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People in the News



Karla Leal Joins KEYE-TV in Austin, Texas

Karla Leal joined the KEYE-TV team on October of 2009 to be part of the launch of "Conteo de Noticias Telemundo Austin," the first local Spanish newscast of the Telemundo network in this city.

Karla was born and raised in Tijuana, Mexico, but she came to the U.S. after finishing high school and moved to the windy city to earn her Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from Columbia College Chicago.

Since the beginning of her career in the broadcast news industry, Karla has focused on serving the Hispanic community. Her first opportunity on TV was at Chicago's public access channel CAN-TV 19 hosting the bilingual show "Latina Spirit," and before moving to Austin, Karla worked for Telemundo 11 in Bakersfield, California, where she was the anchor and reporter for 4 years.



Gonzalez Comes to Austin from the Rio Grande Valley

Erika Gonzalez is one of the newest editions to the KEYE/Telemundo family. Born and raised in Garland, Texas, Gonzalez quickly knew where her passion would lead her. She graduated Cum Laude from the University of Texas Pan American in the Rio Grande Valley in 2007.

She helped launch and became the weathercaster for the Fox affiliate in that area and shortly thereafter, she became the co-anchor for the 9 o'clock news as well as the Executive Producer.

Gonzalez is active in her community participating in all sorts of charitable affairs and is an active alumni member of Delta Xi Nu Multicultural Sorority Inc. In her spare time she loves to dance Salsa and is a Zumba Instructor.



Judy Canales Named USDA Administrator

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack named Judith Canales as Administrator for Rural Business and Cooperative programs in USDA's Rural Development agency.

In 1996, Former President Bill Clinton appointed Canales as Deputy State Director for Texas Rural Development.

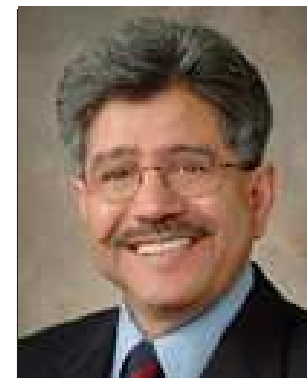
Canales received a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. She received a Master of Arts degree in Urban Studies from Trinity University in San Antonio, a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin and an Associate of Arts degree from Southwest Texas Junior College. Canales is a native of Uvalde, Texas, and most recently lived in Eagle Pass, Texas.



Ed Gomez Named New Community Relations Manager

Edward Gomez, formerly the director of El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission, was recently hired as the Community Relations Manager for the Travis County Healthcare District. This is a newly established position for the District and will expand the organization's presence in the community.

In this new position, Mr. Gomez serves as the community representative for both the District and the affiliated CommunityCare System. Mr. Gomez came to Austin in 2003 and holds a bachelors degree in business from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida (1978) and a Masters degree from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. He also studied at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology from 1984 to 1988.



Dr. Roberto Aguero Takes Position in San Antonio, Texas

The Alamo Colleges Board of Trustees has approved the recommendation of Chancellor Dr. Bruce H. Leslie to appoint Dr. Roberto Aguero as vice chancellor for academic success at the Alamo Colleges.

Aguero brings to the Alamo Colleges a winning combination of a strong academic background, 27 years of senior-level educational leadership and a good track record at the local, state and national level. At one time he was the President of Austin Community College.

Aguero earned his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Pennsylvania State University and his master's in education at Stephen F. Austin State University. He was awarded a bachelor's from Angelo State University and an associate degree at Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde.

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Pensamientos

I don't know about you but this **Latinos in America** special that **Soledad O'brien** put together in October, *no más no!* I watched the whole thing on both nights with my family and all of us were in agreement that **Soledad** likes the coasts, east coast and west coast.

But in between the coasts there are a lot of Latinos and she missed them all in terms of putting together something that was a good representation of the 45 million plus *de nosotros*.

Other critics of the series point out "that story seems to set the tone for the series as if the Latino experience in America is mostly one of illegal immigration, desperation, poverty and bad choices. With the exception of 2 success stories - one of a chef and the other of a Cuban-American senator, *Latinos in America* seems to give the impression the majority of Latinos are unwilling to learn English, assimilate and effectively improve their lives." My entire family, including el gato, agree.

But you know what, I don't own the television studio, I don't pay **Soledad O'brien's** salary and it doesn't really matter what I have got to say about her work because I'm just a little old newspaper publisher some where in the middle of the country. Asi es que, enough said about **CNN** and **Soledad O'brien**.

Cambiando de Tema

It was announced earlier this week that **Border Media** was ending three of its four Spanish language broadcasts in the **Austin** area. This reduces the number of Latino radio stations in the city from 11 to eight.

What does this mean for Tejanos in **Austin**? Probably not a whole lot. In the first place Tejanos were not really part of the listening demographic of these stations. Mexicans and others who operate primarily in Spanish were who these stations were targeting.

Don't count on any organized protests or rallies like the **Austin Tejano Music Coalition** has put together for the return of Tejano music in the city. *La Raza* who listened to the Border Media stations are too busy working or looking for work to take time out to go to **Saltillo Plaza** to express their concerns.

Cambiando de Tema

I had a very interesting conversation with a friend of mine about the apparent lack of interest in nominating Hispanics to the **American History Center's Trail Blazer** Project. (See last months issue of *La Voz de Austin*). A whole lot less nominations have come in than were expected and this is what prompted some of us to speculate what might be some of the reasons.

Our first thought was that although the Hispanic population in the greater Austin area has gone past a quarter of million, many Hispanics who compose this group have been here less than forty years. According to the **U.S. Census Bureau**, in 1970 there were only about 37,000 Hispanics in the city. If you figure that in forty years half of them have died or moved, that leaves you with only about 15,000 Hispanic who have some memory of what has gone on in **Austin** over the years.

And since no one has bothered to write a book on the Hispanic population in **Austin, Texas**, the collective

Editorial



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor & Publisher

knowledge of these Hispanics is disappearing everytime *uno de ellos* passes away. More on this topic in coming editions of **La Voz de Austin**.

Cambiando de Tema

Here is something to think about. Over the years people from **Texas** have left the state in search of economic and educational opportunities. People from **Mexico** do the same, leave the homeland for the **USA** in search of opportunities. Many of those who leave always say they will come back. Some do and some don't

In **California**, in the Bay Area, there are many Tejanos who still say they are coming home. (I myself went to California and stayed seven years before coming back.) These Tejanos in the Bay Area have created a organization to help them remember their Tejano roots. It is called **BAT**. (Bay Area Tejanos) They have a website: www.bayareatejanos.com and regularly hold dances. Last week, on Halloween, **Ruben Ramos and the Mexican Revolution** played at the **San Jose Moose Lodge**. For those of us who are current residents of **Texas** we should be very thankful that we are home.



