THE NEW LATINO SOUTH:
LATINOS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Understanding our Growing Community

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THE NEW LATINO SOUTH?
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- This topic raises strong emotions & attitudes, as well diverse and polarizing opinions.
- Latinos have differences & similarities in cultural, social, political & economic backgrounds.
- Most Latinos/Hispanics share a common language, Spanish. Yet there are more: Portuguese, indigenous and others.
- The U.S. is a nation of immigrants: Europeans, Asians, Africans, Hispanics, etc…
- Native Americans were here before the nation was founded.
THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Population Growth
Pew Hispanic Center study –July 2005

  - North Carolina - 492%
  - Georgia - 300%
  - South Carolina - 211%
  - Alabama - 208%

- Fast-growing economies are magnets for young, unmarried, mobile Latino immigrants; Post-Katrina effect

- Economic growth in the 1990’s created jobs for 410,000 Hispanics as well as 1.9 million non-Hispanic workers

- The Hispanic school-age population in the South growth areas grew by 322% from 1990-2000 vs. 10% and 18% for white and black population
THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Population Growth

- Hispanics nationwide increased from 22.4mi. (1990) to 40.4 mi. (2004). They are now largest ethnic group in U.S. - 14% of t. population (Pew Center – 2004)

- Hispanics in N.C. had a 492% population increase from 77,000 to 379,000 (1990-2000); 4.7% of the NC population (U.S. Census- year 2000)

- North Carolina’s Hispanic population totaled 600,913 or 7% of the state’s population in 2004 (UNC-CH Economic Study 2006)
THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Population Growth

- Hispanics have the highest fertility rates of all ethnic/race groups: 2.9 vs. 2.0 and 1.8 children per woman (vs. U.S. aver. & white aver. – U.S. Census)

- 55% of U.S. Hispanics are 2nd. & 3rd. generation native born U.S. citizens (3/04 - Pew Hisp.Center)

- In 2004, 55% of NC Hispanics were citizens or legal residents and 45% were unauthorized residents (UNC-CH Economic Study 2006)
THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Immigrants

- Hispanic heritage has been part of our nation: California, Texas, N. Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Arizona & Wyoming were part of Mexico until 1845-48; Florida claimed by Spain in 1500’s.

- Puerto Ricans were extended citizenship in 1917.


- Some immigrants are given temporary immigration status (TPS) & refugee protection (ex. Cubans, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras).
THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Immigrants

- “Unauthorized” immigrants estimated at 11.5 mi. – 12mi. of 298mi. (3.8 - 4.0% of t.pop.) (3/06 - Pew Hisp.Center)

- Many “unauthorized” immigrants arrive with legal visas and overstay (work /student / tourists visas)

- Immigration laws presently allow only 140,000 employment-related visas annually for all of U.S.

- North Carolina has highest number of legal H2A agricultural guest workers: 6,500-10,000
THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Immigrants

- They are predominantly from Mexico, but come from all Latin American countries
- They also are migrating from other U.S. states
- Initial rural migration with limited education now includes also urban / more educated immigrants
- More permanent immigration & family reunification process also occurring
% Hispanics by Nationality:

North Carolina

- Mexican: 66%
- Puerto Rican: 8%
- Central America: 8%
- Others: 13%
- Cuban: 2%
- South America: 3%

Total U.S.

- Mexican: 63%
- Puerto Rican: 10%
- Central America: 7%
- Cuban: 4%
- South America: 5%
- Others: 11%

2000 Census Data
THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Jobs

- NC Hispanics are younger/healthier; 55.3% are working-ages of 18 - 44 vs. 37.3% non-Hispanics (Kenan Institute study 2006)

- Many Latinos work in low-paying/high-risk jobs not often pursued by non-immigrants (law of supply and demand)

- They are filling jobs that 76 million “baby boomers” (born 1946-1964) are retiring from

- They create jobs by creating new businesses
THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Taxes

- Like any U.S. employee they pay soc.security, Medicare, federal & state income taxes
- They also pay sales, property & local taxes/fees
- Soc.Sec.Adm. provides ITIN numbers and retains taxes in suspense files ($6-$7bi./yr. in S.S. tax & $1.5 bi. in Medicare taxes) *(SSA estimates-NY Times 2005)*
- U.S. estimates range $50-$133 billion in direct taxes paid and receiving only $5 billion in social benefits
THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Economy

- Most immigrants send money back to their countries, but don’t send money out until they are well-established.

- U.S. workers born in L.America had a gross income of $450 bi. in 2003, of which 93% was spent locally \( \text{(Inter-Amer.Dev.Bank study 2003)} \)

- There is a net positive impact to the economy from their economic contributions.

- Money transfers vs. International aid?
THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - NC Economic Impact

(UNC - CH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS STUDY – 2006)

- NC Hispanics had estimated total after tax income of $8.3 billion in 2004. With 20% of total sent to Latin America, saved, or used for interest payments, the residual spending had total impact of $9.2 billion on NC

- $9.2 billion impact to N.C. economy through purchases and tax payments, while net cost to the state budget is $61 million, $102 per Hispanic resident, for health care, education and corrections

- NC exports to Latin America have increased from $2.9 billion in 1999 to $4.1 billion in 2004
THE NEW LATINO SOUTH- Welfare & Benefits

- Immigrants receive less welfare and benefits than the native-born citizens
- Unauthorized immigrants usually don’t seek social services and benefits due to fear of deportation
- Many immigrants are young/healthy so they need less health/welfare services
- Unauthorized immigrants aren’t eligible to many federally-funded services (Medicare, SSA, food stamps, etc.) The 1996 Welfare Reform Law prohibited federal funding to legal immigrants residing in the country less than 5 years
THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Education

- From school years 2001 to 2005, Hispanics students accounted 57% of total growth in the North Carolina public schools (UNC-CH Economic Study 2006)

- Education of *illegals*? in NC: ESL $45mi. and $210mi total of 6 billion budget (0.0000035% of t. budget) (N & O article 2006)

- NC Hispanics have lower educational levels vs. non-Hispanics (median 7.5 vs. 12 yrs of school completed); 50% of Hispanics completed less than 8 years of schooling (UNC-CH Economic Study 2006)

- Latino youth educated in the US don’t differ much in dropout rates vs. native born (Pew Hisp. Ctr. Jan 04)

- Parental involvement is strongest predictor for academic success of Latinos (Machado-Casas/Zuniga study 2005)
THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Other Thoughts

- The “Browning” and “Aging” of America: diverse migration & baby boomers starting to retire
- Why aren’t enough teachers, nurses, scientists & mathematicians? (American Idol vs. Nobel Prize)
- Growing Pains vs. Dying Pains in North Carolina?
- My personal viewpoint: “The balance of the ecosystem” human nature will take its course
THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Challenges

- Language barriers in a global village
- Limited education & high drop out rates
- Post-high school educational access
- Build relationships with non-Hispanics
- Understanding N.C. / U.S. “way of life” (social competence and integration)
- A post- 9/11 Global World and America
- Comprehensive Immigration Reform
HOW TO REACH OUR OFFICE

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Read N&O Immigration 5-series article
Illegal Immigration: The “carpet” cargo video
Work-related (safety, health, regulations)
Reach out to the Latino community & vice versa
Get involved through local & faith communities
Support non-profit organizations
Contact local, state & federal officials
Develop relationships through neighborhoods, schools, churches, workplace
No “miracle & fast” solutions