



# ILACHE News

January-February 2010

In this edition of  
ILACHE News

Dear Jose,

New year and a new format!

We are pleased to present the electronic version of ILACHE *News*. This version is ecofriendly allowing us to reduce consumption of paper and printing expenses. We will, from time-to-time, produce special printed editions of our newsletter. In the mean time, let us know what you think about this version and help us distributed it to your colleagues and students.

Our next bimonthly edition is scheduled for the week of March 1, 2010. The deadline for articles, photos, and announcements for the March-April edition of ILACHE *News* is **February 16**.

To submit an item for next edition of ILACHE *News*, contact us at [jperales@depaul.edu](mailto:jperales@depaul.edu). If you have an announcement that you want us to consider for a "featured" ILACHE e-nouncement opportunity, send us a note highlighting any undergraduate research internship, graduate or postdoctoral fellowship. Do you have a colleague that was recently hired, promoted or retired? Forward his or her name, title and contact information.

If you would like to receive this periodic publication, please send a note to [jperales@depaul.edu](mailto:jperales@depaul.edu) letting him know you would like to subscribe the ILACHE newsletter with whatever email address you prefer.

For now, please "**Save the Date**" for the **ILACHE Conference on Friday, April 23, 2010 at St. Augustine College.**

## ILACHE Update

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Association of Latino Faculty in Illinois

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## ILACHE Board

(Alphabetical order- last name)

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## *ILACHE Update*

- Dr. Elizabeth Ortiz, ILACHE President



Dear ILACHE Members,

2009 was a challenging year. The higher education community is not immune to the effects of the economic downturn that troubles our state and country. Although it may seem like a distant memory, three months ago, thousands of students faced the loss of Illinois MAP and DFI funds. Last Fall ILACHE cosponsored a reception and press conference in our state capitol. Our purpose was to advocate for the restoration of MAP and DFI Grants.

The reception was historic; more than twenty-five legislators of color and government representatives joined us and our colleagues from the Illinois Committee for Black Concerns in Higher Education (ICBCHE).

As many of you know, the funding was restored for the MAP Grant, which provides crucial assistance for students who need it most. Illinois state budget cuts to MAP would have adversely impacted Latino and African American communities that constitute the most underrepresented sectors in higher education. MAP funds are designed to address the needs of underserved students and help alleviate the educational gap in college attainment for racial and ethnic minorities and those students with the most financial need in the State of Illinois. We applaud the support of our Latino and African American legislators whose vote helped to restore MAP. On behalf of the 177,000 Illinois college students we thank them for investing in higher education and the future of our students.

There is still cause for concern. Funds for the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Program (DFI) and the Higher Education Cooperation Act (HECA) were not restored. The DFI is an important program that was created to support underrepresented graduate students whose goals include serving as faculty in Illinois

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ILACHE Attorney

universities. Having a diverse faculty in the academy allows our state to better educate and prepare tomorrow's workforce. The DFI program currently includes 136 minority students who are pursuing a graduate education and who intend to work in institutions of higher education in the State of Illinois. The \$1.6 million budget cut seriously crippled the DFI Fellowship Program and adversely impacted current and future fellows. DFI Program funding cuts will have both a short and long term impact on the citizens of Illinois and the future of higher education in our state. HECA Grants are designed to support new projects that are innovative in both the proposals' concepts and the methodology for implementation. We must continue to make our case until we have full restoration of funds.

On behalf of the ILACHE Board, I wish you and your loved ones a happy and prosperous 2010!

Liz

## Commentary:

### *In Sickness and in Health?*

- Dr. Leonard Ramirez



For more than forty years Illinois institutions of higher education have consistently argued for greater budgets to address the needs of underrepresented minorities, African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans. These pleas actually met with some degree of success. At various times legislators provided greater resources than what colleges might have otherwise received based on their arguments. Universities were granted special allotments and awarded monies for targeted projects. Colleges, as a matter of course, often included minority needs among their justifications for greater resources and thus the marriage bow between education budgets and the underrepresented was tied.