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TEA Grants Appeal for Travis High School Accountability Rating

The Austin School District today received notification from **Commissioner of Education Robert Scott** that the appeal of the state accountability rating for **Travis High School** has been granted. Thus, **Travis High School** moves from Academically Unacceptable to Academically Acceptable for 2009. This means that 100 of Austin's 114 campuses, or 88 percent, met or exceeded the challenges of the state's increasing accountability standards for 2009.

Travis students met all Academically Acceptable standards for 2009, based upon academic performance. The Academically Unacceptable designation was initially issued by TEA because of the way in which one Travis student, who had already met all the requirements for graduation, was counted as "non-completer," because the student continued to be enrolled, part-time, taking additional classes.

"I am delighted that the Texas Education Agency reviewed our record of success and granted the appeal," said **Travis High School**

Principal Rene Garganta.

"This reflects positively on the efforts of everyone on our campus: our teachers, our students and our parents. I look forward to continuing to work with the Travis community for the educational advancement of our students."

The Hardest Working Community Activists in Austin, Texas

La Voz de Austin is currently accepting nominations for the "Hardest Working Community Activists in Austin." Just send in your nomination of who you think should be recognized. There is no criteria or explicit qualifications. *Esto se trata de su opinión.* P.O. Box 19457 Austin, Texas

National Hispanic Institute

Crafting new thoughts, new strategies,
new leaders, for the 21st century Latino community

Hispanic Youth Opportunity Fund

As changing demographics continue to alter the landscape and composition of our nation, Latinos will increasingly be required to assume leadership roles in both the private and public spheres of community life. The earlier we provide them concentrated training in leadership, advance their skill readiness to be competent and articulate participants in organizational settings, and guide them to appreciate that leadership is a life-learning process, the more all of us will benefit as these young men and women respond to the challenges that invariably will arise as they reach adulthood.

The **Hispanic Youth Opportunity Fund** of the **National Hispanic Institute** was established several years ago not only to make leadership training an accessible opportunity for high ability Latino youth nationwide; more importantly, it makes participation possible for young men and women who have the academic credentials to participate, but lack the financial resources to fulfill the membership requirements to attend.

Goal

Our goal for 2005-2006 is to raise \$250,000 in **Hispanic Youth Fund** to help impact approximately 4,000 deserving youth. Should you wish to contribute to the HYF, we ask that you keep in mind its purpose. Help and attention does not go to all applicants. Instead, it is reserved for youth who have applied and gained admission to an **NHI** youth leadership program and have submitted some portion of their tuition. Particular attention

goes to applicants who reside in small towns and cities, rural communities, attend resource-poor inner city schools, come from financially challenged, single-parent families, or have experienced a recent catastrophic event in their families such as employment layoff, serious illness, or the recent passing of a parent/guardian.

Guidance

Should you decide to support the **Hispanic Youth Fund**, do so with the understanding that your contribution will go to a deserving young person. Send your contribution to the **National Hispanic Institute**, P.O. Box 220, Maxwell, Texas, 78656.

You will receive a letter acknowledging your gift to the Institute to keep for your records. If you would like more information on the cost of each one of our high school leadership programs, please refer to information on tuition requirements for each of our initiatives. You will note that **NHI** enjoys the partnerships of a number of host college institutions nationwide that assist us in these efforts.

Through their support, student tuition fees reflect approximately only 40% of the overall costs per child. Join us in making leadership development a life-long gift that will help build and strengthen the leadership capacities of the future Latino community!

National Hispanic Institute

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An Interview with Martin Apolinar: United States Marine

The following is an interview with Martin Apolinar, a 2009 graduate of LBJ High School and a member of the Austin Voices for Education and Youth Stand Up Club.

La Voz: I met you when you were a student at Lanier High School. What led to join the United States Marines?

Martin: Ever since I was little I saw videos of the military and I always thought of myself trying to do something like that. Over time the idea of being in the military just grew on me.

La Voz: You graduated from LBJ High School in what year?

Martin: This year, in 2009.

La Voz: Had you already signed up for military service before your graduated?

Martin: Yes. I signed up in the summer of 2008.

La Voz: Now. I imagine you had your choice of which military branch to go with. How is it that you chose the United States Marines?

Martin: I wanted to go with the best and for me that meant the United States Marines.

La Voz: OK. Now when did you first report for duty?

Martin: It was on June 15th of this year in San Antonio, Texas

La Voz: So you went to San Antonio first.

Martin: Yes, first to San Antonio and then they flew us to San Diego, California and then straight to boot camp.

La Voz: So how long have you been in boot camp?

Martin: Three months.

La Voz: And so now you are back in Austin to visit your parents?

Martin: Yes. For ten days and then I'm going back to California.

La Voz: For more training?

Martin: Yes, more training.

La Voz: So if you were to be asked how have you changed? What would be your answer?

Martin: I believe I am more disciplined. I pay more attention to detail.

La Voz: And if you were to be asked what did you miss the most during your three months of training what would you say?

Martin: I would say Olive Garden Restaurants and the Orange Chicken of Panda Express.

La Voz: What about your mother's home cooking?

Martin: Oh, well, her green enchiladas!

La Voz: Se avienta pa los green enchiladas?

Martin: Oh yes!

La Voz: Now when you were in boot camp, you didn't get any leave did you?

Martin: No. The only leave we would get was 4 hours a week for church services.

La Voz: So you were confined to base during your entire time in boot camp.

Martin: That is correct.

La Voz: So this trip home is first time being "free.?"

Martin: Yes

La Voz: What have you been doing since you have been home?

Martin: I visited my old high school LBJ High School. I saw my former principal, Mr. Patrick Patterson.

La Voz: Well, we wish you best in this new adventure in the Marines.

Martin: Thank you for interviewing me.



ABOVE: Martin Apolinar, United States Marine.

BELOW: Martin's family on the night before he returned to California for more training.



Although there was a brief notice, I was disappointed that *La Voz* was not able to publish a real story about the situation with **AISD** and **Rosalia Cruz** in the October issue. I have worked at **Travis High School** along with both **Mrs. Cruz** and **Mr. Carlos Cruz** for several years.

Despite that long and close acquaintance, I have felt very much in the dark about recent events. I used to see **Mrs. Cruz** almost every week at **Travis**, but had not seen her or heard from her in about six months. I did not and do not know why she stopped working at **Travis**. All I know so far is what I've seen in the press and at public meetings. If any part of the local press could be trusted to fairly enlighten us on such a topic, you'd think it would be *La Voz*.

