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Bienvenidos,

The Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues & Progress (CHIP), along with our dedicated Collaborating Partners, is honored to welcome you to the 26th Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference. This milestone event continues our commitment to "Opening Doors" (Abriendo Puertas) and addressing key issues impacting the Hispanic/Latino community—both here in Ohio and beyond.

Guided by CHIP's mission, this conference provides a platform for leadership and advocacy in education, public service, philanthropy, social services, public health, labor, legal matters, and youth development. I would like to extend special thanks to our exceptional Co-Directors, Carmen Leibas and Alisha Pardon, whose months of tireless planning have made this event possible. Their commitment brings together some of the most insightful and impactful voices in our region.

This year's theme, "Unidos Podemos, United We Can" honors the collaboration of our community to move forward. This year's conference features a diverse lineup of presenters who bring critical insight and expertise to the issues shaping our communities. Our morning session begins with a thought-provoking panel discussion, "Defamation, Opinion or Free Speech?" Moderated by Safety Service Director Rey Carrion, this timely conversation includes Lorain County Commissioner David J. Moore, La Prensa Editor Linda Alvarado-Arce, and attorney Robert Cabrera, who will examine the delicate balance between free expression and harmful speech in today's media landscape.

We are also excited to present specialized workshops on a wide range of essential topics: Erin Murphy from Lorain County Public Health will explore health disparities and the social determinants of health. Dr. Vince Granito will guide us through the evolving world of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. Nicole Bellmore Pierce will share valuable resources for supporting older adults in our communities. Scot Allyn will tackle social media literacy, focusing on the difference between facts and misinformation. Our very own State Representative Joe Miller, leading a session on current bills and effective strategies for civic engagement and advocacy. For those looking to focus on personal wellness, attendees can experience chair yoga with Marie Deshuk or access important mental health resources with Rebecca Jones from MHARS. And finally, our youth component, "Basta Ya," offers dynamic and empowering programming specifically designed to meet the needs and voices of our younger participants.

We are deeply grateful to our Title Sponsor, Lorain County Visitors Bureau, for their support. To all of our sponsors, volunteers, and presenters—thank you for your dedication, passion, and belief in the power of community. And to our youth, year after year, you inspire us with your insights and presence. You are our future, and you are always welcome here.

As I previously shared, I had the privilege of working alongside Frank Jacinto, who was a mentor and guiding force. Frank often reminded us, "We can do all things if no one worries about who gets the credit." May that spirit continue to guide us as we unite to achieve all things possible.

Sinceramente,

#### Juanita Senquiz

Juanita Senguiz

## 26<sup>th</sup> Hispanic Leadership Conference

#### Title Sponsor Lorain County Visitors Bureau

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#### 26th Hispanic Leadership Conference Agenda

8 – 9 a.m. Registration, Breakfast, Medical Corner, Visit Vendor Tables

9 a.m. **Posting of Colors by JROTC**, Lorain High School

directed by Staff Sgt. Edward Catanese and MAJ (R) Dennis P. Marshall

National Anthem by Erika Baez

**Invocation** by **Pastor Kervin Melendez**, Vine of Hope Church

Opening Remarks: Juanita Senquiz, President, Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues & Progress

Carmen Leibas & Alisha Pardon, Conference Directors

9:15 a.m. **Poem read by Maria Sosa** 

**Lorain County Sheriff Jack Hall** 

9:40 a.m. **Social Determinants of Health video** 

**Erin Murphy**, Director of Population Health Division at Lorain County Public Health

10:00 a.m. **Defamation, Opinion or Free Speech - Panel Discussion** 

Linda Alvarado-Arce, La Prensa Editor

**Robert Cabrera**, Attorney

David J. Moore, Lorain County Commissioner

Moderator: Rey Carrion, Safety Service Director, City of Lorain

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Select One Workshop to Attend from List below

Descriptions and Presenters are listed on next page

Chair Yoga room 114

Finding Help for Older Adults room 207

Ohio Legislature – How Does It Work? Room 215

Opening Digital Doors: Harnessing AI for Empowerment and Progress room 214

Social Media – Facts or Fiction room 211

YOUTH COMPONENT: Basta Ya (Enough is Enough) room 208

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch, medical corner, visit vendors, networking

