

THE LATINO 2021 INDEX New Jersey

NEW JERSEY LATINO CAUCUS TOP 100 LATINOS IN THE STATE



INSIDER NJ

English Language Partner

MUNICIPALITIES WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGES OF HISPANIC POPULATION

PERTH AMBOY 82% • UNION CITY 80%
WEST NEW YORK 77% • PASSAIC 74% • DOVER 70% • GUTTENBERG 66%
ELIZABETH 64% • PATERSON 61% • FAIRVIEW 59% • PROSPECT PARK 56%
NEW BRUNSWICK 53% • BOUND BROOK 52% • BRIDGETON 51%
WHARTON 50% • FREEHOLD 50% • CAMDEN 48% • HALEDON 48%
NORTH PLAINFIELD 47% • KEARNY 47% • PLEASANTVILLE 46% • BOGOTA 45%
PLAINFIELD 44% • HARRISON 44% • RIDGEFIELD PARK 43% • VINELAND 39%
HACKENSACK 38% • CLIFTON 37% • RED BANK 37% • NEWARK 36% • LODI 36%
TRENTON 36% • GARFIELD 36% • CARTERET 34% • MORRISTOWN 33%
RAHWAY 33% • LONG BRANCH 31% • ATLANTIC CITY 19%

Editor Letter



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From being a racial minority nuanced by its own cliches to last in line, the Latino community has an unstoppable movement struggling to conquer space in order to make their lives better. Their efforts seem successful from an individual perspective, for these have not been able to develop into collective success that can be fully recognized by New Jersey. This is why their success is twice as difficult; however, when they achieve it the 2 million Latinos in the state and Latin America rejoice.

The Latino Index spanish version is an important regional resource for people who for most part of the day communicate in Spanish. The index is the multimedia bridge to connect state, county, and municipal governments with the Latino community. While providing government resources creatively it educates the community on sustainable development, legislative affairs, health, education, public safety, transportation, economic opportunity, finance, job training, human and social services, employment and business development. It is a powerful tool for today's latino who could very well be a New Jersey resident, business owner, an Latin american international investor, or a visitor who is traveling to the state.

While we provide reference to the highest Latino elected officials in the state including The New Jersey Latino Caucus we also are publishing 103 of the most inspiring Latino stories of resilience, commitment and compassion, anchored on culture, heritage and the use of the Spanish language. People who help build a better future for the counties where they reside in the State of New Jersey.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Rodrigo Orozco".

Editor In Chief
The Latino Index
The United States Latino Affairs Initiatives
www.USBatinoAffairs.org

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Special Thanks for Editing English Language Bios to:

Holly Sanchez, Colombia - Jeannette Aparicio - Union County,
Maria Andrade - Essex County, Diana Lopez and Alison Lopez - Union County

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English Language Partner



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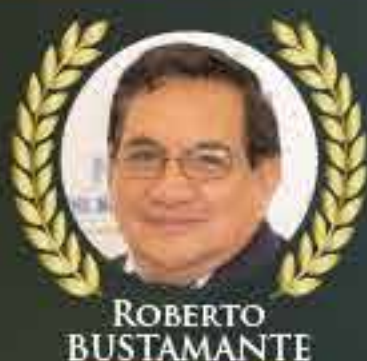
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THE PIONEERS

PIONEERS OF THE LATINO COLLECTIVE PROGRESS, GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WHO FOR MANY YEARS HAVE BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE LATINO COMMUNITY. THEIR BIOS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN SPANISH AT WWW.THELATINOSPIRIT.COM/

• PIONEROS DEL PROGRESO COLECTIVO •

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TOP 100 JUDGES ▶

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DIEGO F. MAYA

NEW JERSEY

7:00AM Weekdays

Weekdays get ready to go to work while you listen or watch **"Estamos Con Diego F. Maya"** - The US Latino Affairs president and founder of The Latino Spirit / The Latino Index. Diego with a team of Latino leaders throughout New Jersey discuss in Spanish the latest news that influences the lives of Latinos across the state. For more information and Sponsorship please write: info@TheLatinoSpirit.com

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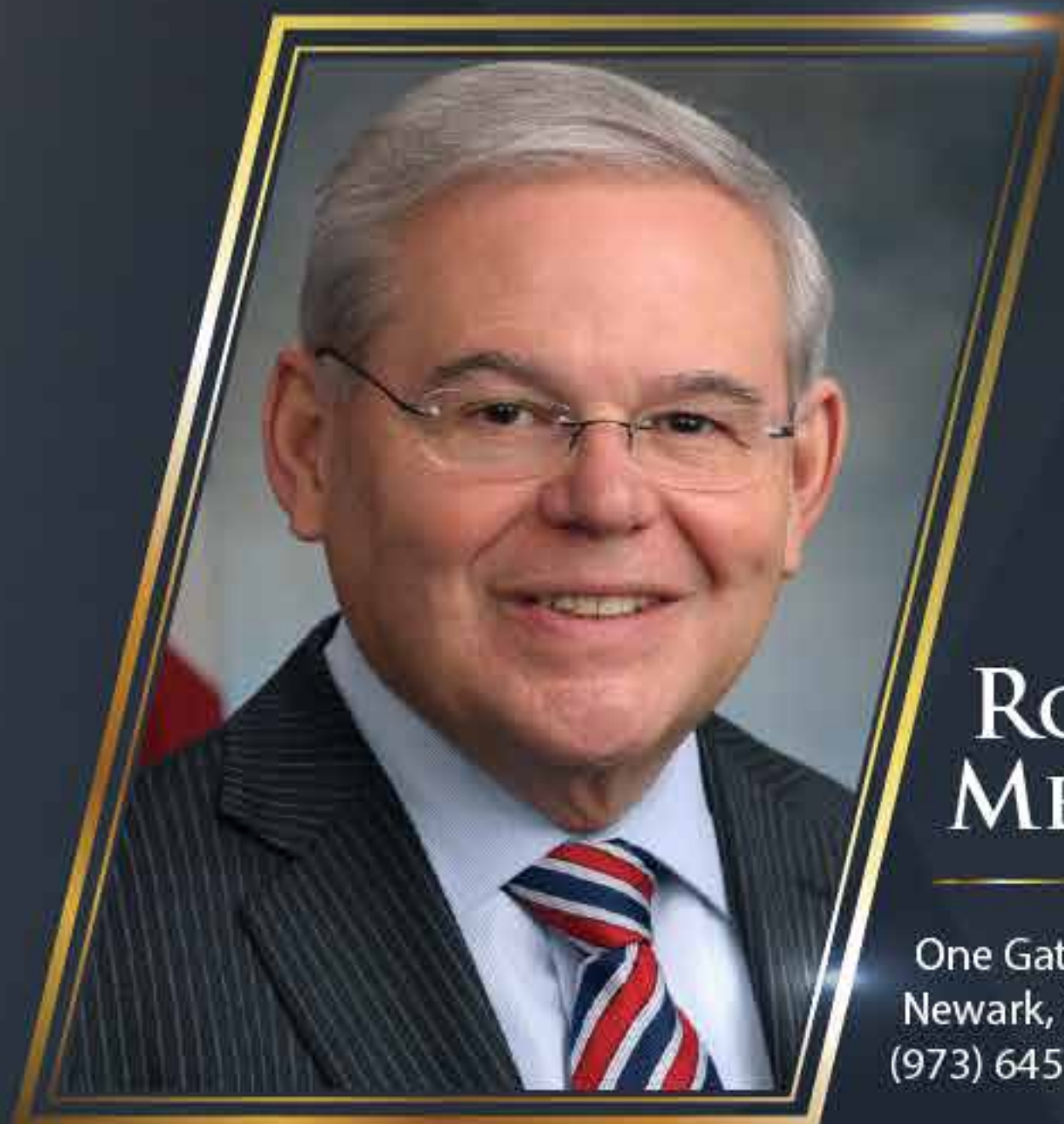
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LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS

Highest Latino Elected Officials



**ROBERT
MENENDEZ**

— SENATOR —

One Gateway Ctr., Ste. 1100
Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 645-3030



ALBIO SIRES

— CONGRESSMAN —

257 Cornelison Ave., Ste. 4408
Jersey City, NJ 07302
(201) 309-0301

LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS

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TOP 100 JUDGES ▶

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DR. PATRICIA CAMPOS-MEDINA

ON BEHALF OF THE TEAM AT

ACTIVISTA RISE UP

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HOST
AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER,

DR. PATRICIA CAMPOS-MEDINA

AND TO ALL LATINOS INCLUDED IN THE LATINO
SPIRIT'S TOP 100 LATINO IN NEW JERSEY INDEX



ACTIVISTA
RISE UP



@DrCamposMedina



PatriciaCamposMedina.com.

