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Trenton State College

PUBLISHED

THE  
Plight OF  
LATINO  
MALES

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Strategies for Action

November 19, 1993  
ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey

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## **ASPIRA MISSION**

Our mission is the education and leadership development of Puerto Rican and Latino youth so that they become empowered individuals who make significant contributions to the Puerto Rican and Latino community, in particular, and society in general.

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey wishes to extend its appreciation to Harold W. Eickhoff, for his hospitality and continuing support of the Puerto Rican and Latino Community.

**8:30 A.M., REGISTRATION, Brower Student Center 202 E/W**

**9:00 A.M., PROGRAM**

#### **Welcome Remarks**

**Alfred Bridges**, Vice President for College Advancement,  
Trenton State College

**Margaret Rosario-Rivera**, Chair, ASPIRA Board of Directors,  
Manager Bell Communications Research

**Fernando Fuentes**, Executive Director,  
ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey

#### **Keynote Address**

**Alan Medina**, MD, Chief Psychiatrist, St. Luke's Hospital

**9:30 A.M., PANEL DISCUSSION**

#### **The Plight of Latino Males,**

An Overview of the plight of Latino males will be discussed, as well as an outline for the day's activities and the expected goals and outcomes for the conference.

#### **Panelists**

**Angelo Faloon**, PhD, Director,  
Institute for Puerto Rican Policy and Research  
**Angel Ortiz**, City Councilman, City of Philadelphia  
**Ariel Cespedes**, Student, Trenton Central High School  
**Edvin Rivas**, Student, Trenton State College

#### **Moderator**

**George Santiago**, Associate Director, EOP, Rider College

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## **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Latinos and the Criminal Justice System: The Administration of Justice**

Community instability and family poverty, underachievement in education, additive life-styles, unequal justice, unrealistic images in the media, and other variables have contributed to an over representation of Latino males, both adults and juveniles, in our detention centers, county jails, and state prisons. What actions are needed to reach Latino males presently involved in the criminal justice system? What preventive measures are needed to reduce the over-representation? Is under-representation achievable? Am I affected?

### **Latino Youth: Urban Mortality Outcomes**

Addresses Latino Male issues within the context of New Jersey's urban Latino communities. The concept of health risk will be defined in terms of environmental, behavioral, and socioeconomic factors that are contributing to current unacceptable levels of health risk and mortality outcomes. Strategies for solutions and an agenda for implementation will be explored, including health care reform, delivery systems, health care manpower, long- and short-term interventions, and future research and policy development.

### **Latino Males: Pro-Active Educational Solutions (Students Only)**

Specifically designed to assist secondary school students in identifying current educational trends related to the Latino Male. A series of questions will be provided which will generate solutions to some of the issues and concerns discussed.

### **Community Participation: A Blueprint for Action**

Too often decisions are made by policy makers that affect the Latino community; moreover, these decisions are made without Latino input or representation. What are the consequences of these policies on the Latino community? What strategies or mechanisms exist to empower the Latino community to have access to these forums? Strategies to seek community participation will be discussed as the BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION is designed.

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### **Educational System: A Community Report Card/Falling Latino Youth**

Like many other groups before them, Latinos in the United States have seen education as the road out of the cycle of poverty and despair. However, educational institutions in this country have failed the Latino community. Evidence of this is the drop out rate for Latinos, which is consistently higher than any other group. Consequently, the failures of New Jersey urban public schools have a direct impact on Latino youth and have a direct causal affect on placing a whole generation at risk. Additionally, institutions of higher education in New Jersey have not been as responsive as they could be in providing access and support to the very small percentage of Latino youth who do survive the public school system.

### **Family Structure, Values, and Dynamics: The Role of the Latino Male**

Addresses issues related to the impact of the changing economic structure and the Latino male. Also, intergenerational differences and how they affect Latino youth will be explored. Male/female roles and the family structure suggest a need to study these transitions as they relate to the Latino youth.

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**10:50 A.M., WORKSHOPS**

**A. Judicial, Forcina Hall 132**  
**Latinos in the Criminal Justice System:**  
**The Administration of Justice**

**Presenters**

- Luis Silva*, Assistant Ombudsman,  
Division of Corrections, State of New Jersey  
*Maria M. Rivera*, Principal Program Analyst,  
Office of Juvenile Justice,  
Division of Criminal Justice,  
Department of Law and Public Safety

**Moderator**

- Abraham Espada*, MSW, Hispanic Liaison to  
Department of Corrections

**B. Health, Decker Hall Lounge**  
**Latino Youth: Urban Mortality Outcomes**

**Presenters**

- Thomas Ortiz*, MD, Family Practitioner,  
Newark, New Jersey  
*Pablo Albilal Gomez*, Policy Analyst,  
Department of Health

**Moderator**

- Betsy Ryan*, JD, Chief of Staff,  
New Jersey Department of Health

**C. Education, (Students Only), Cromwell Hall Lounge**  
**Latino Males: Pro-Active Educational Solutions**

**Presenters**

- Mercedes Del Valle*, EdD, School Psychologist,  
East Orange Board of Education  
*David Morales*, MSW, Assistant Director of Admissions,  
Trenton State College

**Moderator**

- Jorge Cruz*, Student, Trenton State College

**12:15 P.M., LUNCH, Brower Student Center 202E/W**

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**1:15 P.M., WORKSHOPS II**

**D. Community, Decker Hall Lounge**  
**Community Participation: A Blueprint for Action**

**Presenters**

Victor Vazquez, President, National Congress for  
Puerto Rican Rights, Philadelphia Chapter  
Juan Cartagena, Esq., Municipal Court Judge,  
City of Hoboken, New Jersey

**Moderator**

María Vizcarrondo De Soto, MS,  
Director, Center for Hispanic Policy,  
Research and Development, State of New Jersey

**E. Education, Cromwell Hall Lounge**  
**Educational System: A Community Report Card/Falling Latino Youth**

**Presenters**

Michael Fernandez, Deputy Director, New Jersey State College  
Governing Boards Association, Inc.  
Fernando Fuentes, Executive Director,  
ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey  
Jose Delgado, Former Member of the Camden Board of Education

**Moderator**

Hector Bonilla, Educational Opportunity Fund, Rutgers College

**F. Family, Wolfe Hall Lounge**  
**Family Structure, Values and Dynamics: The Role of the Latino Male**

**Presenters**

Rick De Jesus, EdD, Associate Dean, Philadelphia College  
of Textile and Science  
Teresa Mendez-Corredor, ABD, Director of Intercultural and  
Interracial Affairs/EOF, College of Saint Elizabeth

**Moderator**

Myriam Ramirez, MSW, Clinical Supervisor, La Casa De Don Pedro

**3:00 P.M., SUMMARY/RECEPTIONS, Brower Student Center 202W**

**Facilitator**

Gene Calderon, Latino Males Conference

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**Special thanks:**

Hispanic Association for Higher Education of New Jersey, Inc.  
CUB - Union Latina  
Lambda Theta Phi, Latin Fraternity Inc.  
Lambda Theta Alpha, Latin Sorority Inc.  
Corazones Unidos Siempre

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