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Select One Workshop to Attend from List Below

Basta Ya (Enough is Enough) room 208

Chair Yoga room 114

**Create Your Path: Empowering Your Future room 207** 

**Keeping Cool in Turbulent Times** Room 215

Opening Digital Doors: Harnessing AI for Empowerment and Progress room 214
Supportive Counseling Services for Newcomers and Migrant Communities room 217

**YOUTH COMPONENT: Social Media – Fact or Fiction** room 211

2:30 – 3 p.m. Evaluations & Door Prizes

#### **C.H.I.P Conference Committee**



On behalf of the organizing team, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to each member of the Hispanic Leadership Conference Committee for your dedication and tireless efforts in planning the 26th annual conference. Your countless hours of hard work, thoughtful collaboration, and unwavering commitment were instrumental in making this event a success. The energy, passion, and unity you brought to every step of the process truly reflect the spirit of leadership and community we strive to celebrate. Thank you for going above and beyond to create a meaningful and inspiring experience for all involved. Thank you!

#### **CHIP Honors Richard RICO Neller**

#### Richard "Rico" Neller March 11, 1946 – May 21, 2024

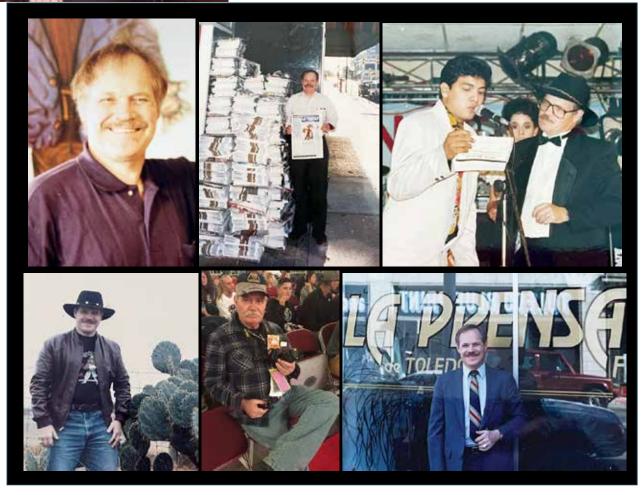


Richard was born on March 11, 1946 to Earl Neller and Doris Neller Bass Landfather in St. Louis, Missouri. From the moment that he could walk Richard had a tremendous amount of charm and energy, which contributed to many early successes, including high honors throughout high school. He was captain of his high school wrestling team, editor of the high school yearbook, and was awarded with a full scholarship to Washington University.

Richard's successes continued throughout college, becoming captain of his college wrestling team and working on the university newspaper (his true passion). He graduated with honors receiving a degree in Sociology/Anthropology.

Richard married his college sweetheart and followed her to Toledo, Ohio to begin his career as a high school teacher in Toledo Public Schools and to start a family. After several years teaching Richard continued his education, studying law at the University of Toledo. He was a highly respected criminal defense attorney for many years.

Richard could never shake his true passion of journalism and founded LaPrensa Newspaper in 1989. In addition to publishing the newspaper, Richard was also the founder of LatinoFest@ Promenade Park. He started the Midwest Tejano Music Awards in Downtown Toledo and the Mud Hens Latino Scholarship fund.



#### **Morning Workshop Descriptions**

#### 1. Chair Yoga Presented by Marie Contreras Deshuk

Improve your muscle tone and strength while sitting, stretching and flexing. Learn proper techniques that you can practice while sitting with the ability of adapting the poses to your own individual needs and abilities. Discover the positive impact chair yoga can have on your balance, mobility and overall fitness.