Like *La Voz*, I have not heard any explanation from **Mrs. Cruz** or **Mr. Cruz** – or anyone else – about why **Mrs. Cruz** was let go – nor did I feel I was owed one, necessarily. I have always had nothing but the highest personal and professional regard for both **Mrs.** and **Mr. Cruz**, and have no knowledge of any alleged wrongdoing related to **Mrs. Cruz's** work with the **Project Advance** program on our campus, or in any other context. Indeed, I know that both **Mr. and Mrs. Cruz** have stellar reputations of service to our community over many years, and I have long looked up to them as colleagues and role models. I have seen them touch the lives of nearly countless students in a positive way. That said, I am quite perplexed by their recent actions.

He told us to expect negative publicity about our school, and said that he regretted the possible impact

On Monday September 21, the **Travis** Principal, **Dr. Rene Garganta** (known to all as "Dr. G") called an "emergency faculty meeting" after school. He told us to expect negative publicity about our school, and said that he regretted the possible impact on our morale and that of our students. He informed us that people representing **LULAC** and the **NAACP** would be holding a press conference the following day.

There was some discussion from teachers in the audience. One of our math

Travis High School

teachers said that he considered himself "100% Mexican" and was very disappointed with **LULAC** for getting involved in something like this. At that point, **Mr. Cruz** stood up in the aisle and, from a few feet way, proceeded to verbally assault **Dr. G** in an incredibly vicious and personal way, brandishing secrets he'd dredged up from **Dr. G's** past, announcing them in a way he evidently intended to shock the audience and devastate **Dr. G** with embarrassment. A general uproar among the teachers who had gathered in the theater ensued, and many in the audience began loudly booing **Mr. Cruz**.



Dr. Rene Garganta

Seeking to calm the crowd, **Dr. G** defended **Mr. Cruz's** right to speak at a faculty meeting and said that he did not want to "buy into any ugliness." I was there. Ugly was the right word. A biology teacher shouted at **Mr. Cruz** to "shut up!" People were as baffled as they were outraged, though, for it was entirely unclear how **Mr. Cruz's** outburst related to anything that had been discussed up to that point in the meeting. Despite the wild heckling, **Mr. Cruz** regained his composure, though; when **Dr. G** reassured us that "**Mr. Cruz** is a teacher here and can speak any time he wants," By now **Mr. Cruz** was heading for the door and answered from the rear of the auditorium, calling out "That's right!" before exiting while the rest of us remained.

The **Travis** social studies department met on the morning of Thursday, September 24. I am a member of that department, and **Mr. Cruz** has long been its chair. **Mr. Cruz** opened the meeting by referring to what he called "bad press our school is receiving" and he called this press "unfortunate." He also apologized

to the teachers in the room for his "behavior at the meeting Monday." He then declared that "we are taking this issue all the way to **TEA**." I interjected to inquire "What issue?" and **Mr. Cruz** replied that he felt his wife **Rosalia** was being "railroaded" by the administration.

I read a story posted on myfox.com on September 22 which quotes a letter from **District Director of LULAC Angel Abitua** stating his organization's "intention

to employ any and all of our resources in the court of public opinion to educate our elected officials, and education administrators, at local and statewide levels, about the unfairness and injustice inflicted on a loyal member of **LULAC**." I try to read everything that comes out in the news media about my school and its employees, and I have also searched in vain for information about this on the **LULAC** website. Regarding the "loyal **LULAC** member" alluded to in **Mr. Abitua's** letter, I have to state that, for my part, as a member of said "public" — over a month since that letter was sent: I am still waiting to be "educated" about the "unfairness and injustice" said to have been "inflicted."

"Mrs. Cruz is not being treated the way she is supposed to."

I watched the **AISD Board** of Trustees meeting from September 29 when it was rebroadcast on Channel 22. During the Citizen's Communication portion of the meeting, one speaker after another stood up, some identifying an affiliation with **LULAC** and some mentioning a concern that, as one citizen put it, "**Mrs. Cruz is not being treated the way she is supposed**

by Hart Murphy



Mr. Hart Murphy

to." However, while no one who spoke elaborated much on the termination of **Mrs. Cruz** employment contract or the alleged basis for it, several directed their comments to what they called the "failed leadership" and low performance of **Travis High School**.

Am I the only one who found this confusing? I suppose this approach was consistent with **LULAC's** call in the previous week for **Dr. G** to resign. But how, if at all, were these comments related to the item on the board's agenda? If there are concerns about the general direction of **Travis** on the part of these citizens or this organization, why did they raise them at this hearing, on this night, rather than at one of the regular hearings on the progress of **AISD's** high schools? How was this not a blatant attempt to change the subject? If so, why was that felt necessary? And what benefit was seen in it? Did none of these speakers notice how they brought discredit to their own objectives by running unrelated points together?

What good did this discussion do **Mrs. Cruz** (since that was the explicit intention). Strictly as political theater, the performance of **Mrs. Cruz's** supporters

Teacher Speaks Out

at the AISD Board meeting on Sept. 29 would have to be classified as low farce. Behind the board's vote no doubt lurks a very grievous tragedy, however. Again, I – along, I am sure, with many others – would be deeply sympathetic to an explanation of any injustice being shown toward **Mrs. Cruz**. But no information to support such a claim has publicly come forth. Is it not fair, at this point, given **how broad and fierce** the counter-attacks have been, to ask why?

Is school performance data simply a convenient weapon to be wielded in some other kind of fight?

Indeed, it seems to me necessary to ask why, especially when the success or failure of one of our **South Austin** high schools is made the issue instead. Is school performance data simply a convenient weapon to be wielded in some other kind of fight? How does the public regard the ethics of using such information, especially in a highly selective and opportunistic or even inaccurate way, to pursue another, thinly-veiled agenda? Was the leadership of **LULAC** and the **NAACP** really speaking from a sincere concern about **Travis High School** when they called their press conference to demand **Dr. G's** resignation?

This is a quite disturbing question, it seems to me, for these are two highly prestigious civil rights organizations. **Austin** very much needs a strong **LULAC** and a strong **NAACP**. What light will be reflected on the judgment of their present leadership when this controversy is over? Will that leadership be seen as having wisely served the good of the communities whose interests they claim to represent? Alternatively, will those leaders be seen to have merely demonstrated their willingness to do and say just about

anything in the effort to protect someone well-placed within their own ranks – regardless of the real impact on the larger community, regardless, really, of how many totally innocent people get hurt in the process?

In other words – and it pains me to feel I must say these words— was the leadership of **LULAC** and the **NAACP** on this occasion truly representing the interests of their membership in quality schools, or did they somehow get enlisted as proxies in a somewhat shady, more or less personal vendetta? Critics of multiculturalism have long complained that identity politics too easily decays into essentially a protection-racket for cronyism, mediocrity and even corruption. I have never believed that. Nevertheless, do those of us who believe in community activism really want our young Latino and African-American activists of the future, among others, to draw the lesson that overt and/or underhanded attempts to character assassinate or engage in retaliatory smears against individuals or institutions perceived as getting in the way of personal and/or group agendas ought to be viewed as effective and legitimate tactics? Blameless victims, in my limited experience, generally do not dive so quickly into playing preemptive gutter-ball, heedless of collateral damage.

