley BRIDGE daría amparo temporal de la deportación, y autorización para trabajar a jóvenes que califican para el programa de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA por sus siglas en inglés) del Departamento de Seguridad Interior de Estados Unidos. Más de 740,000 jóvenes han beneficiado de DACA desde que el Gobierno del presidente **Obama** inició el programa en el 2012. Los solicitantes deberían pagar una tarifa razonable, someterse a una verificación de antecedentes criminales,

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Welcome Home!

Texas State Hits Milestones, Enrollment Record for 19th Consecutive year

SAN MARCOS –**Texas State University** has announced a record-setting enrollment of 38,849 for the 2016 fall semester, highlighted by a 6.3 percent increase in the number of new graduate students. The College of Science and Engineering reported an all-time high enrollment of 6,253 students ? a 6.4 percent increase from last fall ? making it the university’s largest college for the first time. Overall enrollment rose 2.3 percent from a year ago, and this fall’s student count marks the 19th consecutive year Texas State set a record for total enrollment.

Ethnic minorities account for slightly more than half of the overall student population at **Texas State**. “We are delighted to see that more students are choosing to come to **Texas State** for their graduate education,” **Texas State President Denise M. Trauth** said. “The enrollment highlights show that **Texas State** is helping to cultivate a workforce for tomorrow that is both reflective of the state’s demographics and better trained to assume high-skilled positions.”

Undergraduate enrollment also reached a new record of 34,276 students, up 2.3 percent from 2015, which was paced by a record incoming freshman class of 5,733. Enrollment at **Texas State’s Round Rock Campus** increased 2 percent, to 1,829 students. Nearly 52 percent of incoming **Texas State** freshmen ranked in the top quartile of their high school graduating class, a quality metric important to the university’s goal of becoming a top-tier research university.

“Texas State is experiencing growth in ways that are positioning the university to better compete with nationally recognized research universities,” said Gene Bourgeois, Texas State’s provost and vice president for academic affairs. “This growth will spur research activity and expand academic programs across all disciplines, which will create more robust opportunities for students and enhance the university’s impact on the state.”

About Texas State University

Founded in 1899, **Texas State University** is among the largest universities in **Texas** with an enrollment of 38,849 students on campuses in **San Marcos** and **Round Rock**. **Texas State’s** 170,000-plus alumni are a powerful force in serving the economic workforce needs of **Texas** and throughout the world. Designated an **Emerging Research University** by the **State of Texas**, **Texas State** is classified under “Doctoral Universities: Higher Research Activity,” the second-highest designation for research institutions under the **Carnegie** classification system.



ACC colecta libros para niños beneficiando el programa Brown Santa

Austin Community College (ACC) está recolectando donaciones para su campaña anual de libros infantiles "I Can Read!" que beneficia al programa de Brown Santa de la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Travis.

"Tenemos la responsabilidad de ayudar a quienes son menos afortunados y cerrar la brecha de desigualdad," dijo Alfonso Pena, presidente de la Asociación de Gobierno Estudiantil de ACC (SGA). "Con cada libro que damos, ofrecemos habilidades fundamentales de lectura. Inspiramos la creatividad y la curiosidad entre nuestra juventud."

Patrocinado por SGA, el esfuerzo beneficia a los niños de familias de bajos ingresos. Desde su lanzamiento en el 2009, el evento anual ha recaudado más de 19,000 libros para el programa Brown Santa.

Las donaciones pueden darse hasta el martes, 6 de diciembre, en cajas de recolección ubicadas en las oficinas de la policía de ACC en todos los campus. Se aceptan libros nuevos y ligeramente usados. Las donaciones monetarias también se aceptan por correo al Highland Campus, SGA Office, Sala 2350 (6101 Airport Blvd., Austin TX 78752) o en línea a través de Book Spring. Para donar en línea, visita el sitio web de Book Spring e incluye la nota "ACC Brown Santa."

Los libros serán presentados a la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Travis el martes, 13 de diciembre, en el Highland Campus.