Room 114

- 2. Finding Help for the Older Adult Presented by Nicole Bellmore-Pierse
  Learn about resources and services available to older adults in the community who may
  need extra support as they age. This can include in-home support, food delivery, kinship
  assistance, food insecurity, volunteering and more. Improving health and well-being as an
  older adult is essential to continued independence for this vulnerable population. Room 207
- 3. Harnessing Al for Empowerment and Progress Presented by Dr. Vince Granito Explore how artificial intelligence can serve as a transformative tool for individuals and organizations to achieve greater self-sufficiency, foster collaboration, and participate more effectively in decision-making processes. Learn actionable strategies to use Al to unlock opportunities and improve quality of life in diverse communities. Explore the latest developments in integrating this technology into your personal and professional life. Room 214
- 4. Ohio Legislature How Does It Work? *Presented by Joe Miller*

Have you ever wondered how the General Assembly in the State of Ohio works? Want to know what bills are presently being considered at the State level? Want to know the protocol for attending a Legislative meeting and providing statements for or against a pending bill? Do you have any questions for your representatives? Room 215

5. Social Media – Facts or Fiction *Presented by Scot Allyn* 

If you get all your news from social media, how do you know what is true? Can you trust your sources? Do you know how to fact-check news, so that you do not spread false information? Learn the difference between facts, misinformation, disinformation and effective resources available.

Room 211

#### Youth Component: Basta Ya (Enough is Enough) Presented by Mari Colon

This interactive workshop demonstrates how offenders of sexual violence targets and grooms. It will explain the steps taken in the process which will bring awareness and give participants the ability to recognize and respond to signs of sexual violence while teaching descriptions of the stages of the offenders. Resources for survivors will be available. Room 208

#### **Afternoon Workshop Descriptions**

#### 1. Basta Ya (Enough is Enough) Presented by Mari Colon

This interactive workshop demonstrates how offenders of sexual violence targets and grooms. It will explain the steps taken in the process which will bring awareness and give participants the ability to recognize and respond to signs of sexual violence while teaching descriptions of the stages of the offenders. Resources for survivors will be available. Room 208

#### 2. Chair Yoga Presented by Marie Contreras Deshuk

Improve your muscle tone and strength while sitting, stretching and flexing. Learn proper techniques that you can practice while sitting with the ability of adapting the poses to your own individual needs and abilities. Discover the positive impact chair yoga can have on your balance, mobility and overall fitness.

Room 114

### 3. Create Your Path: Empowering Your Future *Presented by Attorney Robert Cabrera*

Learn the importance of an estate plan, what is its purpose and what does it entail. Learn the difference between Life Insurance, Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy, Beneficiary forms, Trust, Living Will and Last Will and Testament. An estate can include home, car, investments, collections, furniture, bank accounts and anything you possess. Without a plan for your future, the State laws will determine who gets custody of your children and what happens to your assets.

4. Harnessing Al for Empowerment and Progress Presented by Dr. Vince Granito
Explore how artificial intelligence can serve as a transformative tool for individuals and
organizations to achieve greater self-sufficiency, foster collaboration, and participate more
effectively in decision-making processes. Learn actionable strategies to use Al to unlock
opportunities and improve quality of life in diverse communities. Explore the latest
developments in integrating this technology into your personal and professional life. Room
214

#### 5. Keeping Cool in Turbulent Times Presented by Rebecca Jones

In today's fast-paced world, maintaining composure during challenging times is essential for personal well-being and effective decision-making. This workshop will equip participants with practical strategies to manage stress and stay calm amidst adversity. Program Highlights: Understanding Stress Responses, Effective Stress Management Techniques, Creating a Calming Environment, Developing Emotional Resilience, and Practical Application.

#### 6. Supportive Counseling Services for Newcomers and Migrant Communities Presented by Daniel Aguado Ornelas

Learn about the services provided in the community by the Mexican Consulate and its partnerships. Learn where to find resources on health, legal clinics, needed documents, processing visas or passports, educational workshops, etc.

Room 217

Youth Component: Social Media: Facts or Fiction Presented by Scot Allyn

If you get all your news from social media, how do you know what is true? Can you trust your sources? Do you know how to fact-check news, so that you do not spread false information? Learn the difference between facts, misinformation, disinformation and effective resources available.