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LATINO CAUCUS OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE ASSEMBLY



NELLIE POU

— SENATOR —

Chairwoman
100 Hamilton Plaza
Suite 1405
Paterson, NJ 07505
(973) 247-1555



PEDRO MEJIA

— ASSEMBLYMAN —

1 Harmon Plaza
Suite 205
Secaucus, NJ 07094
(201) 770-1303

LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS

GO TO TOP 100 ▶

TOP 100 JUDGES ▶

GO TO TOP 50 ▶

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AL SERJE

Thank you to The Latino Index for making me a part of your Top 100. It is an honor to be amongst other leaders.

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**JANNETE
CHAPARRO**

— ASSEMBLYWOMAN —

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CRUZ-PEREZ**

— SENATOR —

515 South White
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Gloucester County Justice
Complex Annex
114 North Broad Street
Woodbury, NJ 08096
(856) 853-2960

231-L Market Street
Camden, NJ 08102
(856) 541-1251



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GO TO TOP 50 ▶

LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS

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ABOGADO GARCES

The Garces, Grabler, LeBrocq law firm congratulates all the Latino elected officials in the State of New Jersey and the Latino Top 100.

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LATINO CAUCUS OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE ASSEMBLY



M. TERESA RUIZ

— SENATOR —

Senate President Pro-Tempore
166 Bloomfield Avenue
Newark, NJ 07104
(973) 484-1000

**ANGÉLICA M.
JIMENEZ**

— ASSEMBLYWOMAN —

Deputy Speaker
5600 Kennedy Blvd.
Suite 104
West New York, NJ 07093
(201) 223-4247



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LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS

SALUDOS



HON. ANGEL FUENTES

Former NJ State Legislator
Camden City Councilman At-Large



Best wishes for our State Latino Caucus Legislators and Congratulations to all top 100 Latinos for their contributions, uplifting diversity & never forgetting one's sacrifices throughout The State of New Jersey.

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HUMBERTO "HUMBY"
BAQUERIZO, MBA, EDD

Congratulations
in your recognition and
thank you for showing us that
"En la Unión está la Fuerza".



www.mentorconnect.com



NOEMI VELAZQUEZ

Congratulations to all the
Latinas and Latinos throughout
New Jersey who are making
a difference by representing
our VOZ.

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LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS

LATINO CAUCUS OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE ASSEMBLY



YVONNE LOPEZ

— ASSEMBLYWOMAN —

Vice Chair of Transportation
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Laurel Springs, NJ 08021
(856) 401-3073



LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS

GO TO TOP 100 ▶

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SALUDOS



YVONNE LOPEZ

Congratulations to my colleagues in the Legislature and the New Jersey Top 100 Latinos.

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MIMI NAMBO

As a community Organizer for Atlantic City my goal is to make sure that the residents receive all the resources in their own language. The services available must reflect the diversity of the community so that we as a whole become cultural sensitive. The Latino Index in Spanish does it.

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TOP 100 LATINO



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LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS

LATINO CAUCUS OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE ASSEMBLY



**ELIANA PINTOR
MARIN**

— ASSEMBLYWOMAN —

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Newark, NJ 07105
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**ANNETTE
QUIJANO**

— ASSEMBLYWOMAN —

Majority Conference Leader
1120 East Jersey Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
(908) 327-9119

985 Stuyvesant Avenue
Union, NJ 07083
(908) 327-9119



LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS

GO TO TOP 100 ▶

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TOP 10 allies TO THE LATINO COMMUNITY

Do you know someone making a difference
for the LATino Community?

Nominate Here!

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Video
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EXCLUSIVE VIDEO

Latinas in the N.J. Legislature: A Dynamic, Public Interest-Centered Sisterhood



The careers of three Latinas in the New Jersey Legislature have crisscrossed through the years, their interests frequently overlapping as they focus on the needs of three North Jersey urban communities.

But their interconnectedness goes deeper, to a sisterhood forged in the gritty, often unforgiving world of their home state.

<http://bit.ly/3wsajfpgo>



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State | County | Municipal

- Spanish Speaking Community Outreach
- Government Affairs
- State of the City
- Education
- Health Campaigns

**SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATED
BROADCASTING MULTIMEDIA
IN SPANISH WITHIN
THE LATINO INDEX**



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THE PEOPLE

SECTION SPONSORED BY: GARCES, GRABLER & LeBROCC

NEW JERSEY LATINO INDEX TOP 100

Evaluation Criteria

Established by: The United States Latino Affairs Initiatives

LEADERSHIP

A person who makes significant contributions to build a sense of unity and purpose in their community. the nominee must demonstrate an ability to build stronger communities by supporting Latino growth and development.

VOCATION

Overcome the obstacles faced by hispanics in seeking education and work, while highlighting their leadership, opportunities and community service and implementing solutions to ensure the health and well-being of our latino community.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Activities and meaningful contributions to your community through their own time, actions, talents, and dedication (outside of any volunteer work done for the employer and / or company.) Role model for compassion and service. Strives to make the world a better place. Passion or helping others in her community.

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Activities and contributions that generate Latino collective development. The nominee is aware of the use of Latino heritage in activities. Activities based on Latin American traditions and festivities are ranked. This criteria also covers businesses owners who've generated employment to Spanish speaking individuals and whose business structure is around Latino culture and heritage.

SPANISH LANGUAGE

Spanish is the 2nd most spoken language in the world. Bilingual English/Spanish speakers have employment possibilities in other parts of the world including in the United States. Spanish language use is heavily evaluated in the Top 100 Latinos.

New Jersey Latino Top 100

The United States Latino Affairs Initiatives established an impeccable ranking format with an 8 member international panel of judges composed of 1 assemblywoman in Ecuador, one governor in Colombia, a female senator in Guatemala, a female international entrepreneur author and pilot, a Latino university provost in New York City and three mayors from New Jersey. The judges received 116 bios without names in order to stay away from any possibility of biasness. Each individual was evaluated according to the judge's perspective at the end tabulating the results.

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NEW JERSEY LATINO TOP 100
INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF JUDGES

NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS - JUDGE



ASSEMBLYWOMAN
CRISTINA REYES
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR



QUITO, REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR

NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS - JUDGE



GOVERNOR
ELÍAS LARRAHONDO
CARABALÍ
CAUCA DEPARTMENT



POPAYAN, CAUCA - REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS - JUDGE



ENTREPRENEUR | AUTHOR | PHILANTHROPIST
JACQUELINE CAMACHO-RUIZ
INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS - JUDGE



MAYOR
HECTOR C. LORA
CITY OF PASSAIC



PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



NEW JERSEY LATINO TOP 100
INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF JUDGES

NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS - JUDGE



DEPUTY
**SANDRA LORENA
DE LEÓN TEO**
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
NATIONAL CONGRESS

GUATEMALA CITY, REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA



NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS - JUDGE



PROVOST
**DR. LESTER
EDGARDO SANDRES**
BRONX COMMUNITY
COLLEGE OF CUNY

BRONX, NEW YORK - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS - JUDGE



FORMER MAYOR
**WILDA
DÍAZ**
CITY OF PERTH AMBOY

PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS - JUDGE



MAYOR
**W. REED
GUSCIORA**
CAPITAL CITY TRENTON

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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THE LATINO INDEX

NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS

Cesar Lasso

TOP # 1



In 1988 being 17 years old I emigrated to the USA in search of the American dream. I've worked in maintenance, house cleaning and painting at the same time in order to save money to start my own business. I began to sell perfumes throughout New Jersey in factories and anywhere someone would allow me to do business. In 2012 I started my own company CJ Lasso LLC. In 2020, I made my own brand of fragrances. I became a wholesale distributor worldwide. In more than 25 years I have created jobs for Hispanic people, supporting the construction of a better society and during the pandemic I participated in the delivery of tons of food for the underprivileged people in New Jersey.