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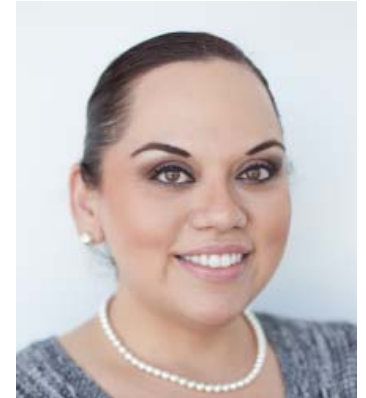


Profile



Jessica A. Garcia

Secondary School Counselor
at East Austin College
Prep, www.eaprep.org



Jessica is originally from the **Rio Grande Valley** (Edinburg). Before coming to **EAPrep**, she had over 10 years of experience in higher education where she worked closely with students in preparing them for the post-secondary education. **Jessica** graduated from **Texas Southern University** in **Houston, Texas** and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a minor in chemistry. She earned her Master of Education degree in Counseling and Guidance from the **University of Texas – Pan American** in **Edinburg**. **Jessica's** role as school counselor is to help students achieve their personal/social and academic goals, as well as provide support for the parents and teachers.

Your goals for EAPrep and your students: To be able to guide students and help them understand themselves as learners and encourage them to develop skills that will enable them to reach their academic potential. Also, to help them choose and advance in a program that will enable them to reach their future academic and career goals.

Your Favorite Activity: I enjoy traveling, dancing and a good Zumba class.

Your Favorite Books: *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins & *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks

Your Personal hero and why: I must have to say both of my parents. It is because of their unconditional love, guidance and support that have made me a strong person that I am today. Seeing how much they sacrificed migrating from **Mexico** to the **United States** so our family could have a better life.

What animal best represents you and why? A PENGUIN-I take life in its stride, not letting the big issues of the world stand in my way. I like spending time with friends and I make time for my family and remain close to them.

What is your greatest strength? Compassionate- it's the counselor in me I suppose; I am empathetic and always have a shoulder to lean on and genuinely try to help others.

Interesting fact about yourself: I have been to Walt Disney World three times in my adult years and I loved every minute of it.

Why do you work at EAPrep? I am passionate to work with this population of students and parents. Working at EAPrep at any level affords a unique opportunity to observe and interact with whatever developmental stage the student is in at the time. It was always fascinating for me to watch my students come in as barely adolescent teens, and walk out of high school as young adults. Sharing in that growth process is fun and rewarding.

Fidel Castro has Died: Did

by

Dr. Mariano Diaz Miranda

To talk about **Fidel Castro's** death, we must start with a little bit of Cuban history and its relation with the United States. **Cuba** has been, as the name implies "*the Pearl of the Antilles/La Perla de las Antillas*". A name that was given to the island by **Ferdinand the VII, King of Spain** (1784-1833). It is also **Ferdinand VII** who named **Cuba** "*The Ever-Faithful Isle*", after **Cuba** remained part of the **Spanish Empire**, while **México—Spain's** wealthiest North American colony—was seeking independence from the Mother Country.

John Quincy Adams, as Secretary of State in 1823 wrote a 15,000-word letter of Instruction to the head of the United States mission in **Spain**, where he states his interest that "*Cuba, forcibly disjoined from its own unnatural connection with Spain, and incapable of self-support, can gravitate only towards the North American Union, which by the same nature cannot cast he off from its bosom.*" One of the early Presidents of the United, is already contemplating the annexation of the Island.

By 1854, the idea of gaining possession of **Cuba** is not just a correspondence by the Secretary of State to the American Minister in **Spain**; but it is now a public declaration issued by the **United States Ministers to England, France, and Spain at Ostend Belgium**. The **Ostend Manifesto**, as it became known, declares that the **United States of America** would be justified to seize **Cuba** if **Spain** did not sell it to the United States.