Room 211

#### **Presenters**



**Daniel Aguado Ornelas** was appointed as Deputy Consul of Mexico since October 2023 and has been a Member of the Mexican Foreign Service since 2006. He was the Deputy Consul in Indianapolis from 2019 to 2023, Consul at the Embassy of Mexico in Panama, Director of Consular Protection Policies at the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, Consul of protection, legal affairs and documentation at the Consulate of Mexico, Kansas City, Missouri. He was part of Transparency International, Mexican chapter, Researcher at Fundación Este País, Mexico and Part of the Human Index Report team, Mexico 2002, team, United Nations Development Program (UNDP). He

holds a Master degree in Demography by the College of Mexico and a B.A. in International Relations by the Mexico Autonomous Institute of Technology. He has authored papers on immigration and social development published in Mexico and abroad.



**Scot Allyn's** professional history as librarian and journalist reflects his passion for diverse perspectives and the pursuit of truth. His library career includes experience at the Boston and New York public libraries, which preceded his current position of 10 years at the North Ridgeville Public Library. As a journalist, his experience includes five years at the Lorain Morning Journal and four years editing a Connecticut chain of weekly newspapers. Scot continues to be devoted to truth and passionate about the importance of diverse perspectives. Mr. Allyn received his Bachelor's degree from the University of

Arizona and his Master's degree in library science from Simmons College.



**Dr. Linda Alvarado-Arce** obtained her BA degree in Social Work and is licensed in the state of Ohio. She has a M.Ed. in Educational Foundations and Leadership, a Master of Cannabis Certification and is a certified mediator and grant writer. She recently completed her Ph.D. from Judith Herb College of Education at The University of Toledo with her dissertation titled "Reclaiming Dignity for Latinx Immigrants: A Qualitative Study from a Human Dignity and LatCrit Perspective of the Lived Experiences of Mixed-Status Families Living in El Norte During the Early 21st Century." She always wanted to work in the Latinx

community since her interning at various organizations like Adelante, Inc. and Head Start. Ms. Alvarado-Arce brought about many changes at college, like creating the "Primos" program and Latino Alumni Association. She was Toledo's first Latinx Director for the Board of Community Relations. She owns the only feminist bookstore in Ohio and is the editor of *La Prensa*.



**Nicole Bellmore-Pierse** assumed the role of Executive Director of Lorain County Office on Aging in October 2023. She is a licensed social worker in the State of Ohio, serving Lorain County in various capacities since 2007. She is an active member of the Elyria Rotary Club, faculty member of the United Way of Greater Lorain County's Collaborative Leadership Institute, and President of the Board of Directors of Family Planning Services of Lorain County. Ms. Bellmore-Pierse holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Mercyhurst College, a master's degree in social work from Case Western Reserve

University, and a master's degree in Adult Learning, Training and Performance Development from Walden University. She also works part-time as an assessor for Kindred Harbor Behavioral Health completing community based diagnostic evaluations.



**Robert Cabrera** has been an attorney for over 30 years. He earned his BA degree in Political and Economic Theory from Oberlin College and his Juris Doctorate from Cleveland Marshal College of Law. He worked as a law clerk for Legal Aid during college and returned one year after graduating as a Supreme Court law intern. After starting his own firm, Mr. Cabrera volunteered for legal Aid and took on pro bono cases because he always wanted to "be a freedom fighter." Mr. Cabrera's general practice focuses on complex litigation in

Domestic Relations, Juvenile Law, Juvenile Custody and Delinquency, Probate and Consumer Law. He is a member of the "Save the Dream" campaign of the Ohio Supreme Court, Legal Aid and Lorain County Bar Association.



**Rey Carrion** was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico and a former neighbor of Hall of Fame baseball player Roberto Clemente. He received his BS in Architectural/Environmental Design from Bowling Green State University and is presently working as the Safety Service Director for the City of Lorain. He formerly served as Lorain City Council and was the Facility Services Director for Kendal at Oberlin. He was a former board member of the Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority, Community Foundation of Lorain County, Sacred Heart Chapel Finance Committee and was the 2012 Distinguished Hispanic

Ohioan Honoree. Mr. Carrion has organized many community events like Light Up Lorain, Community clean-ups, Pipe Yard events, Oakwood Park events, and Banner/Flag programs just to name a few.