Maria Santiago Valentin

TOP # 2



I volunteer in organizations with high social impact. Founder / Director of the Atlantic Climate Justice Alliance, a non-profit organization committed to communities that are vulnerable to climate change on the Atlantic coast in the USA, Puerto Rico, and the Caribbean. I work in education, humanitarian aid and defense against the disproportionate damage of climate change in marginalized communities. I received an award for Amazon's # 1 Best Selling Book - Climate Abandoned, in which I wrote chapter 24: Climate Crisis and Education. I am recognized internationally in my field of knowledge.

Kerlyn Espinal



INTERNATIONAL
LATINO INDEX
RECOGNITION



@TheLatinoSpirit

I am Deputy Commissioner of the NJ Department of Education. I am the highest ranked Latina in the department of education, which has been named # 1 in the nation for the second year in a row by Newsweek magazine. Governor Phil Murphy's administration is fulfilling its commitment to partner with parents, educators, and administrators. Thanks to the work with the community in October 2018 I was appointed a Goodwill Ambassador, for a period of 5 years, by the United Nations board of directors for youth, women and immigrants in NJ.



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NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS

Rory Ulloque, MD MS

TOP # 3



I am the Medical Director at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, in charge of a medical group of 90 providers serving 150 patients daily. I established collaborations with the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and led a team that deals with the postoperative care of cardiothoracic surgery patients, as well as leading the Covid19 programming in Middlesex County. I overcame all of the adversities to become a doctor, being undocumented at that time. I earned my title with distinction in community service for serving the Hispanic community in New Brunswick.

Carlos Castañeda

TOP # 4



I emigrated to the United States in the early 90's. I am the leader of an organization that helps more than 500,000 Latino people without documentation. It inspired hundreds of people to organize and mobilize around the issue of driver's licenses. My work is primarily in Spanish, and I stand out as a Hispanic poet. I am an organizer and volunteer (non-salaried) with the Cosecha Civic Movement. It is my conviction that, at some point, we all have the responsibility, opportunity and / or ability to do something that goes beyond our own benefit or interest.

Angel Santiago



EDUCATOR
OF THE YEAR,
GOVERNOR'S
PROGRAM



@TheLatinoSpirit

Awarded by the governorship to Ángel Santiago 2020-21 Teacher of the year from the state of New Jersey. Angel Santiago is an elementary school teacher at Loring Flemming Elementary School in Blackwood, New Jersey. Santiago is the New Jersey State Teacher of the Year 2020-2021.



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NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS

Christian Villar



SPECIAL LATINO
INDEX RECOGNITION



@TheLatinoSpirit

Dominican businessman signs official agreement to use the Prudential Center as the home court for the new NBA LEVEL professional basketball league called NBXL season 2021-2022. League founded by businessman with his own team from New Jersey - NJPros and 5 other league teams. straighten his head

Valeria Aloe

TOP # 5



I left my hometown and moved to the capital city of Argentina at the age of 17, becoming the first woman in my family to attend a university, and graduating with honors from two university degrees. Upon immigrating to the United States, I obtained an MBA from Dartmouth, an Ivy League school. My mission is to support Hispanic women and immigrants to achieve conscious growth in business, not only refining strategic pillars, but also breaking financial barriers and mental and cultural blocks to success. I have led innovative educational programs for corporations and nonprofits, managing resources to offer these programs for free, and in our language, to the more than six hundred Hispanic entrepreneurs and professionals I have served over the past few years.

Maria Agapito

TOP # 6



I am an educator and a scientist. In 2015 - 2016, I started a symposium on STEM at St. Peter's University, a successful event. I currently work at Bard Early College in Newark, NJ. With much of my personal time, I have introduced programs, including an extracurricular one that focuses on training high school students to conduct cutting-edge research using C elegans and Arabidopsis Thaliana as a research model. In 2019, I was elected president of the New Jersey Academy of Sciences; and as a leader of this organization, I helped and contributed to events that help Latinos and other minority groups to advance in the scientific community.



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NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS

Jose German Gómez

TOP # 7



I have a degree in Business Administration with graduate studies in Accounting, Finance and Marketing. I have been Vice President of Finance for important organizations in New York and New Jersey. I am a recognized environmental and community leader, who promotes the sustainable development of low-income communities, including Latino immigrants and refugees. I am the founder and executive of the Northeast Earth Coalition. My community initiatives cover six cities in New Jersey. My dedication and environmental work, both educational and virtual, reaches more than sixty thousand people. NEEC is the only organization of its kind founded and led by a Latino in New Jersey.

Adriana Giraldo

TOP # 8



My vocation of service was born from the love of solidarity that moves my whole being and has transformed my life, since I was a victim of abuse from an early age. I am a psychologist in training with a focus on Christian counseling, living in New Jersey for 21 years. Following the path of continuous service, I acquired knowledge that contributes to the fulfillment of my work to serve the community. I am passionate about helping other women and the family nucleus itself, especially solidarity, promoting female empowerment and strengthening support networks that save lives. My work is primarily in Spanish.

Lourdes Cortez

TOP # 9



I was born in the city of Paterson, New Jersey, to Puerto Rican parents. I am the first Latina woman to lead a national banking institution. President / CEO of the North Jersey Federal Credit Union Cooperative - a community bank. My passion has always been to help those most in need. As the first Latina Executive Director of a New Jersey credit union, diversity has always mattered to me, particularly as I have faced serious adversity. I also served on the Board of Directors of the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce. My work leads me to use the Spanish language quite frequently..

Dela Hoz

TOP # 10



I am the creator, organizer and manager of the New Jersey Hispanic Business Fair. I advocate for them to offer services in Spanish to non-profit organizations and companies. Previously, there was no education in Spanish for small businesses, so I held the first press conference with the governor in Spanish, as well as a historic meeting between the President of Colombia and Governor Phil Murphy, and other high-impact meetings. I share my knowledge and time with other small business owners who are in unfavorable conditions; and I am convinced that starting a business is the best way for Hispanics to fight poverty. I am the Chairman of the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey.



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NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS

Yaxson Banegas

TOP # 11



I am Honduran, and I live in Atlantic City. I train youth to be good athletes; and I do it only for personal satisfaction.

I helped the youth to get away from the vices and bad company through sports, involving the families of Atlantic City and neighboring cities in our activities. I was a coach in my native country for 7 years and today I apply that knowledge here in the U.S.A. In 2017, I decided to create my own soccer academy, interacting with parents and teaching children to be good, disciplined people. The Police Athletic League is a community project and, together with the parents, we cover many of the expenses. My work is primarily in Spanish.