During this same decade, there would also be a movement in the **United States**, intended to expand the number of slave states and territories, in which again **Cuba** was included. This initiative that envisioned the protection of slavery and its territories, was known as the **Golden Circle**. The **Knights of the Golden Circle** wanted to create a secure slave dominion. Within the creation of this **Golden Circle**, some thought that **Cuba** would be the center of this slave empire. This empire would expand west from the slave area in the South of the United States to **Texas**, down to **Mexico** and Central America, to the Yucatan Peninsula, reaching to **Cuba**, and up to **Florida**. Thus, the **Golden Circle**.

The grand illusion of a domain based on slavery such as the "**Golden Circle**" of course did not materialized. The **American Civil War**, brought that dream to an end. However, the thirst for the American Expansion continued, and acquiring **Cuba** and other territories in the **Caribbean** did not stop. The so called **Spanish American War** in the **United States**, gave a window of opportunity for American intervention and attempted acquisition of the island of **Cuba**.

Cuba declared its struggle for independence on October 10, 1868, El Diez de Octubre. Later known as the **Ten Years' War**. **Puerto Rico** also declared its independence in 1868, on September 23rd with the **Grito de Larez**. Both attempts for independence were quenched by the **Spanish American War**, when the **United States** took possession of the islands. Out of the struggle for independence by **Cuba** and **Puerto Rico**,

Rico, their flags emerged. The same design with different colors. See below:

Cuba



Puerto Rico



Because of its spirit independence Cubans continued fighting for their liberation even after the **United States** took possession of the Island in 1898. The **United States** finally backed away and on May 20, 1902 **Cuba** earned some autonomy by accepting a constitution drafted by the **United States**, and a President that supported the American control of the island.

Emilio Roig de Leuchsenring became the first official historian of the **City of Havana** in 1935. As a historian, he also addressed the issue of **Cuban Independence** as it was truncated by the occupation of the **United States** after the defeat of **Spain**, in what is called in the **United States** the **Spanish American War**. **Fidel** and his followers believed the historical development of **Roig de Leuchsenring**, and the defeat of **Fulgencio Batista**, became for the

revolutionaries the "real independence of **Cuba**." Therefore, the Revolution became the final act initiated against **Spain** which was truncated by the **United States**.

Fidel Castro y Ruiz

The Saint, the Villain, the Hero, and even Satan; they are among the names used to describe **Fidel Castro y Ruiz**. The adoration or hatred of **Fidel Castro**, of course depended on the negative or positive impact the revolution had on the citizens of this well-known island. We only need to recall the celebration recently over the knowledge of his death in the **City of Miami**, where a large and successful Cuban population resides. **Miami** had a celebration that was a sharp contrast with the somber and sad procession of Cubans waiting to view the casket that held the ashes of **Castro** at the patriotic plaza of **Jose Marti**.

Cubans migrating to the **United States** can be divided into two groups: those that migrated prior to January



1959, and those that came after. The migrants prior to 1959 were generally migrating because of economic reasons, my father was one of those migrants. His business of shoe manufacturing in **Cuba** for island consumption, failed after the end of **World War II**, when the gigantic industrial might of the United States shifted from war goods to consumer products. All throughout Latin America, the growth of local industries producing goods that no longer were



the Revolution Die With Him?

supplied by the United State increased exponentially.

When the war ended, that mighty war productivity turned to consumer products; and my father like many of his colleagues were economically devastated by the change. He traveled initially to **Venezuela** in 1947, seeking business opportunities that did not materialized. In 1953, **New York City** became the next port of call for my father, where many of his Cuban colleagues successfully found a niche in the job market. My father kept commuting from **New York City** to **Havana**.

On March 13, 1957, the revolutionaries attacked the Presidential Palace coming very close to killing **Fulgencio Batista**, who had turned into a dictator by ignoring the progressive and most democratic 1940 constitution of **Cuba**. My mother, my brother, and myself were caught in downtown **Havana**, a couple of blocks from the Presidential Palace when the event occurred.

We, like many others were place on buses and taken away from the area to safety. Because of this incident my father decided that we had to leave **Cuba**. Three months later June 24, 1957 the family was in **New York City** with permanent residence.