In the September 22 interview with **Fox 7**, **Rita Gonzales-Garza**, another officer of **LULAC**, said of **Travis** — among other dubious assertions about our school — that our “*scores on TAKS tests have decreased.*” I know she was not misquoted, because you can watch the video on the myfox.com website. Anyone can visit the website of the **Texas Education Agency**, however, and establish that **Ms. Gonzales-Garza's** statement about the **Travis** test scores is false. Did **Gonzales-Garza** know that what she was saying about our TAKS scores was untrue, but say it anyway —

because she thought it would help her make our school look bad? Or did she simply misspeak? If it was a misstatement, why would someone take the trouble to call a press conference before they had their facts straight?

Gonzales-Garza went on to criticize what she called “the lack of success of the students” at **Travis**. With all due respect to **LULAC** – an organization that has helped secure tremendous gains for human rights in America over many decades – I fail to see how anyone can present themselves as a champion of “fairness” who would publicly utter a statement so



Rita Gonzales-Garza

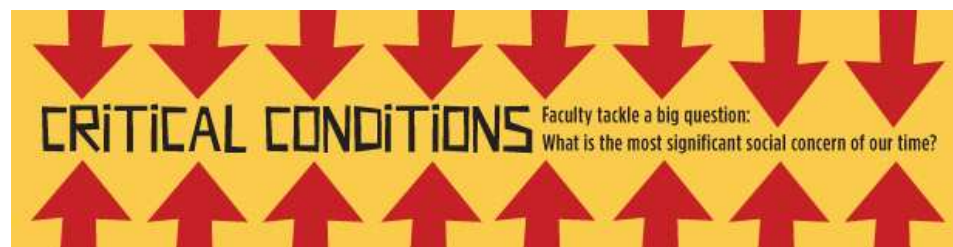
brazenly unfair – not to mention possibly damaging to the self-image of children. Whatever is happening to **Mrs. Cruz**, I know for sure that the students at **Travis** are not to blame. They did not deserve that swipe at their success – which has been extraordinary and hard-won – and grows every year.

To be sure, our campus still has its challenges. But I have been privileged to witness some pretty remarkable student success at **Travis** first-hand. And truly, the credit for how **Travis** has actually turned around in recent years to a significant degree belongs neither with **Dr. G** nor his teaching staff, but with the **Travis Rebels** themselves, and the hard-working families who have done so much to support them. Are the members of **LULAC** rooting for **Travis** to fail? Why do their leaders make it seem that way? Or have they adopted a misguided strategy of trying to portray **Travis** as a failing school in the hope that, somehow, creating such a public perception will assist one of their “loyal members” in somehow getting off the proverbial (if in this case, still mysterious) hook?

So, **Mrs. Cruz** declined to be interviewed by *La Voz*. It seems **Austin** has not heard much from **LULAC** about **Travis** in the last month either. In their letter to **Dr. Carstarphen** on Sept 20, **LULAC** had threatened to take their case to the “court of public opinion.” A bold and striking phrase! A **large** promise. Meanwhile, the silence grows deafening. And the public is left to wonder: 1) What **is** their case, exactly? and, 2) How does **LULAC** feel their PR campaign against **Travis** and our Principal is going so far? When do they plan to get back to us with “phase II”?

My grandmother always told me: you can never build yourself back up by seeking to tear others down. I always hope the children it is my honor to teach at **Travis** learn that life-lesson as well. For all their storied accomplishments, my great fear is that this is a lesson **Carlos** and **Rosalia Cruz** and their allies have not yet taken to heart. I sincerely feel bad for the **Cruzes** in what they must be going through. They've always been very nice to me. But the way they have handled this episode, I must confess, has shown me a side of them I had not seen before. “You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of time.”

Still sobering thoughts, 200 years after **Abraham Lincoln's** birth — and enough to give any sane person **joining** a controversy pause. Put differently, “winning through intimidation” has a proven track record, with or without a dust-cloud of distraction **and deception** to disguise it. Given what I've already seen with my own two eyes, I realize that I myself face some danger of becoming a target for retaliation **simply** for posing the questions I have asked in this piece of writing. I **am** not without fear of that possibility. My only comfort is the thought that, however **brutally** an individual questioner is attacked, sometimes certain questions refuse to go away ...



Yolanda C. Padilla
Professor of Social Work and Women's and Gender Studies

Immigration policy is at a crossroads

Strong families have created the foundation for the thriving U.S. Latino community. Latino communities are filled with hustle and bustle, decent home ownership and parents who work two jobs. Historically, Latinos, especially children of immigrants, have been characterized by healthy beginnings and steady educational and economic mobility. The policies we create today can support this vitality and advance economic prosperity or they can threaten or even reverse current gains. Key among these policies is immigration policy.

Why does contemporary immigration policy have the potential to dramatically change the course of Latinos as a whole?

Latino families cannot be neatly separated into various immigrant statuses: those who are citizens and those who are not. In reality, immigrant families tend to be mixed status, families that contain a mix of citizens and noncitizens. Thus, any policy denying social access—to health care, education and public benefits—to any segment of the immigrant population is apt to affect the social and economic prospects of the larger Latino population.

The fate of a large segment of our country is at stake. The Latino population is projected to grow significantly in the next few decades, making up 24.4 percent of the nation's population by 2050, nearly double the current

12.6 percent. Already, nearly 25 percent of children younger than age 5 are Latino. Texas is projected to become a majority Hispanic state as early as 2026.

We are at a crossroads. Experts agree that without attention and better policies, Latino immigrant families will begin an irreversible downward trend toward pervasive poverty. There is no doubt that Latinos have strong values and a desire to achieve. If we continue our course of closing access to work, denying benefits, blocking access to higher education and instituting 'immigration reform' that does nothing to strengthen families, we will have disabled the Latino community for generations. U.S. history has repeatedly

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shown that unequal protection under the law breeds entrenched poverty and all that comes with it—social, educational and occupational stagnation. And the effects persist through generations. We have a responsibility to document and speak up about the ramifications of today's policy proposals for tomorrow's Latino population—to do our part to help change the course of Latino history to one that builds upon current Latino successes.

Precinct 4 Salutes Our Veterans



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Maria Canchola
Constable Precinct 4
Travis County

We join the rest of the nation on this Veteran's Day in saluting the men and women of the armed forces of our United States of America. Thank you for your commitment, protection and sacrifice around the world.

Maria Canchola is the Chair of the Travis County Veteran's intervention project and advocate on behalf of veterans facing the challenge of re-integration into our community.