Jose Leonel Morales

TOP # 12



I was born in Mexico and came to this country at the age of 25 and started building my business. In just two

years in my first company, I reached more than a million dollars in sales. I have generated links of understanding and collaboration with the city of New Brunswick. My charitable works range from offering, preparing and giving food from my restaurant, to being a key player in the distribution of tons of food for Latinos in New Jersey. I am a community leader and I employ 15 people, as well as contributing to feed the Hispanic communities in the cities of Camden, Trenton and New Brunswick

Ervin Chavez

TOP # 13



I am a teacher of urban primary education in Guatemala, and I came to the USA in 1998. My

father instilled in me the passion and love to help others without expecting anything in return. Through the traditional music of my town, I keep the young people of my community busy and away from the vices that can affect their lives. I am president of the Mercer County Guatemalan Civic Association. It is an association that unites the more than 100,000 Guatemalans in Mercer County. Most of the funds for the association are from my pocket. The rest are donations

Vic Gutierrez

TOP # 14



Through the support of my parents, I was able to go to school, maintain concentration, moti-

vation and the desire to put another Latino in the position of a positive role model. I love fixing any type of problem that occurs in my office. I always do my best and have helped thousands of people. I make rock music with a social feeling and have participated as a guest at the Latin Grammys in Los Angeles. My music contains social education for parents. With this Moon, I will be with you forever. With these stars, I sign my name to the present. "We owe it to ourselves to welcome a new day."



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Ramon Pagan

TOP # 15



In 1996, I began to participate in sports leagues (softball), undertaking sports and social projects in New Jersey and the Dominican Republic. In 2004, I participated in a project, with the Roca de Salvación Congregation, sending food to low-income families in the Dominican Republic and El Salvador. In 2018, together with a group of Patersonians, we formed Hispanos Unidos, with the mission of raising awareness in political and social aspects, and the vision of educating and empowering the Spanish-speaking community.

Maria Yllescas

TOP # 16



I overcame domestic violence at home in this country. This experience motivated me to work and help other women, creating awareness in my city. United in a Single Voice, organization in Spanish. I am the founder of the first Peruvian civic committee in Newark, keeping alive the Peruvian heritage and essence in the United States. I am also an active member of the Essex County Family Justice Center, in support of nonviolence. I have worked for over 15 years for the great city of Newark NPD & NPA

Melissa Baralt

TOP # 17



I am a PhD from Georgetown University and Applied Linguistics (awarded with distinction), as well as a BA in Letters from the University of Virginia, Hispanic Linguistics. I undertook a project that focuses on empowering people to develop and understand their purposes in their careers. The workshop is one hour long and consists of an interactive task. I am a volunteer for various organizations that generate personal advancement. I am the founder and president of my organization, focused on the empowerment of women today.

Felix Perez

TOP # 18



Through one of my first jobs in the casino industry, I had the opportunity to volunteer at the Union, which is how I discovered my talent to help the community at large. As a Union representative in the last twenty years, I have been a volunteer with different organizations that are dedicated to helping and empowering the community and to getting ahead through different aspects. I help the community in all possible areas: sports, food distribution, school supplies, workforce development, and support for our immigrant community, organizing them to defend their rights. We also support educational programs, promoting our Hispanic culture through celebrations and festivals.



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Hazel DiGiovine

TOP # 19



I am the director of my own initiative, "Learn, Laugh, Lead For All, Inc."

I worked in the private sector as an Operations and Human Resources Manager for many years, before entering the non-profit sector. I always felt that I had an obligation to help my community. I believe in transformation and strive to make change in the lives of people in difficult situations, using all the tools we have at our disposal. My work focuses on people in need who do not have resources, mainly the Hispanic community.

Yolanda Naranjo

TOP # 20



I am of Colombian nationality, and I came to the United States twenty-five years ago. Since

then, I have dedicated myself to serving and educating the community so that we may take better advantage of the myriad of services that this country offers us. I help with issues such as education for families, domestic violence, mental health and chronic diseases. My work began in 2004 and will continue until God gives us life and health to work for the community. Yolibu Latin Women's Organization

Mario Lopez

TOP # 21



I work in the Peruvian Coalition, a unity platform for mutual aid and the carrying out of support activities for disadvantaged Peruvians in Peru. I support Paterson and hold Spanish Education conferences. I promote the culture and folklore of Peru. I am passionate about my work, responsible for the objectives of the organization I represent. I have learned through all these years to serve my community, and that learning is constant. For now, I have the will to continue training to reach the most disadvantaged people more efficiently.

Carlos Medina

TOP # 22



Faced with \$ 300,000 in debt and an attorney's professional recommendation regarding im-

pending bankruptcy from the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, I decided to work hard to save this important state institution. I have worked as President and CEO of the chamber free of charge for more than 10 years, putting this organization's progress above personal business opportunities. Today, the State House is the largest in the state and one of the most prominent and award-winning Hispanic Chambers in the country.



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Bert Lopez

TOP # 23



I am the president and founder of the Hispanic Alliance of Atlantic County. I have served on numerous organizational boards, and I started the Atlantic County Hispanic Alliance in 1992, which operated for 15 years. Through the Alliance, I held an annual Latino Festival that attracted 10,000 people and awarded more than \$ 100,000 in scholarships. In 2010 I started a public affairs program called Latino Motion on NBC40, which focuses on informing about issues and resources of importance to the Latino community. Five years ago, the program moved to Stockton University and reached Atlantic, Cumberland, and Gloucester counties.

MEejie Chaparro-Traverso

TOP # 24



I provide international consulting services, training, and development of programs with social bases. My mission is to optimize and develop human relationships at the individual and collective level for humanity's success and equality. Develop an alternative method for managing anxiety and stress (MSA); a platform and virtual movement (Motiva-Inspira) to motivate, inspire, elevate and empower; and an international tour (Impact Tour), based on research and scientific concepts proven by studies of the body, mind, and human behavior. Professional, the personal and social impact of individuals uplift organizations, businesses, and communities.

Andrea Martinez-Mejia

TOP # 25



From a young age, public service has been my professional goal. Having the ability to work in government and represent our community's needs and interests is my motivation. I have been working in the public sector for 18 years, have worked for four different administrations in various positions, and currently serve as Chief of Staff for the NJ Department of Health. This position has allowed me to represent our community in various forums and has allowed me to open doors to other Latin@s

Wendy Martinez

TOP # 26



I am an entrepreneur of a firm that serves public and private entities to achieve their objectives, mainly in advertising, government, civic advocacy, and expansion of economic opportunities. One of the projects that I am most passionate about is using my skills to publicize the great importance of leadership of being Latino through the NJ Coalition of Pastors and Ministers. In my role as Director of Public and Government Affairs with the purpose of advancing a civic empowerment agenda.



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Priscilla Garces

TOP # 27



I am of Ecuadorian origin, and I believe that everything is possible with sacrifice, determination, and faith. I

serve as a climate change activist and spokesperson for people with disabilities. Believing in myself opened a path of goals for me. How to graduate with Honors from "Seton Hall University," obtaining the degree in "Diplomacy and International Relations." Part of my experience is working together with elected officials and municipal courts as an interpreter, facilitating access to information for the Hispanic community, the United Nations, the Climate Reality Project, and other organizations

Diego Muñoz

TOP # 28



I am a community leader and politician for the City of Newark. Businessman, communicator, journalist, Com-

missioner for Hispanic Affairs of the Mayor's Office of Newark, President of the Ecuadorian American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey. In this year, 2020, I have been at the forefront of helping the Latino community in the state of New Jersey as well as in my country, Ecuador, affected by the pandemic. I have delivered prepared food and necessities to the houses free of charge; medicines; masks, gloves, disinfectants; beverages; financial donations; and health procedures for the sick or repatriation of their mortal remains for the deceased.

Bayron Santos Agustin

TOP # 29



I am the father of three American children and the owner of a landscaping business. I was

tired of being stopped for driving with a Maryland license, working hard to pay for tickets, and having the police take away my car. So, I had to form NJ Driver's Licenses for immigrants, just like me. On December 19, 2019, Governor Murphy presented me with the highest award of legislation, the pencil of law S3229 and A4743. Now we fight for an immigration reform that helps everyone and not for some. All my work is primarily in our language.