I have seen **Fidel** three times in my life. The first was in **Central Park**

New York in April 1959, when he came to talk to the many Cubans in the area. A crowd of 35,000, mostly Cubans came to see him where he clearly stated that he was not in **New York** to ask the American government for aid.

Fidel refused to pay the \$10,000 deposit that the **Shelburne Hotel** in **Midtown Manhattan** demanded. To place this demand in perspective; a price of a Cadillac in 1959 was about \$5,000.00, and top of the line **El Dorado** cost about \$7,400.00. **Fidel** refused the accommodations and went to the African American neighborhood commonly known as **Harlem**, where he stayed in the **Hotel Theresa**. It was at the here that **Fidel** met **Malcom X**, one of the leaders of the Black Muslims.

My family returned to **Cuba** that summer of 1959 to see the impact of the Revolution with our own eyes. There were "barbudos" (the bearded ones as the rebels were called) all over **Havana**; at the airport, the harbor, in the streets. Everywhere you went, you saw a person with military uniform carrying a military weapon. At the same time, there was a sense of relief that the period of **Batista's** dictatorship had come to an end, and that many of those that brutalized the nation were now being dealt with through several so-called trials and death squads.

We visited our families, enjoyed the time we spent with them and came back to **New York** thinking that **Cuba** would go back to normal and our visits back to the island would be more frequent. Two years later April 17, 1961, the "**Bay of Pigs**" invasion, or "**Playa Giron**" from the Cuban perspective; and afterwards the "missile crisis" in October 1962, ended any opportunity for a dialogue between **Cuba** and the **United States**.



Brigada Antonio Maceo

A group of Cuban-born college students in American universities, of which I was one at that time working on my Doctor of Philosophy, wanted to return to the Island. We wanted to visit our families, and get a firsthand look as to the reality of the revolution. We called ourselves the "**Brigada Antonio Maceo**". Initially they were 64 that visited Cuba, and later 75 in the second contingent. The brigadistas going to **Cuba** opened a new venue for conversation later known as "**Los Dialogos**" or the Dialogs.

The next time I saw **Fidel** was in **Havana** in 1978, as a participant of

"Los Dialogos" the Dialogs between the Government of **Republic of Cuba** and Representatives of the Community in the Exterior. Here, 108 Cubans mostly from the **United States**, participated in an exchange with the "**Government of the Republic of Cuba**." Present at the meeting were **Fidel Castro** and seven other members of the executive committee of the **Politburo**.

The purpose of the Dialogues was to open the doors towards re-unification of families. It had been almost ten years that the doors were closed to Cubans outside of the Island to visit the families. A historical agreement was made which initially cost the life of one of the Brigadistas; **Carlos Muñiz Varela**, who was assassinated in **Puerto Rico** on April 1979 for his participation in the Dialogs for the re-unification of the families.

The last time I saw **Fidel Castro** was at the celebration of the victory of the **Sandinistas**. **Fidel Castro** invited **Daniel Ortega**, the leader of the overthrow of **Somoza** to the 26th of **July** celebration in the **City of Holguin** in **Cuba**, and members of the **Brigada Antonio Maceo** were invited to the celebration.

Cuba under Raul Castro

Today with his death, people inquire as to whether **Raul Castro** will be a better leader than **Fidel**. I use to ask myself the same question many times,

until **Raul** took over after his brother fell ill. The difference between the leadership style of the two brothers indicate the quality of **Raul**. **Fidel**, gave **Raul** the responsibility of the armed forces, when he stepped back to be the statesman. I was also one of those that believed that **Raul** would not be able to follow in **Fidel's** steps. However, as the time went by, I saw that **Raul** passed on responsibilities to others while **Fidel's** governing style was to have his hands on everything. I believe that the reason why **Raul** could delegate responsibilities, was due to his military experience. Generals delegate authority, and so other officers, and so do sergeants and corporals, down to the private that acts. With the military experience being part of **Raul Castro**, **Cuba** began to enjoy an opening that many believed impossible.

