Latin America and North Carolina: Global Partners

Axel Lluch - Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs
NC Office of the Governor
March 28, 2007 - World View Program
Latin America and the U.S. have a complex, at times antagonist & collaborative relationship

Latin Americans have both differences & similarities in cultural & social customs, political, economic conditions and history

Most Latinos/Hispanics share a common language, Spanish. Yet there are others: Portuguese, indigenous languages...
- 1513 P. de León lands in Florida; Spain ruled until 1821
- 1540 H. de Soto travels to Western NC (Cherokee co.)
- Mexican West & Southwest until Mex/American War 1848
- History of periodic US military interventions during 19th. & 20th. Centuries; Spanish/American War end 1898
- Doctrine of Manifest Destiny (1845); Platt Amendment (Cuba); Panama Canal (1914)
- Roosevelt’s Good Neighbor policy (1933); School of Las Americas (1946)
South America- 12 countries
Central America & Mexico – 13 countries
Caribbean- 3 countries
President Bush arrives to Bogota, Colombia
Pres. Bush looks at biodiesel sample fuel; legislative bill for NCSU funding $5mi.

3/30/2007
Protests of President Bush’s visit to Latin America

3/30/2007
Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez at the U.N.
3/30/2007
Pres. Bush with Mexican Pres. Felipe Calderon in Mexico
Latin America & NC: Global Partners

- Hispanics nationwide increased from 22.4mi. to 42.7 mi. (1990-2005). Largest ethnic group in U.S. - 14.4% of total population (U.S. Census– 7/ 2005)

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

- N.C. Hispanic population totaled 600,913. 7% of the state’s population in 2004 (UNC-CH Economic Study 2006)

- In 2004, 55% of NC Hispanics were citizens or legal residents and 45% were unauthorized residents (UNC-CH Economic Study 2006)
% Hispanics by Nationality:

North Carolina

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

Total U.S.

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

2000 Census Data
Latin America & NC: Global Partners Economy

- 2006 US - L. Amer./Caribbean trade was $555 billion. Mexico is 2nd. US trading partner with trade $290bi. in 2005


- US top investor in L. Amer. & Caribbean. US companies invested $353bi. in 2005 and employed 1.6mi. in L.A. Sales to L.A. support 2.5mi. US jobs (US Bureau Statistics)
Latin America & NC: Global Partners

Economy

- Despite tense relations, US is Venezuela's top oil customer; 11-14% of US oil from Venezuela and 55% of Venezuela’s oil sold to US (Duke presentation 3/06)

- US foreign aid to Latin America about $1.6 bi/yr. for econ. development, military & anti-drugs aid (AP 3/5/07)

- Key US - L. American Partnerships: The International Monetary Fund (1944), Inter-American Development Bank (1959), Organization of American States (1948)
Latin America & NC: Global Partners
Economy

- Hispanics in all NC counties & economic sectors. Settled primarily in metro communities (71%) vs. rural (29%) (UNC Study 2006)

- NC exports to Latin America increased $2.9 - $4.1 bi. (‘99-’04); created 70,000 jobs and $231mi. in state/local taxes. But L. American investment in NC weak; only 18 L. American firms based in NC (UNC Study 2006)

- NC immigrants will send $1.2 bi. to Latin America in 2006. NC impact is $12.3 bi. to state economy from their economic contributions (IAD Bank study 2006)
Latin America & NC: Global Partners
Government & Private Institutions

- Growing Latino businesses & banking institutions
- Two Latino chambers of commerce
- Latino media (print & electronic)
- NC Latino coalitions, non-profits & faith-based organizations work with institutions, business & others
- Mexican Consulate / mobile consulates
- DOC / DPI / DA & state agencies’ liaisons
L. American Studies UNC-CH (1940) - among 1st. programs dedicated to L. American studies


UNC Ctr. Intl. Understanding (1979)- its Latino Initiative for leaders & educators visits Mexico

NC Community College initiatives & liaisons

World View Program (1998) - educators study smaller / interconnected world
Latin America & NC: Global Partners
Education

- From 2001-05, Hispanic students accounted for 57% of growth in NC public schools (UNC Study 2006)
- NC Hispanics have lower education levels vs. non-Hispanics (median 7.5 vs. 12 yrs) (UNC Study 2006)
- High number of Hispanic students are unauthorized immigrants going through adjustment period
- Latino youth educated in US don’t differ much in dropout rates vs. native born (Pew Hisp.Ctr. 1/04)
Latin America & NC: Global Partners
Challenges & Recommendations

- Embrace constructive Globalization (people, financial, knowledge/technology, governance)
- Recognize “browning” & “aging” of America
- Overcome cultural & language barriers, increase education level & access, social integration
- Sound immigrant integration model: constant interaction, mutual adjustments & accommodations
- Comprehensive Immigration Reform post-9/11 America
- Strengthen/expand existing partnerships with L. America
  You all already started: At your classrooms!!!
CONTACT INFORMATION:

Axel Lluch
Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs
NC Office of the Governor

919-733-5361 or 800-662-7952

Axel.Lluch@ncmail.net
Cary.Delaosa@ncmail.net

THANK YOU !!!