Patricia Campos-Medina

TOP # 30



Dr. Patricia Campos-Medina is a labor and political leader committed to advancing community ef-

forts that defend worker rights and allows them to build a better future for their families. As an immigrant woman, she has managed to participate at the highest political levels representing the interests of American unions in the manufacturing and service industries. As former President of LUPE PAC, currently President of LUPE Action and a member of the Board of Directors of PODER PAC, she works hard to encourage the participation of Latina women in politics and public governance, thus creating public and private investment initiatives that benefit the Latino community in USA.



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Maria J. Andrade

TOP # 31



As a woman and daughter of Ecuadorian immigrants, as a mother and a fighter for equal social justice, I dedicate myself to minority equality, criminal justice reform, accessibility to education and the defense of communities marginalized by this society. I am actively involved with organizations that share my vision and foster the growth of the community and family. Always ready to support my community to undertake any project and I firmly believe that we are the masters of our own destinies and that we should not let ourselves be limited by circumstances that are beyond our control, and that we do not choose. I work educating and supporting the new generation on the way to pursue their academic aspirations.

Wilmer Luna

TOP # 32



As an immigrant, I know the needs of my community. So I decided to get up and do something for others, which is why NORTH BRIDGE FOUNDATION was born with \$ 25 and twelve bags of products from our pantry. I do this work with a lot of love and passion during this crisis. Also, I managed to have this opportunity to bring food to the tables of more than 900,000 people in the state of NJ. With our "Help On The Way" Program, I was taking food to different cities in the state of New Jersey, providing a solution to families in need during the pandemic.

Crisostomo Campos

TOP # 33



I am Mexican, and I have a specialty in mathematics. I am president and founder of the organization Esperanza Azteca and director of dance. I teach at Rutgers University on the health and safety of workers. I was the coordinator of the group of leaders with whom I worked on the project on driver's licenses for migrants. I volunteered at the Hispanic American Foundation and Faith in NJ. I overcame the difficulty of not being known or heard and so they will trust our projects. One of my main objectives is to educate people, create new opportunities, make the Latino culture known, and help the community understand its different needs.

Hope M. Field

TOP # 34



I am the manager of Latino Affairs for The CocaCola Company. In my role, I serve as a national spokesperson for Coca-Cola North America, where I manage the company's efforts to strengthen relationships on the East Coast (including Puerto Rico). My responsibility includes working relationships with political leaders, community leaders, key Hispanic businesses, and civics at the local, state, and national levels. I have served as a connector between public, private, and nonprofit entities and advocate for empowering business communities throughout my career. Also, I ensure prudent use of financial resources and support.



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Arlene Perez

TOP # 35



I am a passionate attorney, and we need more Latinos involved in the political process. It

is always difficult for Latina women to enter politics. I was lucky to start very young, and I am the only chairman of a county's political committee in our state of 21 counties and 8 million people. For the Lupe organization, it helped Latinas run for elected office effectively, training women to run for political elections, recruiting and mentoring women to launch into politics, campaigning to fund leaders, and making sure people understand the process to be successful.

Any Oliva

TOP # 36



I am the owner and CEO of Hispanic Business USA Magazine, with twenty-five years of

experience. I have been promoting and building Latino entrepreneurs in New Jersey and New York to be recognized for what they are, an economic force, and an important community voice for twelve more years. I work spreading the image and prestige of Latino companies. Through Negocios Hispanos USA Magazine, we have advised hundreds of entrepreneurs to take their idea and corporations to another level by creating alliances that lead them to achieve their company's success.

Celeste Fernandez

TOP # 37



I am a community leader with a great passion for helping others. I have worked hard every

day so that the Latino community has the representation, place, and respect it deserves, and thus obtain a better future for all. I have noticed and experienced racism, the precarious economic situation, the lack of support. Now I am a pioneer, and I continue to open doors for others and represent the community and help its social and economic development. Twice I have run for an elected position; both times, I reached a close margin to win. Combining the two attempts, I generated over 100,000 votes. "I am very proud to be Hispanic."

Willie Santiago

TOP # 38



I am the first Latino Lieutenant in the history of the city of Atlantic City. I am the Executive

Director of the Police League, and I am in charge of 2 special units called NCO Neighborhood Coordination Officers and the Second Community Relations. He helped stabilize trust between residents and the Police department. Support in programs offered for the Hispanic community, such as English classes as a Second Language, Citizenship classes to educate the Latino community, youth soccer teams, boxing training for Latino youth, Donations of school bags for the Latino community, and events.



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Adriana Cueva

TOP # 39



I am a real estate agent. My passion is to help the Latino community and provide them with my different knowledge to help it progress—my desire to continue supporting the community-led me to be part of the Ironbound community corporation. Beyond being a job, I can develop my passion for assisting the neediest Latino families in my sector. We carry out distributions of food, clothing and help those who need it in translations, filling out documentation, parenting classes, and many more services, all in their language and at no cost.

Lucero Lopez

TOP # 40



I graduated from Kean University. I consider myself very active in the community and representing Peru in different community events, camaraderie, and demonstration of typical dances in different towns of various states. I also volunteered multiple opportunities to serve others, help out at the local food pantry, collect aid packages from dispatching troops, clean up parks, organize a group to be part of the walk against breast cancer, as well. I helped non-profit organizations such as Peruvians for Progress, Peruvian Parade, PCANJ, Angel's Foundation, etc.

Christina Martínez

TOP # 41



I am a visionary and trusted leader, passionate about life, and empowering others to achieve higher heights of success. I am trilingual and President / CEO of Rising Above, who helps clients strengthen organizational culture by building trust, leadership strategies, and productivity tools to drive engagement and achieve greater harmony between teams. The most significant difficulty that I have overcome in supporting the Latino community is breaking down the barriers of self-imposed limiting beliefs for both myself and others. I have succeeded in elevating Latinos' mindset to be aware of their thoughts and actions by guiding them to be more successful in their lives.

Alejandro Román

TOP # 42



Next year I will celebrate 40 years as a professional journalist working in different daily press, television, and radio media. I have worked at the prestigious UPI international news agency and was a UN correspondent. My passion for serving the Hispanic community was born in the presence of poor communication and ignorance of the existing aid programs that are not taken advantage of by Latinos. Leaders have an enormous responsibility to take on these significant challenges, and we have to report positively and directly everything that benefits our community. We face challenging times, and we must act with dignity and resolve in the search for solutions that help.



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Jose Cabrera

TOP # 43



I started with a group of eight children; the need and enthusiasm of more children gave us the idea of creating a project. I applied for permits for sports facilities. Then I gave classes in Children's soccer, allowing them to learn and practice soccer regardless of their technical skills and economic status. TEAM AMERICA is for young children; generally, we speak mainly our language, Spanish, for all our activities

Victor Gallardo

TOP # 44



I am born in Guadalajara, Jal. Mexico. I have excelled as a businessman, sergeant in the US Navy, and now as a police officer in Morris County, NJ. The main reason for helping comes from seeing so many unemployed people, which shows that the town is hungry. One of your responsibilities as a businessman to the people is to help them regardless of making money. During the distribution of markets and essential things, I had to risk my young children's health because I had to take them with me; however, they learned the importance of helping those in need.

Maria Del Cid

TOP # 45



I am the Director of Policy and Legislative Services for the New Jersey Department of Health. I have become a community activist because I grew up as an undocumented Latina, and I know the difficulties that our people experience from day to day. We can make a difference through politics and change the law. We all deserve equity in health, social services, fair immigration reform, etc. Our Latino community is growing larger and larger and soon we will be the largest population in this country. We have to fight together as a community so that our interests are heard and thus provide a better future for our families.

Jorge Restrepo

TOP # 46



I have always thought: If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem. People call me: "Restrepo", The Society Page, Rumba609, the Colombian reporter, good friend, good brother, good dad, good husband". In life we have to live to serve, I am serving a purpose from my mother's womb. I learn every day that life is one, and if you don't know how to live it, we are dead people walking through the world. I give what I can and a little more, from food for families in need, donations to different organizations. Always helping the youth and seniors. This is part of my life.