Youth began to get a little more freedom. Cellular phones began to appear all over the Island, the reunification of families in which the **Brigada Antonio Maceo** created the atmosphere for it to take place continued and it opened the gates for Cubans to travel to visit their families in the **United States** and other parts of the world.

I believe that the opening also allowed the **Obama** administration to be able to start a dialogue that led to the reopening of embassies and the exchange of diplomats. Under **Raul Castro** we have also seen the slow trickle of American tourists into the Island; and in the future—unless our President elect puts a stop to the continuing improvement of relations—I believe we can have a more stable relationship with **Cuba**.

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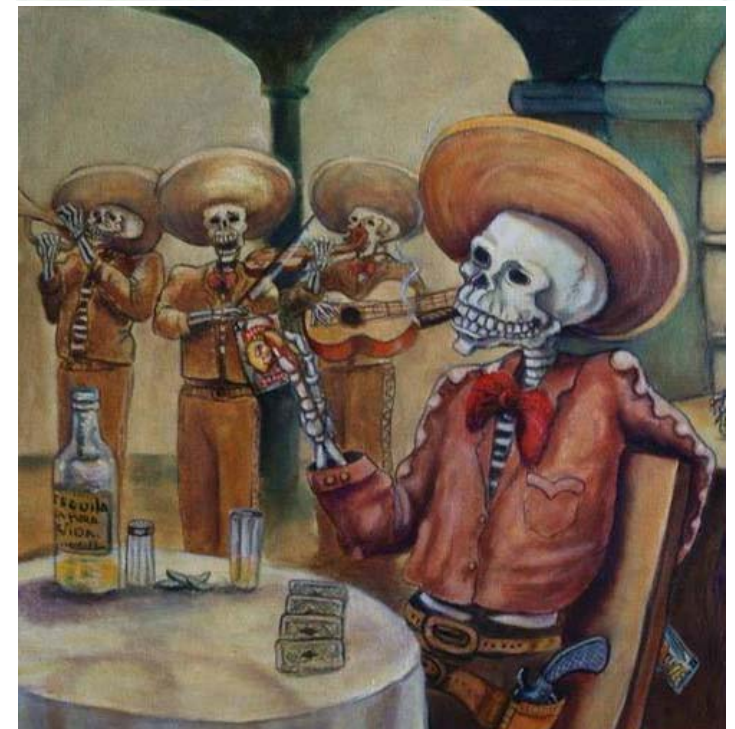
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Austin Independent School District To Pilot Ethnic Studies

Dr. Angela Valenzuela, a **University of Texas Professor** in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the **College of Education** has been part of a group that is spearheading an effort to make **Ethnic Studies** part of the high school curriculum. She reports that the **Austin Independent School District** will be the first school district in the state to adopt **Ethnic Studies**.



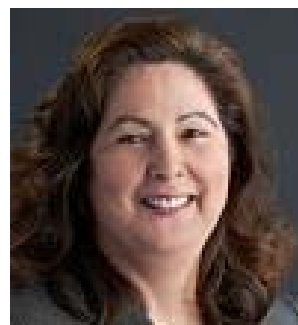
Dr. Angela Valenzuela

She also reports that her group will be pushing for an **Ethnic Studies** bill in the **Texas State Legislature** this next session that begins in January, 2017. The bill would require the **Texas State Board of Education** to offer 4 elective courses in Ethnic Studies at both the high school and middle school/junior high school levels with **Ethnic Studies Social Studies** and **Ethnic Studies Language Arts**, respectively.

What is particularly significant about **Ethnic Studies** is that today, in the year 2016, there are Mexican American students who continue to make it all the way to high school and still have no idea of where they came from, and what has been the particular experience of their ancestors and their contributions to the making of the United States.

A couple of weeks ago at a **Raza Round Table** meeting in **Austin, Texas**, community activist **Bertha Delgado**, while making a presentation, stated that she had no idea of Mexican American history until she started taking classes in college. Over the years, similar stories of students who have no idea of where they or their parents came from in a historical sense have made the rounds.