Raúl Arturo González
Justice of the Peace Precinct 4
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Julian Samora and the Establishment of Latino Studies

EDITED BY ALBERTO LÓPEZ PULIDO, BARBARA DRISCOLL DE ALVARADO, AND CARMEN SAMORA

This book examines the life and accomplishments of Julian Samora, the first Mexican American sociologist in the United States and the founding father of the discipline of Latino studies. Detailing his distinguished career at the University of Notre Dame from 1959 to 1984, the book documents the history of the Mexican American Graduate Studies program that Samora established at Notre Dame and traces his influence on the evolution of border studies, Chicano studies, and Mexican American studies.

Contributors are Teresita E. Aguilar, Jorge A. Bustamante, Gilberto Cárdenas, Miguel A. Carranza, Frank M. Castillo, Anthony J. Cortese, Lydia Espinosa Crafton, Barbara Driscoll de Alvarado, Herman Gallegos, Phillip Benitez Gallegos Jr., José R. Hinojosa, Delfina Landeros, Paul López, Sergio X. Madrigal, Ken Martínez, Vilma Martínez, Alberto Mata, Amelia M. Muñoz, Richard A. Navarro, Jesus "Chuy" Negrete, Alberto López Pulido, Julie Leininger Pycior, Olga Villa Parra, Ricardo Parra, Victor Rios Jr., Marcos Ronquillo, Rene Rosenbaum, Carmen Samora, Rudy Sandoval, Alfredo Rodriguez Santos, and Ciro Sepulveda.

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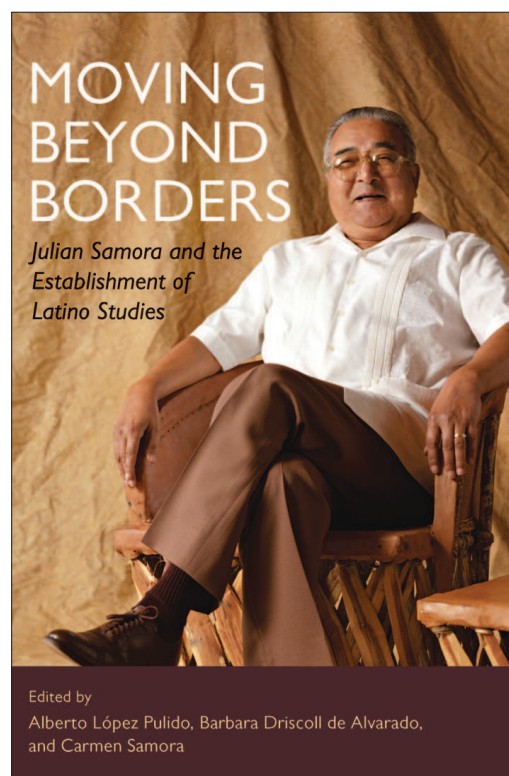
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ALBERTO LÓPEZ PULIDO is director and professor of ethnic studies at the University of San Diego. **BARBARA DRISCOLL DE ALVARADO** teaches humanities at Anna Maria College. **CARMEN SAMORA** teaches American and Chicana/o studies at the University of New Mexico and directs the Julian Samora Legacy Project.

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FuturoFund Donates \$40,000 to Workers Defense Project

Workers Defense Project

Proyecto Defensa Laboral
"La unión hace la fuerza"



On October 23rd, FuturoFund celebrated the successful first year an unprecedented effort to impact the community through philanthropy and leadership. Following months of thorough review by the FuturoFund Grants Committee, it was thrilling to hear moving presentations from our 6 finalists on how a FuturoFund grant would enable their organization to improve lives in our community. After an exciting and very close vote, the following organizations are the 2009 FuturoFund Grantees!

Literacy Coalition of Central Texas (LCCT) will receive a \$10,000 grant to expand and improve English language literacy programs throughout our community, thus enabling adults to pursue a GED, and provide a better life for themselves and their families. .

Workers Defense Project/Proyecto Defensa Laboral (WDP) will receive a \$40,000 grant to enhance the efforts of the Workplace Justice and Latino Educational Achievement Programs. Through these programs, WDP will educate thousands of low-income Latinos about their workplace rights, help families recover tens of thousands of dollars in unpaid wages, provide job related English instruction, tutor Latino children and much more. .

What is the FuturoFund?

The FuturoFund Austin is a collective effort to engage the community through philanthropy and leadership. Members of the FuturoFund make equal contributions to a charitable fund held by the Austin Community Foundation.

Who is the FuturoFund? The organization was founded by a group of young Hispanic professionals to provide a new way to leverage the tremendous talent and resources in the community to positively impact the future.

How to join the FuturoFund

FuturoFund members commit to investing \$500 a year to the organization. 100% of the money is used in annual grant to a deserving community organization. Membership contributions can be made throughout the year and are tax deductible. For more information about FuturoFund email: FuturoFundAustin@gmail.com



What is the Workers Defense Project?

Austin Day Labor Organizing:

WDP's Day Laborer Organizing Project began in June 2004 to defend the economic and human rights of day laborers in Austin who were being forced out of their hiring corner near Home Depot. Despite day laborers' valuable contributions to Austin's economy, they frequently face wage theft, precarious or abusive working conditions, and workplace injuries. **WDP** seeks to address these workplace injustices by educating workers about their rights, using popular education techniques such as participatory street theater and on-the-corner workers rights talks.

WDP has supported Austin day laborers to form Central Texas' first Day Labor Committee that works to foster positive relationships with community residents and businesses, and create a dignified work environment at their hiring corners. Through participation with **WDP**, workers develop their leadership capabilities and then take a lead in local campaigns to improve workplace and hiring conditions, educate the public about day labor, and advocate for humane and fair city policies.

Day Labor Regional Organizing Project:

In 2006, **WDP** began the Katrina Day Labor Project to provide key technical support to emerging organizations that formed in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Many day laborers and other temporary workers (including many **WDP** members) flocked to New Orleans and other Gulf Coast cities to work in the reconstruction. There they found widespread abuses: hazardous working and living conditions, rampant wage theft, and persecution by local authorities. Through the Katrina Project, **WDP** saw a great need to continue regional coordination to increase the collective power of day laborers in the region. Austin day laborers have begun to collaborate with their regional allies across Texas and the Gulf Coast to take on regional concerns, such as harmful legislation at the state level, attacks by anti-immigrant groups, and workplace abuses.

In March 2007, **Workers Defense Project** hosted a Regional Day Labor Assembly with the support of the National Day Labor Organizing Network and National Employment Law Project. The Assembly gathered workers and organizers from more than 10 organizations in Texas and New Orleans who participated in workshops about immigration reform and workers rights, and laid the groundwork for ongoing collaboration in the region.