Ironically, the Black, Latino, and Native American programs created in the 1960s and 1970s to encourage access and provide

academic assistance were typically not the primary beneficiaries of state largesse. Internally, minority programs were often victims of trickle down social justice, obtaining--if at all--only what remained of funds channeled through successive levels of the hierarchy that appropriated the lion's share. Latino and other similar initiatives were advised to "Wait for better days." The outcome is not surprising. Black, Latino, and Native American programs provide ridiculously low salaries to staff that are asked to take on greater work loads with growing responsibilities. While the Latino population eligible for higher education has increased steadily, efforts to recruit and help graduate them have deteriorated to a level where they cannot be sustained with any respectable level of quality.

When asked about the apparent disparity between past institutional promises and inadequate budgets to meet growing minority student needs, one administrator offered, smiling rather self-satisfactorily, that institutions have no historical memory, as if this glib response was sufficient to explain away the contradiction. The disregard of historic commitments is pervasive and reaches across institutional types. Upon being awarded a major grant for being a Hispanic Serving Institution, a community college administrator chuckled, "We've never done anything targeted to Hispanics." At one of the past Latino Caucus Institute's conferences, an educational official stood up and again made the case for the necessity to address persistently anemic higher education budgets. He ended his comments from the floor with a familiar appeal to public officials with respect to improving Latino educational outcomes. "With more money, we can do so much more," he sighed with almost a tear in his voice. Perhaps it is time for Latinos to wise up and ask for a prenuptial agreement the next time we are led down the aisle.

## *ILACHE Scholarship Winners*



Join us in congratulating the two winners of the 2009 ILACHE Scholarship. Pictured here is Nicole Sandoval, a freshman at DePaul University majoring in education. Joselyn Galvez is our other awardee and is a senior at Northeastern Illinois University where she is also pursuing a degree in education.

Each student will receive \$1,000 in recognition of achievements and potential to contribute to the Latino community.

For more information about the ILACHE scholarship and other resources, please visit our Website, [www.ilache.com](http://www.ilache.com).

## *Best Practices for Latino Students*



Why reinvent the proverbial wheel? Excelencia in Education premieres its "Growing What Works Database".

The interactive database lists examples of successful programs. For more information, please visit the Excelencia in Education Website, <http://www.edexcelencia.org/examples>

## *Funding for Graduate Students*



Funding for graduate students whose goal is to pursue a career in higher education in the state of Illinois. If you are interested in applying for this \$20,000 Fellowship, please contact the Institutional Representative at your university. A list of Representatives is available at the DFI Website.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- **ADMISSION.** Applicants must be admitted to a Master's or Doctoral program at a [participating institution](#) at the time of application; and, if awarded, enroll as a full-time student as defined by the institution. **Application deadline is February 19th, although individual institutions may set an internal deadline prior to that date for processing purposes.** Please check with your [institutional representative](#) to determine the actual application deadline.
- **ILLINOIS RESIDENCY.** To be classified as an Illinois resident, an applicant must have received a high school diploma or post-secondary degree from an educational institution in Illinois or have lived in Illinois for the past three years.
- **UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS.** African American,

Hispanic American, Native American or Asian American. "Traditionally underrepresented minority group" means any of the minority groups designated in the Act which are represented in Illinois post-baccalaureate enrollment at a percentage rate less than the percentage of the minority group's representation in the total Illinois population. The Illinois Board of Higher Education shall determine annually which groups are underrepresented based upon census data and annual graduate enrollment reports from Illinois institutions of higher education.

- **ACADEMIC ABILITY.** Applicants must possess above average academic ability as evidenced by:
  1. An earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning;
  2. A minimum grade point average of 2.75 (scale 4.0 = A) in the last sixty hours of undergraduate work or over a 3.2 (scale 4.0 = A) in at least 9 hours of graduate study;
  3. Unconditional admission to a post-baccalaureate degree program.