Mari Colón has held the position of Sexual Assault/Abuse Advocate at Riveon Mental Health and Recovery (Formerly the Nord Center) for 23 years. She is a registered Advocate with Senior Standing through the Ohio Advocate Network and is a Registered Social Worker Assistance with the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapy Board and is an Authorized Facilitator for Stewards of Children. Her journey assisting victims of sexual crimes began with an internship at Lorain County Rape Crisis in 2002 and accepted the position of Bilingual Direct Services Advocate and Prevention Specialist

to work with the Latino Community. In 2005. Mrs. Colón was promoted to work with Kidz First Children's Advocacy Center, providing support, legal advocacy and psychoeducation to children and their caregivers who have suffered from sexual abuse. Moreover, Mrs. Colón provides Bi-lingual workshops and continues to advocate for survivors from diverse backgrounds and educates the community on recognizing and responding to sexual violence.



Marie Contreras Deshuk is a certified 200-hour yoga teacher and Level II Reiki Master with a deep passion for holistic wellness. Blending mindful movement, breathwork, and energy healing, Marie creates a nurturing space for students to cultivate balance, strength, and inner peace. With a focus on Vinyasa yoga and Reiki's gentle healing energy, Marie aims to support physical, mental and energetic well-being, guiding others on their journey to self-discovery and transformation. She is also a Principal at Lorain City Schools where she has

been employed for over 24 years. She is a graduate of The University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University and holds a M.Ed. In Curriculum and Instruction from Ashland University.



**Dr. Vince Granito** is a psychology professor at Lorain County Community College and is serving as a Faculty Fellow in AI through LCCC's Teaching and Learning Center. Additionally, he is co-chair of the campus-wide AI task force. He has co-led Faculty Learning Communities on AI use in Higher Education and has a long history of incorporating innovative technology in education. Currently he is writing a chapter for a new book from the American Psychological Association on how AI can be used in psychology classes. He has been awarded numerous grants for innovations in

teaching and was awarded the Wayne Weiten Teaching Excellence Award from the American Psychological Association, (top two-year college psychology professor in the country). He was recognized with the 2022 League for Innovation in the Community College Excellence Award and was past president of the Ohio Association of Two-Year Colleges, and the Society of Sport, Exercise, and Performance Psychology.



Jack Hall was elected as the 37th Lorain County Sheriff – an office that was founded in 1824. He is a lifelong resident of Lorain County, currently residing in Columbia Station. He began his career over 34 years ago with the Sheffield Village Police Department, served the residents of Avon Lake as a patrol officer and detective sergeant and was appointed to the Lorain County Sheriff's Drug and Anti-Terrorism Task Force. Sheriff Hall formerly worked as the Captain of Special Operations for the Cleveland Metroparks Police Department, Chief of the Westfield OFIC Police Department in Medina

County and also as a deputy sheriff with the Medina County Sheriff's Office. He takes great pride in the law enforcement teams that he has been a part and the teams he has been able to build. He believes in building a great team at the Lorain County Sheriff's Office comprised of professional men and women who join the rank of the many who have had the tradition and honor of serving the citizens.



**Rebecca Jones** is a lifelong resident of Lorain and serves as the Child and Adolescent Services Director for the MHARS Board in Lorain County. She is a Licensed Professional in Clinical Counselor-Supervision with a Master of Education in Community Agency Counseling. She has worked in community mental health for over 20 years, with extensive experience in providing clinical oversight of behavioral health services to diverse populations. She is known for developing and implementing best-practice clinical programming to meet the needs of the community. She has

been the Chair of the Lorain County Suicide Prevention Coalition since 2020. Ms. Jones has an extensive history of providing trauma-informed counseling with individuals, groups and families in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Rebecca is passionate about facilitating opportunities for healing.



**Joe Miller** is a State Representative and a proud resident of Lorain County. Mr. Miller graduated from Marion L. Steele High School in Amherst and attended Lorain County Community College for two years while working full time before transferring to Bowling Green State University to complete his Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education. He obtained two graduate degrees from Ashland University, a Masters of Education and a Master of Arts in American History and Government. September

11th inspired Rep Miller to return to the classroom where he has taught courses at both the high school and college level. Representative Miller volunteers in his community and church. State Representative Joe Miller is an advocate for quality education, jobs for hardworking Ohioans, opportunities for green energy expansion, and assistance to our veterans."