Lorenzo Sadun for State Board of Education

Lorenzo Sadun declared his candidacy for the **State Board of Education (SBOE)** in District 10, a seat currently held by **Cynthia Dunbar**. A scientist and award-winning educator with 28 years of teaching experience, **Dr. Sadun** has closely watched the **SBOE** and has testified before the Board on several occasions.

Dr. Sadun has been a math professor at the **University of Texas** since 1991. In that time, he has watched the math and science skills of incoming students steadily decline. *"Our kids deserve a first-rate K-12 education, but in too many cases they're not getting it,"* he remarked. *"We need real science in the schools, not religious doctrine dressed up in the language of science."*

"Right now, the State Board of Education is dysfunctional," said **Sadun**. "Instead of working to improve public education in Texas, the controlling bloc of social conservatives is intent on fighting the culture wars. Instead of appointing qualified experts to guide them, they are appointing ideologues. Instead of listening to teachers and scientific experts, they listen to pressure groups. This has to stop."

The incumbent, **Cynthia Dunbar**, does not even pretend to support public education. In her book, "One Nation Under God", she writes that public education is "clearly tyrannical" (page 103) and "a subtly deceptive tool of perversion" (page 100). Her own children are home schooled.

Dr. Sadun is married with three children, all of whom attend public school. He is an active participant in Congregation Kol Halev of Austin, has served two terms as president, and strongly believes in the separation of church and state. "Religion plays an important role in my life, and in the lives of most Americans, but that's private. We don't impose our religious views on people who believe differently."

More information can be found on the campaign website, www.LorenzoSadun.com, or by emailing info@LorenzoSadun.com.



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Impact Leaders Luncheon

The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
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cordially invites you to the Hispanic Impact Leaders Luncheon

Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Meria Carstarphen, AISD Superintendent

Thursday, November 19, 2009

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sheraton Hotel, 701 E. 11th

Austin, Texas 78701

Lunch will be provided

RSVP by Monday, November 16th to
lmedina@gahcc.org or (512) 462-4311

The Education Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit organization with a mission to eliminate the Hispanic student achievement gap, by providing resources to the community and partners while advocating for the value of education and fostering a globally competitive workforce. For more information about the Foundation visit: www.gahcc.org/education.

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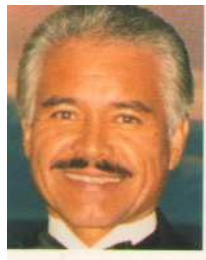
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My Story as a UT Freshman

By: Hector Gaucin, III

Never shall I forget that emotional scene with my family the morning I was about to begin my odyssey to my new life as a freshman in the **University of Texas at Austin**. It was December, 2008, I had gone outside to check the mail and there it was, an envelope from **The University of Texas at Austin!**

I carefully tore open the right side of the envelope and took out the letter. It read, "Dear Mr. Gaucin, Congratulations! You've been admitted to The University of Texas at Austin..." I stood there for a moment in disbelief. As the shock wore off I rapidly walked back into my house and headed toward the bedroom where my mom, dad and Victor, my little brother were. "I have some great news I announced while holding the letter up in the air. I have been accepted at **The University of Texas at Austin.**" My mom was the first one to jump out the bed and started hugging me and kissing me. My dad grabbed a camera off the dresser and started taking pictures of the letter, I think to show them to my grandparents.

My dad told me that he was very proud of me because I had been accepted to such a prestigious school. He also told me that he had observed me over the last several months as I worked on my application with determination and perseverance. As he shook my hand and hugged me, he said, "You are a man now." My family and I gathered in a circle and prayed for me to have a safe trip when it came time for me to leave. I knew it was going to be hard for them to let me go away but it was going to be for the best. I wanted the best college of communication in the state.

When the day of my departure came we went to the bus station in **Laredo**. I arrived early and bought the ticket. I waited for two hours. Finally the bus came. I stood up and my family took turns giving me one last hug. I grabbed my suitcases and gave them to the man who was doing the loading. I climbed aboard the bus and as I looked at my family and Laredo and realized for the first time in my life I was going out to face the world on my own. After five hours of traveling, including a stop in **San Antonio**, I arrived to the bus station in **Austin**. I collected my suitcases and went over and got a taxi.

At this point I was just admiring the sights of **Austin, Texas** from the back seat. The driver dropped me off at 21st and Speedway and there I was with four



bags of luggage in front of **Jester Hall** ready to check in my dorm and start a new life.

After checking in, I went up the elevator and I met my roommate, **Michael**. He was from Los Angeles, California. I had missed orientation and there were some problems with my registration. I had to run around to different places to fix this problem. Finally I was able to get my class schedule arranged. I had registered for Cultural

Anthropology, Critical Issues in Journalism, Physical Geology and Rhetoric and Writing.

I will never forget that first night in my dorm. I did not know that I had to bring sheets, blankets and a pillow. So, the first night I slept on the mattress using my jacket as a blanket. Thankfully, **Michael** took me to the store the next day and bought a quilt, pillow, and some detergent.

We have become good friends are now, and we have made some other friends down the hall, **Daniel** and **Samuel**, a guy named **Patrick** from the top floor, and two girls from the bottom floor, **Macy** and **Sara**. They are my new family because we care and look after each other. Most of them have helped me out when I am not able to afford dinner when we go out.

There was a time when the four of us went knocking door by door to introduce ourselves and meet more people from the whole building. (We are talking about two thousand people.) We only knocked on ten doors from the floor I live on. It would have been more, but we stopped and talked for more than two hours with two very nice friendly students. The other doors we knocked on were answered by students who were not very sociable. Now, this little project is currently on hold until further notice.

Being new to this whole university experience can be overwhelming at times. For me everything is a new experience and adventure. So far I have had the opportunity to participate in several activities, organizations, and events. I attend salsa dance classes where we switch dancing partners and I get to briefly meet people from different backgrounds. I also joined the Jester Joggers. We are runners from the building but lately not too many people show up usually it's just a resident assistant named Aj and me. She gave little tours while running for example, one time we ran into north campus and the last time we ran all the way to the lake. I love running for me, it's

My Story as a UT Freshman

continued

the best way to burn mass from all the food I excessively enjoyed.

Food is another big subject in my UT life. It wasn't until I came to **Austin** that I heard and even tasted an organic hamburger, Middle Eastern food and a dessert named "molten cake," which is a chocolate cake molten like fudge making a circle in the plate and has vanilla ice cream in the center.

Since I have been here I haven't been able to get Mexican food around here until I met **Mr. Santos**. In **Laredo** I literally lived just one block away from a Mexican restaurant. This situation (not eating Mexican food often) increases my nostalgia a little more.

"Gone to Texas" was our welcoming event, it was so stimulating. All the freshmen were in "the heart of the campus," which is where the clock tower is located. Basically it was just speeches and welcoming us to this new experience. What I loved from this event was

that all of us together took an oath of using our knowledge to honor the school and help the world to be a better place. Then afterwards there was a concert and free ice cream in the little park that is across the way. What a memorable night.