Dr. Valenzuela and **Dr. Cinthia Salinas** currently sit on the **AISD Ethnic Studies Curriculum** committee. Over the last 6 weeks their group has been working to draft specific, research-based recommendations for an **Ethnic Studies** course that was finally made public at a working session of the **AISD Board of Trustees** on December 12th, 2016.



Dr. Cinthia Salinas

According to the district, *"Today represents an awesomely new beginning for our district with our leadership making the wise decision to pilot an Ethnic Studies course in the Austin Independent School District (AISD) at six high schools beginning in the 2017-18 year as follows: Anderson, Akins, Austin, LBJ Early College, Reagan Early College, and Travis High Schools. By Fall 2018, the district plans to implement it at all high school campuses district-wide."*

Valenzuela and her team believe *"Ethnic Studies courses which use critical historical inquiry to examine the languages, family structures, spiritual traditions, economic and social issues, political aspirations, and values of diverse groups within the United States make a valuable contribution to a students education. The courses have the potential to reduce drop-out rates and provide a more inclusive and engaging academic experience for students, especially those who are at-risk. She also believes an Ethnic Studies course can also influence college enrollment as increasing numbers of students experience academic success derived from an authentic connection to the curriculum."*

Among the studies **Salinas** and **Valenzuela** cited during the work session were:

Cabrera, N. L., Milem, J. F., Jaquette, O., & Marx, R. W. (2014). Missing the (Student Achievement) Forest for All the (Political) Trees Empiricism and the Mexican American Studies Controversy in Tucson. American Educational Research Journal, 51(6), 1084-1118.

Dee, T. & Penner, E. (2016). The causal effects of cultural relevance: Evidence from an Ethnic Studies curriculum. National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 21865. <http://www.nber.org/papers/w21865>

López, F. (2016). Teacher reports of culturally responsive teaching and Latino students' reading achievement in Arizona. Teachers College Record, 118(5)

López, G. E. (2004). Interethnic contact, curriculum, and attitudes in the first year of college. Journal of Social Issues, 40(1), 75-94.

Sleeter, C. E. (2011). The Academic and Social Value of Ethnic Studies: A Research Review. National Education Association Research Department. www.nea.org/assets/docs/NBI-2010-3-value-of-ethnic-studies.pdf

Also joining **Dr. Valenzuela** during her presentation at the work session were **Edmund R. Oropez**, Chief Officer for Teaching and Learning, **James Maxfield**, Austin High School Teacher, and **Dr. Lisa Goodnow**, Executive Director for Academics & Social Emotional Learning.

On the facing page are some of those who turned out for the AISD work session and to support **Dr. Valenzuela** and **Dr. Salinas** in their presentation on the importance of Ethnic Studies.

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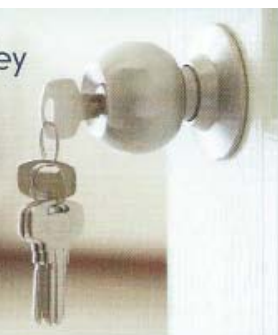
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Front, **Brenda Rubio & Anita Quintanilla**; Second row: **Modesta Treviño, Alejandra Garza, Martha P. Cotera, Dr. Angela Valenzuela, Dr. Lisa Goodnow, AISD Trustee Paul Saldaña**, Back row: **María Hammack, AAABE President Patricia Nuñez, Dr. Emilio Zamora, Education Austin Vice-President Montserrat Garibay & Texas State Board of Education District 1 Member Georgina Cecilia Pérez.**

Pa que vez!

Two sisters, one blonde and one brunette, inherit the family ranch. Unfortunately, after just a few years, they are in financial trouble. In order to keep the bank from repossessing the ranch, they need to purchase a bull from the stockyard in a far town so that they can breed their own stock.