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Eddie Gonzalez

TOP # 47



I am proud to work in community service. I am the Director of Community Outreach at New Jersey Community

Development Corp. where we work to transform the lives of the most vulnerable in our community by offering a multitude of educational workshops, student scholarships, leadership programs and more. In addition, as Chairman of the Paterson Puerto Rican Parade Committee, we organize events in which we celebrate more than 48 years of our organization, highlighting our community and traditions. Also, I am the founder of the Latino Service Center and we celebrate, educate and support Latino initiatives, seeking resources to improve our families and businesses.

Tommy Padilla

TOP # 48



I am just a family man, I like to help, try to find solutions, I see myself as a leader, who creates teams where everyone

sees that they are within the same solution page. With a group of people we created a political presence - Hispanic USA - a Democratic party, with which we generate representation for the Latino people who participate in the political process here. I was the first Latino Freeholder in my county - Bergen County.

Carolina Moratti

TOP # 49



I am a committed community advocate, food entrepreneur, entertainer and health care technician based in New Brunswick. I advocate for a program for immigrant mothers and put in my experience in community marketing, public speaking, and community management to the growth of New Brunswick community. The reason I do what do is because I have experienced extreme poverty firsthand and it allowed me understand that my purpose in life is to serve others.

Santos Diodonet

TOP # 50



I am a disabled husband and father of two children. I am a Servant Leader of Calvary

Temple International. I believe that all human beings, especially the homeless and drug addicts, need to be cared for and deserve attention. Disadvantaged people need to know that there are people who still care about them and are waiting for them to decide to recover and get off the streets. Now, during Covid, they can't come to church, so the Hope Ministry team and I go to Paterson to bring food to the homeless and underprivileged.



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Nancy Sanchez

TOP # 51



I am a children's writer, I worked for nineteen years with children and adolescents being a teacher in my country and working with theater groups, but in this country, I was motivated to found La Magia de las Bellas Artes. Thank God, today, this organization helps the students through art and become a support to our community. Likewise, it offers totally free art workshops to children and adolescents who go through addictions, bullying, domestic violence, children with special needs, children of convicts, among others. We also offer workshops for parents of personal growth 100% in Spanish

Christina V. Field

TOP # 52



I am a bilingual senior fashion designer in New York City. Also, through my passion for running, I have raised money through my races for different charities, such as "Every Mother Counts", a non-profit organization dedicated to making pregnancy and childbirth safe for all mothers through supporting maternal health programs around the world. I have proven my versatility not only by being a leader in the design world and in my community, but also by being a great athlete and giving back to my community and those in need as much as I can.

Reach the Latino
Community with us:



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Ana González

TOP # 53



I believe that words are an effective tool to prevent and resolve conflicts, to reconcile, heal, repair and transform.

With this conviction, in 2017 I started the Magnolia Foundation for Peace and Well-being, an organization dedicated to the emotional recovery and mental health of those who have been affected by the conflict, and to developing communication projects for development and education for peace. My hope is to sensitize anyone regardless of their origin, race or creed, about the value of reconciliation, healing, inner peace, social transformation and the sustainable development of communities

Kat Esquiche

TOP # 54



I am the daughter of Peruvian immigrants. Through my studies and work, I managed to advance professionally. I

understand the needs that one goes through when they first arrive in this country, which is why I work with empathy with the food of immigrant students for more than 30 years. Many times, the lack of time and family obligations has not allowed me to help the community as much as I wanted to, however, I always try to give my best. I am a volunteer in various events and causes that help the community, political and educational advancement of the Hispanic community in New Jersey.

Sara de Bernal

TOP # 55



I am a doctor, and we doctors have to serve. Ever since I was young, I have had the privilege of

being surrounded by people in the medical field. This has motivated me to pursue advanced studies in the United States with the purpose of providing efficient treatment to families. My area of concentration is the area of mental health and addictions. I serve vulnerable communities and became an effective mediator between the homeless and all treatment systems that help transform lives. Since 1985, I have created effective internal and external treatment programs in the addiction field, making an impact in the states of New York, New Jersey and California. All my achievements, I owe to my God who, only by his grace, allows me to make an impact in the society we live in

Arturo Fernandez

TOP # 56



My interest has been to understand the relationship between business success, the progress and

well-being of communities. In NJ, I came across a Latino community with ambitions to access a college education and with limited knowledge of how to do it. This is why I decided to accept the responsibility of serving as an access link between the community and the university. And with an educational collaboration between Rutgers Newark and the Mexican Consulate of NY, we support educational activities in the Mexican community in NY-NJ and collaborations between educational institutions in Mexico and Rutgers with 50% in Spanish



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Carolina Martinez

TOP # 57



I am a television producer, psychologist and a journalist. I love these professions because they help me to get closer to people. It is an opportunity to be the way for their voices to be heard, and through my social and voluntary work I can express myself and help to have claims or proposals addressed. I love being next to people, seeing their joys and sorrows, for this reason I defend their rights through my allies, who are a microphone and a pencil.

Beth Marmolejos

TOP # 58



I do the work because my mother, (may she rest in peace), inspired me and my son Matthew who has autism made me an activist. My husband and children are the inspiration for many of the things I volunteer for. My husband fought to end discrimination and I am passionate about helping, collaborating and connecting people. I fight for the rights of women, minority groups and people with different abilities so they can achieve the education and economic prosperity that are the American dream. I am currently President of Pro-hispánica, and other boards of non-profit organizations.

Diana Maldonado

TOP # 59



Latinos are many but, many times we are forgotten if we do not have a voice that represents us. From an early age I realized that I like to help. In 2005, I was one of the founders of the Union County Dominican Parade and Festival and, since then, I have been helping the community. It affects me a lot to see how small businesses do not have that support from our local leaders and I can understand the frustration because I have experience in this matter. Thanks to the education received and being bilingual, it is easier for me to take the message of our small businesses to the corresponding authorities.

Francisco Cortes

TOP # 60



I share my time and my knowledge to improve conditions for small business owners. I am convinced that entrepreneurship is the best way we have in our community to combat poverty. I do have a full time to job, in order to help business owners, I am a volunteer. I have been a volunteer for twelve years, eight years as a member of the board of directors of the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce and ten years with the Hispanic Business Fair.



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Mario Camino

TOP # 61



I believe that I can improve the land that my parents and most of my family migrated to in the 70's. I believe that one of my missions as a developer / investor and lender is to return Plainfield to its glory through real estate and real estate development. I am also the president of the Plainfield SID. (Special Improvement District) - Basically the Plainfield Business Owners Association. There, I launched the first Business Owner Grant program in Plainfield. We interviewed and awarded 15 companies that were affected by Covid. I live and work in Plainfield

Maria Cabrera

TOP # 62



I organized for the first time the Raising of the Flag of Puerto Rico in the city of Belleville. I have overcome several obstacles to obtain sponsorship in terms of donations to be able to provide to unemployed women, victims of domestic violence and homeless children. I have been given angels who have given me the opportunity to help others and have served as an intermediary to achieve my volunteer activities for my Latino community. I am passionate about helping those in need, I never skimp on providing what I have for others and those most in need.

Mimi Nambo

TOP # 63



I am Chairman of the Atlantic City Census Counting Committee. I organize events, activities and programs depending on the needs of the community, with the Chairperson of the Census for Atlantic City. My responsibility is to organize educational events and to understand the importance of the census, to make sure that everyone is counted in Atlantic City because that determines the amount of federal funds allocated to Atlantic City and all communities. The Atlantic City trust I humbly achieved, was by my actions, strong leadership, understanding the need and sensitivity of each culture.

