

# Latino Initiative Update



## Latino Initiative Update Number 1 May, 2007

Dear Latino Initiative Advisory Group Members,

It has been a tremendously busy time since the launch of our Latino Initiative on March 28th! Thank you all again for your active participation – the event drummed up a lot of attention and we have been working very hard since then. I'm writing today to fill you in on some important new activities since the launch (see highlights below) and to let you all know about my future plans now that my baby's due date is less than 60 days away.

After over two years here at the Campaign and five years in Washington, DC, I will be returning home to the San Francisco Bay Area on June 11<sup>th</sup> to be closer to family during this new and exciting time. This was a very difficult decision for me to make and one that is truly bittersweet. I am *deeply* committed to my work here at the Campaign—and in particular the work of the Latino Initiative—but I simply cannot imagine raising my son so far away from all of his primos, tios, and abuelos. It is my hope, however, that in the next several months when I am a bit more settled, I will have an opportunity to continue to work on this very important issue in some other capacity. So please do not consider this a goodbye, but rather a temporary hiatus, as I am certain that our paths will cross again soon!

Needless to say, the Campaign is now actively recruiting someone to fill my position as the Latino Initiative Senior Manager. We are also hoping to hire a paid summer fellow to support the Initiative's work (see attached job announcements). If you know of any bright and passionate people that would be a good fit for this work, we would love your help reaching out to them. I can tell you firsthand that the Campaign is a great place to work and I am confident that whoever fills my shoes will find the job to be deeply rewarding both professionally and personally.

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CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS  
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### Latino Initiative Updates (partial list):

- **Research Review Project on Latino Parent and Teen Communication Commissioned**  
We will be working with Latino Initiative Advisory Group member Vincent Guilamo-Ramos from Columbia University's School of Social Work and with Michael Resnick and several colleagues from the University of Minnesota's Healthy Youth Development Research & Training Center to develop a two-part research review examining Latino teen and parent communication and effective parent outreach programs. We are very excited about the new project and we look forward to sharing the early drafts of the report with you to get your feedback.
- **National Hispanic Conference of State Legislators Executive Committee Briefing**  
Thanks to Liz Burgos, NHCSL Executive Director and Latino Initiative Advisory Group member, on April 21<sup>st</sup> Andrea and I had the opportunity to present our Latino Teen Pregnancy data and our Cost data at NHCSL's Executive Committee briefing. The positive feedback and warm reception by the group was truly inspiring and we look forward to working closely with NHCSL and its members on this issue.
- **Urban Youth Workers Institute National Conference**  
We will be disseminating 2,000 copies of our guide for Latino faith leaders titled *Faith, Hope and Love* at UYWI's annual conference May 17-19 in Los Angeles, CA. The conference draws together thousands of urban youth ministry leaders nationwide to focus on social justice and community development. Learn more on their website: <http://www.uywi.org/>.
- **Representative Luis Fortuño (R-PR) Joins House Advisory Panel**  
We are thrilled to inform you that Representative Fortuño from Puerto Rico has agreed to serve on our House Advisory Panel. Rep. Fortuño is the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Conference and is deeply dedicated to our work in this area (<http://www.house.gov/fortuno/>). Mario Lopez, the Director of the Hispanic Conference, spoke at our launch event

and has been a wonderful partner on Capitol Hill.

- **National Council of La Raza Conference Workshop in July**

The Campaign will be cosponsoring a workshop with NCLR for their 2007 national conference in Miami Beach this July. The workshop will discuss reproductive health challenges and disparities facing Latinas, as well as innovative strategies to address these issues. We will highlight effective programs and look at new work that is being done in this area. More details to come.

- **Voices Heard Polling Update**

Since March 28 over 10,000 copies of our latest polling report *Voices Heard: Latino Adults and Teens Speak Up About Teen Pregnancy* have been downloaded from our website. We have also distributed over 1,000 printed copies of the report.

### General Campaign Updates:

- **Campaign Launches New and Expanded Mission**

To help ensure that more pregnancies are wanted and welcomed, the National Campaign formally announced on May 9 that it is expanding its work to include young adults while still maintaining its focus on teens. Visit our new website for details [www.TheNationalCampaign.org](http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org). As we move forward, we will be examining how best to roll-out our new mission within the Latino community and looking to all of you for advice and feedback on key messaging, information dissemination vehicles, partnership opportunities, etc. Please stay tuned for more information.

- **Stay Teen Contest Launches May 18<sup>th</sup>**

The Campaign recently launched a new Stay Teen ad campaign and will be launching a Stay Teen contest this Friday. Visit the new Stay Teen website to take a look at the ads and learn about the contest details: [www.stayteen.org](http://www.stayteen.org).

As you can see, we have been busy on many fronts here at the Campaign and we look forward to working more closely with all of you on an individual and/or small group basis to deepen our efforts within the Latino community. Given my impending departure, **we will not be holding a phone meeting in June as originally planned.** Instead, we will wait until my replacement comes on board to schedule a phone meeting in late summer/early fall. Until then, we will be sure to keep you up-to-date on all of our efforts by email and phone as things develop. During this transition phase please feel free to contact Andrea if you have any questions or need anything ([akane@thenc.org](mailto:akane@thenc.org) or 202-478-8554).

Thank you again for all of your support and commitment to this issue. You are an amazing group and it has been a pleasure getting to work with you all even if only for a short time. I am confident that with such an amazing group of advisors the work of the Latino Initiative will play a powerful role in helping future generations of Latino teens prevent pregnancy and accomplish their goals and dreams.

¡Hasta Pronto!

Erika

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