For some reason the rates of people of my high who attend to UT are very low.

There is an interesting fact I need to mention, from my high school only two people came to **UT**. For some reason the rates of people of my high who attend to UT are very low. Actually if three students from my high school were to attend it will be a record. That's **Jessica** and me.

It was on the third day of classes that I ran into **Jessica**. We stepped into each others path after I got out of my discussion section from Anthropology. I was walking and she came out of the corner from the hallway. She looked surprised and happy to see me and

yelled, "Gaucin!"

She told me that she looked for me by calling mutual friends and high school counselors with no success. Then, I did not have a cell phone and I didn't even have her phone number or email. I was very happy to see her after all she is closest person I got from home.

One of the things I have noticed in my daily walks is that there are parents giving little tours to their kids.

Being a student at **UT Austin** is a beautiful adventure. It is wonderful to attend to a university full with history and tradition. One of the things I have noticed in my daily walks is that there are parents giving little tours to their kids. In my opinion, they must be teaching them from the very beginning to love their alma mater. On game days, kids are completely dressed up in burned orange.

I am not going to lie, academically speaking, the university is a big challenge, especially with the great expectations that my parents have of me. This is a very heavy weight I carry on my shoulders. I have to work hard and do good in my first year because if I fall behind it will mean that I will be away from my family longer. Some of the biggest challenges are learning how to administer my time with respect to homework and other activities. And last but not least, watching how I spend my money on groceries and other items.

My new independent life is lovely and nostalgic. Feeling nostalgic every day for me is inevitable even though I text my mom every three days, talk to my dad via internet when he is available. Sunday is the day we agreed to talk longer about how my week was and what is coming up. Well, as it is for me now my reader friends I must stop here just for now. However, I promise to come back and tell you more.

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Calendar of Events

November 4th-6th, 2009 - The **Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies** at UT presents a conference titled: Migration During an Era of Restriction. Scholars and legal experts will address immigration policy issues and present research findings concerning migration developments in Europe and the United States, as well as in sending communities. The conference will be held at the **AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center**. For more information call: Paloma Diaz at 512.232.2409

November 5th, 2009 - **Southwest Key Programs, East Austin College Prep Academy & the Mexican Consulate** invite you to an Open House Thursday, November 5, 2009 4:30-7:00pm 6002 Jain Lane Austin, TX 78721 Appetizers, wine and hors d'oeuvres, performance, auction & more! Contact Victoria Guitierrez and 512.583.2567 for more information.

November 8th, 2009 - Fundraiser for **Edward Limon** to be held the Moose Lodge 2301 E.M. Franklin in Austin, Texas from 3:00pm to 7:00pm For more information call Julian Fernandez at (512) 933-1485

November 8th, 2009 - **Olga Seelig Fundraiser Brunch at El Sol y La Luna**, 600 East 6th Street Austin, Texas 11:00am to 1:00pm. For more information please call: (512)848-3130

November 11th, 2009 - **Lamarfest** an event at Lamar Middle School. Musica, Juegos, Premios, Comida Doors open at 6:00pm. Location: 6201 Wynona Austin, Texas 78757

November 12-15th, 2009 - **The National Hispanic Institute** will be celebrating 30 years of getting students into college. On November 14th will be the banquet and fundraiser at the Hilton Austin Airport Hotel. For more information call (512) 357-6137

November 12th, 2009 - ACLU and the Texas Observer Celebrate publication of Molly Ivans Biography. **Inaugural book signing: Molly Ivans: A Rebel Life** by Bill Minutaglio and W. Michael Smith **Location:** Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto Street in Austin, Texas Free admission, cash food and bar. Event starts at 5:00pm

November 12th, 2009 - ALMA (Austin Latino Music Association Volunteer and Membership Mixer. Location: Botticellis Beer Garden (1321 S. Congress) 5:30pm to 7:30pm For more details visit: www.botticellissouthcongress.com

November 16th, 2009 - Drawing for 2 tickets to Texas vs. Texas A&M game. See info below at November 26th.

November 17th, 2009 - The Lives of Indigenous Women in a 'Post-racial' and 'Post-Feminist' World a presentation by **Professor Andrea Smith** at the Thompson Conference Center Auditorium from 7:00pm to 9:00 pm. For more information please visit: <http://communication.utexas.edu/students/srfellowevents.html>

November 19th, 2009 - **Impact Leaders Luncheon. The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** Education Foundation cordially invites everyone to this event at the Sheraton Hotel, 701 E. 11th Street in Austin, Texas from 11:30am to 1:00pm. RSVP by Monday November 16th, 2009 by calling (512) 462-4311. Guest speaker will be **Dr. Meria Carstarphen**, Superintendent of the Austin Independent School District

November 20th, 2009 - Birthday Celebration & Fundraiser for Raul Alvarez 6:00pm to 8:00pm/. Location: 2601 Zaragoza St. Austin, Texas 78702 RSVP at 637-0881

November 21st, 2009 - **Bikers for Eastside**-First Annual Fun Run - Starts at the Moose Lodge 2103 E. M Franklin in Austin, Texas For more information contact Fuzzy at (512) 628-0351

November 26th, 2009 - 2 Tickets to the **State Farm Lone Star Showdown** featuring **Texas vs. Texas A&M** on November 26, 2009 in **College Station**. Drawing will be held on November 16, 2009. Raffle proceeds benefit **Hispanic Scholarship Consortium**, a 501c(3) public charity. Contributions made to HSC are tax deductible. Special Thanks to State Farm for Supporting the Hispanic Scholarship Consortium! For more information visit the following website: www.hispanicscholar.org

December 1st, 2009 - Hispanic Community Engagement Advisory Board meeting at the United Way Capital Area offices located at 2000 East MLK in Austin, Texas. Meeting time: 9:00am to 11:00am. For more information call Mando at: (512) 472-6267

Word Power

En Palabras Hay Poder

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, 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 de Austin**.