They only have \$600 left. Upon leaving, the brunette tells her sister, *"When I get there, if I decide to buy the bull, I'll contact you to drive out after me and haul it home."*

The brunette arrives at the stockyard, inspects the bull, and decides she wants to buy it. The man tells her that he will sell it for \$599, no less. After paying him, she drives to the nearest town to send her sister a telegram to tell her the news. She walks into the telegraph office and says, *"I want to send a telegram to my sister telling her that I've bought a bull for our ranch. I need her to hitch the trailer to our pickup truck and drive out here so we can haul it home."*

The telegraph operator explains that he'll be glad to help her, then adds, *"It's just 99 cents a word."* Well, after paying for the bull, the brunette only has \$1 left. She realizes that she'll only be able to send her sister one word. After a few minutes of thinking, she nods and says, *"I want you to send her one word: comfortable."*

The operator shakes his head. 'How is she ever going to know that you want her to hitch the trailer to your pickup truck and drive out here to haul that bull back to your ranch if you send her just the word "comfortable?" The brunette explains, *"My sister's blonde. The word is big. She'll read it very slowly ... com-for-da-bull."*

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Relational Histories, Inter-Ethnic Alliances:
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Aviso público

El Reporte Consolidado Anual Sobre la Evaluación (CAPER)

El Reporte Consolidado Anual de la Evaluación (CAPER) para el Condado de Brazoria esta disponible para revisar y dar comentario en la sala del Department de Brazoria County Community Develeopment ubicado en 1524 E. Mulberry, Suite 162, Angleton, Texas 77515 desde la 8:00am hasta la 5:00pm, Lunes a Viernes, empezando el 21 de Noviembre hasta el dia 12 de Diciembre, 2016. El público esta invitado a revisar y dar comentario sobre este documento. Un audiencia pública se llevará acabo el Martes, Noviembre 29, 2016 a las 5:30pm en el Brazoria County East Annex Lobby ubicado en 1524 East Mulberry, Angleton, Texas para recibir comentarios. Todo los demas comentarios pueden ser recibidas por Nancy Friudenberg, Brazoria County Community Development Department, 1524 E. Mulberry, Suite 162, Angleton, Texas 77515 o llamando a (979) 864-1860

Discapacitados, no habla inglés, lenguaje de señas y cualesquiera otras personas que necesiten adaptaciones especiales y que deseen asistir a esta audiencia pública debe ponerse en contacto con Nancy Friudenberg al (979) 864-1860, al menos 48 horas antes de la audiencia para que se pueda reservar el alojamiento.

Nota: En cumplimiento con la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidad, ambos lugares son accesibles en silla de ruedas y espacios de estacionamiento para discapacitados están disponibles.



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Paid in Full With a Glass of Milk

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door.

Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry so brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it so slowly, and then asked, How much do I owe you?"

You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness."

He said ... "Then I thank you from my heart."

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strong also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Many year's later that same young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease.

Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes.

Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room.

Dressed in his doctor's gown he went in to see her. He recognized her at once.

He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day he gave special attention to her case.

After a long struggle, the battle was won.

Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words ...

"Paid in full with one glass of milk"

(Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly.

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Word Power

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No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of **La Voz**.

Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe o trilingüe es parte de ser educado en el siglo 21. Esperamos traer cada mes a nuestros lectores de **La Voz** una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

No seas terco

Don't be stubborn

¿Otra Vez?

Again?

Preguntale a él

Ask him

Ella no sabe

She doesn't know

A la mejor él si sabe

Maybe he does knows

Ya es hora

It is time

¿Qué dijiste?

What did you say?

Preguntale a tu mamá

As your mother

Ya no andas fregando

Don't be bugging me

Vale más que lo creas

You better believe it

Contesta la puerta

Answer the door

Dile que no

Tell him no

Dile que se vaya

Tell him to leave

¿Porque no hagas caso?

Why don't you mind me?