Laura Matos

TOP # 64



I am a fervent believer in equity and inclusiveness of diversity. I believe that the people who sit at the tables making policy decisions should look like the people who will be affected by policy. In recent years, we have discovered that we find new ways to communicate with the Latino community, whether through digital media or new partnerships with community organizations. We've gotten better at getting the message across to communities across the state.



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Ana Fernandez

TOP # 65



I am retired from NJ State Superior Court which I did for twenty-seven years. I adore older people and help with adult day health care. After buying a property and waiting a year, the state health department granted our operating license; it was a dream that became true. I am currently the Chairperson of the Pennsauken Township Environmental Commission and a member of the Board of Directors of the South Jersey Federal Credit Union. I work hard to give back to the underserved and the population of this community, as well as the residents of neighboring counties.

Al Serje

TOP # 66



I am Colombian, raised in New York. Family man and a true believer that there is something good that guides us in life called God. I am a hard-working person who started a business and currently employs more than 160, primarily Hispanic people. The difficulty I surpassed, is to get to where I am now. Since it is not easy to keep people employed during Covid19, I can proudly say that I have achieved it. I was a fundamental piece in the distribution of tons of food for several cities in need.



#CLEANTHEWORLD
#ELPATRON

Marelyn Rivera

TOP # 67



My parents came from Honduras and they always worked to give us the best opportunities. They taught me to help and support everyone. In my work I feel that I have a responsibility to support our Hispanic communities so that they have all the pertinent information from state resources and more. My greatest achievement is reaching out to Hispanic communities and communicating all that pertains

Jose "La Voz" Santiago

TOP # 68



I am Puerto Rican, I live in Newark since 1983. I am a community leader and volunteer for more than 25 years, I am president of La Voz Community Engagement. I am the voice of children against bullying, the voice 5 + 5 community clean up. Our organization is made up of volunteers. We help low-income families with food and furniture. Donations come from the community or small businesses. This is how we involve each resident to work together, get to know each other and look out for each other. This way, we improve the quality of life and educate the community to work and understand the police department.



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Joffre Perez

TOP # 69



I'm in the organization represented by a general in a soldier's uniform. In my vocabulary there is no I, there is only we. I am always attentive to listen to everyone and make decisions democratically. I am simply the sum of everything I have gone through and given to my community. I am totally sure that without the help and the support of my people, I would have never yielded the results in their favor. I serve the community on immigration issues, regarding voting, government benefits and I use Spanish 50-75% in activities.

Erica Chaves

TOP # 70



I am an immigrant Latina, a fighter, I am indigenous, a woman and a mother who helps the Latino community. Also, organized Faith In New Jersey, and voluntarily participated in Hispanic Family Center as a domestic violence counselor. My job is to help the undocumented community, women who suffer verbal and psychological abuse, to save lives by guiding people letting them know that we must fight together for our rights so that our voice is heard. We fight for licenses, for fair immigration reform, to help the undocumented and more.

Luis Rodriguez

TOP # 71



On September 18, 2013 I was elected president of the organization that I am honored to preside,. I am committed to the defense of human rights and non-discrimination. I developed and launched a free ESL program and preparation for naturalization. This class takes place in the counties: Atlantic and Camden. We carry out the Spanish course directed to the police department of our city and a recycling and arts course as well. Celebration of: Hispanic Heritage, Mother's and Father's Day. We also distribute food pantries. I give thanks to this program, all staff and the board of directors

Alixon Collazos

TOP # 72



One of my first volunteer jobs at Rutgers University was with NJPIRG, registering students to vote. It was then, that I understood people's level of disinterest in democracy and the importance of voting. Years later, I still believe in this important role that all citizens and residents of this country must take, as it is a way of saying thank you. LUPE Fund is a Latino women's leadership organization in New Jersey, highlighting the work and talents of Latino women where they can participate and learn about other jobs, educational and community opportunities



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Karen Peña

TOP # 73



Survivor of domestic violence but, always helping the community since I was little. I am a

single mother with 4 children, grandmother, accountant, businesswoman, Commissioner of the Elmwood Park Board of Education and the first Peruvian-American elected in Elmwood Park. I am treasurer of different non-profit organizations, founder of Our Way to HOPE, a non profit organization. My job is to help other women and children to give them strength so they can keep on going. Also, I have helped the Latino community in general with activities for those most in need in different cities of New Jersey

Tamara Morales

TOP # 74



My father died from Covid-19, and I honor his memory by maintaining his legacy. Per-

forming the representation of Mexican Culture —Fiestas Patrias—. Through annual events to emphasize the Mexican identity, within an atmosphere of responsibility and reflecting the values and history of the Mexican community in the United States. All the activities are mainly in SPANISH together with all the visual material. We hold the largest Latino event in New Jersey.

Ashly Estevez-Perez

TOP # 75



I was an undocumented immigrant for 12 years and still excelled in the public education

system in Camden, there I realized the obstacles that affect immigrants and low-income students. I volunteered for LUCY, a youth mentoring organization, where I helped with their college readiness, self-empowerment, and recreational activities. I currently work for Congressman Norcross handling constituent cases on utilities, Medicare, housing, and student loans. Outside of my job role, I am a member of the general committee for the City of Camden.

Shiara Luyo Parra

TOP # 76



I am passionate about communication and art. I am a producer of different Tv Media pro-

grams on several platforms. I am a Social Communicator / Host and Producer of the radio program "The Shiara Show". I am also the Founder of 'Hear My Latin Voice". Within my Community I support charity events. My passion and dedication in each project has brought me great satisfactions of which I feel blessed, my altruistic work fills me with spiritual joy, leaving a legacy in my community fills me with pride, my phrase "Push yourself as high as you can so that the World enjoys what you offer".



THE LATINO INDEX

NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS

Manuel Ortiz

TOP # 77



After overcoming problems with alcohol consumption, obesity and depression, I started a radio program: "The nights with Manuel", which was the meeting point for Hispanics in Atlantic City during the beginning of the pandemia. My work helps many Hispanic families in Atlantic City and is non-commercial as it focuses on positive and public information. I am a contributor to a family radio show. Despite recently being operated at a hospital and considered disabled, I've continued to work hard in my radio program with the commitment to inform the community.

Ralph Tejada

TOP # 78



President of the Morris County Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce. He leads, develops and implements partnership strategies with members and affiliates to ensure mutually beneficial results that create value. He is Executive Chairman of Tropical Sourcing LLC, with 25 years importing and distributing fresh fruits and vegetables. Mr. Tejada received his Bachelor of Science from Northeastern University in International Business. His business consulting in food safety, USDA, FDA, and customs border protection compliance is extensive. His business acumen and experience make him a solid business leader

Romi Herrera

TOP # 79



I am an immigrant from South America, who sees the needs in our community and tries to relieve that need through social work, citizenship classes in Spanish and English. Under the direction of a specialized teacher, classes my classes are taught in a total of 30 hours. Classes occur in July. I am a community leader, and during The Latino Index nomination I was elected to be a city council.
(DURING THE EVALUATION PROCESS, ROMI WAS ELECTED AS CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY WHERE HE RESIDES

Jorge Cabrera

TOP # 80



I came to the United States very young and while I was growing up I had to learn to defend myself in many areas. I did very well in College as well as in my professional career. I am very involved in the community especially serving three groups, college students, Rutgers University graduates, and the Essex County Residents. In the past two years I have created more than 20 events focused on serving the community, students, and Rutgers graduates. These events have been attended by more than 2,000 people.



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THE LATINO INDEX NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS

Corin Garcia

TOP # 81



I have multicultural roots. I've traveled around the world giving me a passion to work for my community that is enriched by different cultures. I am the founder of the "Little Diamond Chef", a nutrition program for children. I've initiated virtual summer workshops, where children are able to continue education in the midst of the pandemic. Founder of the "Mujeres in Power Awards" where we recognize women who are small business owners. I run a marathon to raise funds for cancer and domestic violence women survivors. I was recently awarded the Woman of Distinction Award by Mercer Commissioner Samuel Frisby.