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 a nuestros lectores de **La Voz de Austin** una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

Ayer yesterday

Me senti I felt

newspaper periódico

book libro

time tiempo

light luz

chair silla

desk escritorio

pen pluma

help ayuda

backpack mochila

emotions emociones

envelope sobre

tired cansado

school escuela

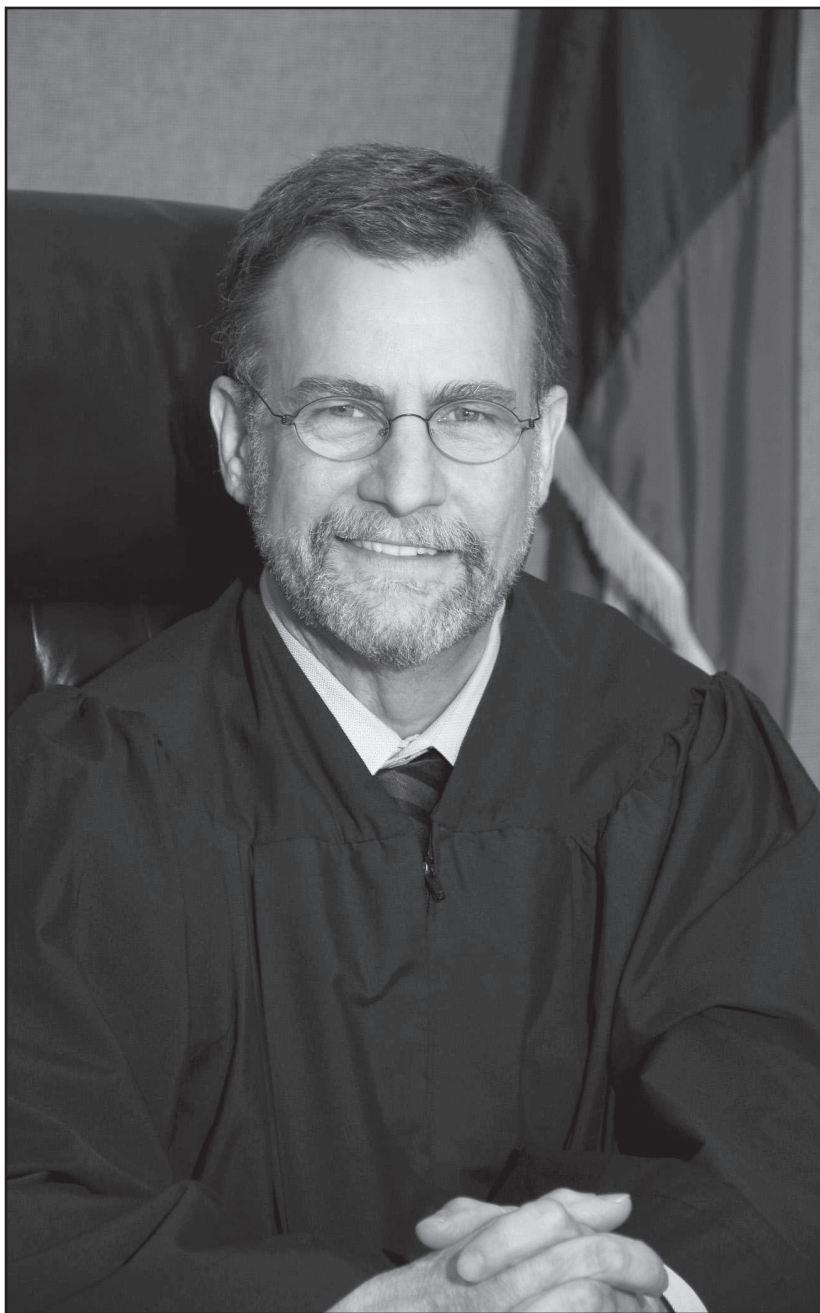
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 for Travis County Commissioner
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- Raul Alvarez



We hereby declare our support for the candidacy of Raul Alvarez for Travis County Commissioner

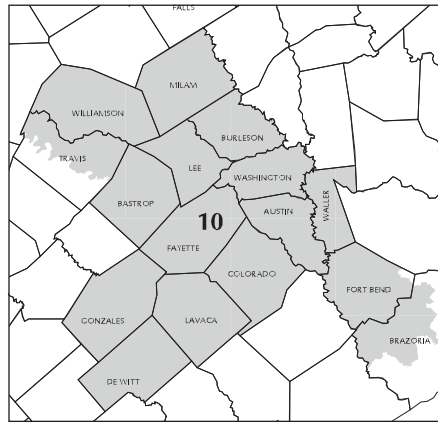
- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Mike Martinez | 5. Juan Meza |
| 2. Carmelo Macias | 6. Mr. & Mrs. Kelly Perez-Hodge |
| 3. Blanca Garcia | 7. Mr. & Mrs. Moses Saldaña |
| 4. Alberto Garcia | 8. Alfredo Santos c/s |



Paid Political Announcement by friends of Raul Alvarez

Republicans gerrymandered Austin out of a seat on the State Board of Education by splitting Travis County at the Colorado River and combining us with Republican counties.

The Republicans who were elected are working against public education by pushing for vouchers. They are disrespectful of teachers and educators and are constantly fighting “culture wars” over the curriculum.



North of the River—District 10—Dr. Judy Jennings

- Ph.D. in Educational Psychology
- Director of Assessment at Resources for Learning
- consults with and has worked at Texas Education Agency
- two grown children who both attended public school
- daughter graduated from and teaches in Round Rock ISD
- son currently teaching English in Korea
- Judy and husband Hal reside in Austin, Travis County.

Judy is challenging Republican incumbent Cynthia Dunbar, who calls public education a “subtly deceptive tool of perversion.”

voteJudyJennings.com • 512-535-6511 • PO Box 5674, Austin 78763



Wherever you live in Travis County, you can vote for a great Democrat for State Board of Education!



Vote in the March 2, 2010 Democratic Primary and again in the November 2, 2010 general election!

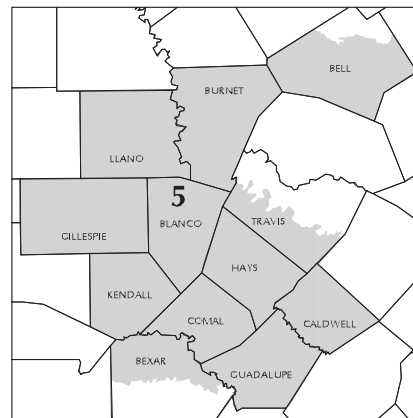


South of the River—District 5—Dr. Rebecca Bell-Metereau

- Ph.D. in English, Professor at Texas State
- teaches English and film and is a much-published author
- award winner for teaching excellence
- taught in Africa while in Peace Corps & as Fulbright Scholar
- Served as San Marcos Planning Commissioner
- two grown daughters who graduated from San Marcos CISD
- Rebecca and husband Pierre live in San Marcos, Hays County.

Rebecca is challenging Ken Mercer, another Republican “culture warrior” forcing an extremist agenda on Texas schoolchildren.

voteRebecca.com • 512-637-7260 • PO Box 92341, Austin 78709



These two outstanding Democratic women can beat the Republican incumbents, but first they have to win the Democratic Primary on March 2, 2010. If you care about education, please vote for two women who have dedicated their careers to education: Dr. Judy Jennings and Dr. Rebecca Bell-Metereau. Please visit their web sites to find out more!

pol. adv. Judy Jennings & Rebecca Bell-Metereau