Ya no sé que hacer

I don't know what to do

The Knock at the Door

The boy put on his clothes for the cold and told his father: Ok, dad, I'm ready '.
 His Dad, Pastor, he said, ' ready for what? '
 ' Dad, it's time to go out and distribute our flyers. '
 The Dad replied, ' son, it's very cold outside and it's drizzling. '
 The boy looked shocked to his father and said, ' but dad, people need to know about God even on a rainy day. '
 The Dad replied, ' son, I'm not going to go out in this weather. '
 With Despair, the boy said, ' Dad, can I go alone? Please!
 His father hesitated for a moment and then said, ' son, you can go.. Here are the flyers, be careful. ' ' thanks dad! '
 And with this, the son went under the rain.

The 11-Year-old boy walked all the streets of the village, passing out flyers to people he saw.
 After 2 hours walking in the rain, cold and his last flyer, he stopped on a corner and looked to see if he saw someone to give his last flyer, but the streets were totally deserted. Then he turned toward the first home he saw, and walked to the front door, rang the doorbell several times and waited, but nobody came out.
 Finally the boy turned around to leave, but something stopped him. The kid turned around back towards the door and began to ring the doorbell and knocking on the door tightly with his knuckles. He kept waiting for something, standing there in front of the door. He rang the doorbell rang again and this time the door opened slowly.
 A lady with a look so sad opened the door and gently asked:
 ' What can I do for you, son?
 With radiant eyes and a smile that cut the words, the child said:
 ' Madam, I'm sorry if i disturbed you, but I just want to tell you that.....* God really loves her * and I came to give you my last flyer, that talks about God and his great love.
 The boy gave her the flyer and left.
 She just said, ' Thank you, son, and God bless you!

Well, the following Sunday morning, the pastor was in the pulpit and when he started the service asked:
 ' Does anyone have a testimony or something they want to share?..
 Gently, in the back row of the church, an elderly lady stood up. When she started to speak, a look radiant and glorious coming out of her eyes: ' No one in this church knows me. I've never been here, even last Sunday wasn't a Christian. My husband died some time ago, leaving me totally alone in this world.. Last Sunday was a day particularly cold and rainy, and it was too deep in my heart; that day I got to the end of the road, since I had no hope nor the will to live.
 So I took a chair and a rope and I went up to the attic of my house. Well and made sure I tied one end of the rope to the rafters; then I went to the chair and put the other end of the rope around my neck.

Standing on the chair, so lonely and broken-hearted I was about to jump off, when suddenly I heard the loud sound of the doorbell of the door.
 Then I thought, ' I'll wait a minute, and whoever it is will go away '.
 I waited and waited, but the bell of the door every time it was more insistent, and then the person started to knock on the door with force.
 So I wondered, who could that be? No one ever touches my door or come to see me!
 I let go of the rope from my neck and I went to the door, while the doorbell kept ringing with increasing emphasis.
 When I opened the door, I could not believe my eyes, in front of my door was the most radiant and angelic little boy I had ever seen.

His smile, ohhh, I'll never be able to describe it! The words that came out of his mouth that made my heart, dead so long ago, come back to life, when he said with a VOICE OF CHERUB: ' lady, I just want to say that God really loves you. '
 ' When the little angel disappeared between the cold and the rain, I closed my door and I read every word of the flyer.
 So I went to the attic to move the chair and the rope. I don't need more. As you can see. ... Now I'm a happy daughter of the king.
 As the address of the church was in the back of the flyer, I came to tell you in person thanks to that little angel of God came right on time and, in fact, to rescue my life from an eternity in hell. '
 Everyone was crying in the church.
 The Pastor came down from the pulpit to the first bench of the front, where the the little angel was sitting;
 took his son in his arms and cried uncontrollably.



PODER's Nahui-Ollin Healthy Communities Climate Justice Workshops.



Nahui-Ollin is a Nahuatl word representing the four elements and their movement; water, air, sun and earth. Govalle Elementary School parents participated in the series of workshops. They learned about alternatives to chemical uses. They learned how to make natural soaps, cleaning solutions, natural facials, breathing exercises, safe cosmetics, water importance and alternative energy. Parents educated themselves about the importance of protecting their bodies and protecting Mother Earth.



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