Jairo Borja

TOP # 82



Dr. Jairo Borja is proud to have grown up in Corona, Queens, NY. He has taught at Professional Business College (now LIBI) from 2009 to 2014. He has taught Small Business Management, Business Organization and Management, Marketing Principles, Human Resource Management, to name a few courses. In 2017, he also taught Leadership and Sales and Customer Service at Berkeley College. Dr. Jairo has the experience to speak to entrepreneurs about business objectives and is a mentor to many young Latino students throughout academic institutions in New Jersey.

Armando Aviles

TOP # 83



I am an officer with 25 years of experience. Due to the misinformation of young people about law enforcement, it was important for me to create a path where children and adolescents could be exposed to our industry. Many of the children I deal with are at risk and come from high crime neighborhoods, so we provide a safe environment for them. We provide exciting activities and personalized mentoring for young people looking to discover their future. They attend hands-on programs that are open to youth ages 10-20 with an interest in learning about careers in the fields of law enforcement.

Jesus Carrion

TOP # 84



I am the Executive President of a transportation company (Delivery) that serves one of the main companies in the United States, thus giving the opportunity to grow with me to more than 50 families. I have been able to carry out various community activities, where we give individuals the opportunity to grow personally and spiritually. I have always remained to myself and I help the community without judgement. I know what it is to be hungry and cold and I do not want my Latino brothers to go through what I lived prior to being successful. Thanks to the Ecuadorian Alliance I have been able to channel my potential to help others.



THE LATINO INDEX

NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS

Geovana Villacres

TOP # 85



I am a small business-woman who would like to continue helping my community with my knowledge. I love to educate small businesses about social media and sales so they can grow their businesses. I've helped entrepreneurs with business plans. I have a media program called Speaking with Geo - Small Business Promotion through social media channels. I volunteer my time and constantly support The Latino Spirit initiatives and other pro-Latino social projects in the community. My work allows me to speak 50% of the time English and 50% the time in Spanish.

Denise Fernandes

TOP # 86



I am an immigrant who came here to this country from Portugal. I like to make a difference in the lives of others through my actions. I had the honor of representing President Obama in this State until 2016 and I continue to represent the former president with his new organization. I have a master's degree and I was awarded a Honoris Causa in Governance and Leadership award. I speak 5 languages — English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian. Every Tuesday my team and I distribute food and supplies to the community. We began our food distribution events several months ago in March.

Sonia G Guevara

TOP # 87



I have organized the immigrant community to be part of a society free of fear, having responsibilities and becoming social leaders. I am Salvadoran, reading fascinates me, in fact in December I launched my book called, "Be the Designer of Your Life" I have dedicated myself to helping single mothers like me to be entrepreneurs. Through education I've decided to become a community speaker. I want to give back to the community that supports me every day as an independent entrepreneur. I owe myself to the people and if that's the case why not 'give them a little of what they gave me.

Alison Lopez

TOP # 88



I am a full time undergraduate student at Kean University, studying Physical Education and Health, I have a double major in American Sign Language and Theater. I have been involved in many organizations and various community services, helping out at the local food pantry, collecting aid packages to dispatch to our military troops, cleaning parks, and volunteering at a local animal shelter. I love giving back to the community and interacting with others. I like to inspire and motivate young people because they are the new generation of future leaders and professionals who will raise the leadership flag in the country and make a difference.



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NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS

Cristina Tone

TOP # 89



I work tirelessly to create a positive impact in the lives of others and currently serve the community as the Assistant Director of the NHC Neighborhood Help Center for the New Jersey Community Development Corporation (NJCDC). I have administered numerous educational workshops and provided personalized advice on sensitive foreclosure prevention topics. I am a member of the Action team for different elementary schools and other community organizations such as "Yo Soy Así", an organization to support families with autistic children in Paterson and "Los Ángeles de los Arenales", an organization to support children with leukemia and cancer in Peru.

Marcos Sanchez

TOP # 90



I come from a humble family in Ecuador, I had the opportunity to be a professional basketball player and I became a recreation director for all ages. I love serving my community; I've lived in the City of Newark for twenty-two years. I've collected hundreds of supplies for natural disasters that have happened in Ecuador (2016), Dominican Republic (2017), Mexico (2018), Puerto Rico (2020.) For the recent Puerto Rican earthquakes I personally went from house to house delivering the supplies I collected in Newark going to five cities in Puerto Rico. I plan and distribute toys for children every year at Christmas dressed up as a black santa in hospitals in needy neighborhoods.

Darwin Roman

TOP # 91



I am a servant leader who enjoys helping local business owners grow. I serve the Latino business community. I am currently President of the Union County Latin American Chamber of Commerce

Fernando Uribe

TOP # 92



I am an accomplished educator, an award-winning philanthropist, and a respected television journalist in New Jersey. I've encouraged people in the Latino community to become more proficient in technology, specifically smartphones, computers, and social media. We are all vital to the growth of our community. Since 2008, I have raised \$50,348 for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign. I am the Winner of the 9 Time Pacesetter Award-American Cancer Society.



THE LATINO INDEX

NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS

Jeannette Aparicio

TOP # 93



Being Latina and having the experience of not speaking English was a disadvantage a while ago, now if I can be a bridge to help our Latino brothers achieve the American dream for me it is a great honor. I enjoy being able to contribute my knowledge and at the same time love to celebrate their achievements. As a faith believer, I serve my neighbor with sincerity and love. I like to guide and lead potential entrepreneurs to register their business in the state and help them process the necessary documents to obtain their Certificate of Compliance to open a business.

Maritza Martinez

TOP # 94



I am a community leader in the Plainfield area, always looking out for the well-being of my Latino community. I support every need of the Latino community. As Commissioner for Hispanic Affairs in Plainfield I am here to help my people. I also work to put together and make food distributions for the community in Plainfield and surrounding areas.

Ana Martell

TOP # 95



I am the owner of a property management company and Director of Government Affairs for NAHREP, Realtor for Keller Williams. I have lived in Union City my entire life. My office is in Hoboken and my main goal is to help Latinos in Hudson County. It is difficult to find help for families so that they can buy a house and live a little better. I also participate and help with voter registration, clothing donation drives and monetary donations for the Hispanic community

Tedy Flores-Escobar

TOP # 96



I am Ecuadorian. I individually help many civic and non-profit organizations in my community because I see many people in need. I am witness to food shortages these days, especially for the undocumented.



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NEW JERSEY TOP 100 LATINOS

Luisa Torres

TOP # 97



I am a community activist and I work with and for the Latino community because it is my duty as a Latina. Being politically active is a matter of survival for our people and not allowing others to decide our destiny and interests. We had the full support of the campaign and the assistance of Governor Phil Murphy, however there were many challenges including finding a low cost location to host my events. I am an active part of fundraising for the Immigration Organization (Make the Road NJ).

Franklin Montero

TOP # 98



I am a lawyer by profession and I like to help my people, in addition to being a lawyer I am a volunteer with Dominicanos USA on a pro bono basis. Every 6 months I initiate and carry out a citizenship campaign to help those individuals who want to be part of our country's process

Brenda Ramirez

TOP # 99



I have an organization that serves the Youth of our community; guiding and supporting them in whatever they need. I have seen that special children are sometimes forgotten because they don't normally receive help. I work with children who are neurotypical and with special abilities, I want to give them the opportunity to be the best version of themselves. The only difficulty for me when attempting to help my community has been that sometimes there is no government help.

Arelis Cedeño

TOP # 100



I am a single mother of five children, I was born in the Dominican Republic and came to the United States in 1994. I have always enjoyed helping people when seeing so much need and experiencing what single mothers go through. My life and experiences have pushed me to feel the duty of helping others who've suffered as I have. Giving is how one receives God's blessings, because we come to this world to help, if not? What are we for? I carry out and support activities for the whole family. Working for my Community is my passion.



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