**ACADEMIC PURSUIT.** Applicants in all academic disciplines are eligible. Applicants must be pursuing a doctorate or master's degree. Applicants must plan on pursuing a career in teaching or administration at an Illinois post-secondary institution or Illinois higher education governing board.

**FINANCIAL NEED** Applicants must demonstrate financial need. A [FAFSA](#) must be filed each year to maintain eligibility. The FAFSA must be completed by February 15.

More information available at their Website:  
<http://www.ibhe.state.il.us/DFI/default.htm>

## *Association for Latino Faculty in Illinois (ALFI)*



A new initiative, targeted for Latino community college faculty, is underway at the College of Lake County, Grayslake, Illinois. Political Science Professor Maria Perez Laubhan and English Professor Mary Mugica Winter are co-founders of the Association for Latino Faculty in

Illinois (ALFI). The mission of the ALFI is to provide a forum of support for Latino community college faculty. Additionally, opportunities for professional development will be explored. Recruitment of Latinos to the professoriate and strategies for retention of current faculty are other topics of interest. Finally, ALFI hopes to establish a collegial venue for social and cultural exchange among Latino educators.

An organizational meeting is being planned for February, 2010, at the College of Lake County, 19351 Washington Street, Grayslake, IL. For further information, or to indicate your interest in joining this group, please contact Maria Perez Laubhan (

[mlaubhan@clcillinois.edu](mailto:mlaubhan@clcillinois.edu)) or Mary Mugica Winter ([mwinter@clcillinois.edu](mailto:mwinter@clcillinois.edu)).

Visit the ALFI website at: <http://www.clcillinois.edu/ALFI/> or on Facebook at (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=101910824056>).

## *College Advising Guide for Undocumented Students*

The Illinois Association for College Admissions Counselling (IACAC) published a college advising guide for undocumented students.

"This *College Advising Guide for Undocumented Students* is designed to provide assistance to the high school counselors in Illinois who work with undocumented students. It is our hope that through outreach and greater access to accurate information, college will be possible for all who want to attend." - IACAC Human Relations Committee

The Guide is available at the IACAC Web site,

<http://members.iacac.org/Content/Documents/Document.ashx?DocId=93614>

## *Summer Research Opportunity Program*

The Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) is a gateway to graduate education at CIC universities. The goal of the program is

to increase the number of underrepresented students who pursue graduate study and research careers. SROP helps prepare undergraduates for graduate study through intensive research experiences with faculty mentors and enrichment activities. Enhance your academic and research skills by working one-on-one with a faculty mentor from top-ranked research institutions. Gain experience as an undergraduate student to put you at an advantage as a graduate applicant:

- Weekly campus-based educational enrichment activities broaden your view of graduate education and research, along with strengthening your technical skills
- Campus workshops inform you about graduate admission procedures, financial aid opportunities, test-taking skills, preparing a presentation, and expose you to a wide range of research fields. Informal social gatherings provide a relaxed setting for students and faculty to exchange ideas and share experiences.
- At the end of the summer, you present the results of your research project at a symposium or poster session held on your campus.
- The CIC SROP application is accepted November 1, 2009 until February 10, 2010.

<http://www.cic.net/Home/Students/SROP/Introduction.aspx>

## *Announcements*

**"Save the Date" 2010 ILACHE Conference, Friday, April 23.**

ILACHE needs your expertise in the following subcommittees:

- Membership
- Policy
- Communication (Web site, Newsletter, Listserv)
- Conference
- Scholarship

To volunteer, please contact us at [ilache@ilache.com](mailto:ilache@ilache.com)

## *ILACHE Student Chapter*

ILACHE is forming student chapters. Students who are interested in being founding members, should contact Sheila Adele Lozano, Director of La Casa Cultural Latina and Assistant Dean at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign at [salozano@ILLINOIS.EDU](mailto:salozano@ILLINOIS.EDU).