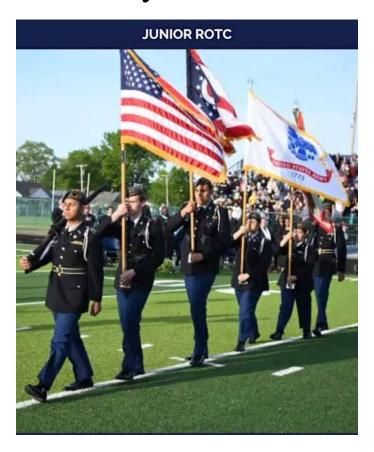
**David J. Moore** was elected Lorain County Commissioner as part of the Board of Commissioners in November 2020. Moore previously served as Lorain County Commissioner from 2001-2005. During that time, he created a Trade Free Zone that created tax incentives for Lorain County businesses, keeping them from leaving Lorain County. Other projects include GLIDE, a business incubator in partnership with LCCC, a business creation and retention department, and the creation of the Lorain County Port Authority. Commissioner Moore has assembled a strong team of directors, driving progress in budgeting, public transportation, and managed growth – laying the foundation for

a better Lorain County for generations to come. Moore holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Michigan.



**Erin Murphy** is Director of Population Health at Lorain County Public Health (LCPH). Born and raised in Cleveland, she received her Bachelor of Arts from Bowling Green State University, then graduated with her Master of Public Health degree in Health Behavior and Health Education from the University of Michigan in 2011. She has been with the health department for 10 years. Erin and her team use data to drive decision making every day, in an effort to efficiently and effectively address the public health needs of all who live, work, and play in Lorain County. Erin believes that a walk outside does wonders, so she can often be found on the trail by her office.

### Lorain City Schools JROTC



Thank you to the LHS Titan Battalion Color Guard for the posting of the colors!



## PROCLAMATION OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

WHEREAS, on Saturday, May 24, 2025, the Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues and Progress (CHIP) will host the 26th Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference at Lorain County Community College; and

WHEREAS, the first conference was held in April 1996 and was conducted by the Hispanic Councils of UAW Local 425 and Local 2000 from the Lorain and Avon Ford plants consisting of front-line Hispanic/Latino workers who sought to rejuvenate and inspire non-profit front-line workers tirelessly making a difference in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, the UAW Hispanic Council hosted the first ten Hispanic Leadership Conferences from 1996 through 2005 passing the torch to the Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues and Progress (CHIP), when most Council members transferred to Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, CHIP has hosted this important Hispanic Leadership Event ever since, under past President's Joel Arredondo and Tim Carrion and current President Juanita Senquiz (2018-present). The current Conference Directors (2016-present) are Carmen Leibas and Alisha Pardon. Prior to that, Mike and Dina Ferrer were conference directors for 20 years (1996-2015); and

WHEREAS, the mission of CHIP is to promote self-sufficiency, cooperation, and unity within the Hispanic/Latino community; to promote greater community participation; to ensure access to available resources; and to increase involvement in the decision-making process, thereby improving the overall quality of life for the Hispanic/Latino community; and

WHEREAS, the CHIP conference is hosted in collaboration with 60+ Hispanic/Hispanic serving organizations providing volunteers, resources, conference subject matter, participant services, and funding; and

WHEREAS, the conference serves as a forum where civic leaders, educators, students, social workers, non-profit organizations, union and corporate representatives, Hispanic/Latino advocacy groups, and concerned citizens can exchange views, network, and review information—enabling all to better identify and understand issues affecting the Hispanic/Latino and greater community. CHIP also hosts a Medical Corner offering multiple medical and mental health screenings, on-site doctors and nurses, and extensive information on medical programs, with product samples and giveaways; and

WHEREAS, this event, revolving around the theme "Abriendo Puertas" (Opening Doors), continues providing immense rejuvenation and essential strategizing benefits to organizations, non-profits, and individuals working tirelessly on behalf of the Hispanic/Latino and at-large community; and

WHEREAS, this year's sub-theme, "Unidos Podemos" (United We Can), addresses issues including harnessing artificial intelligence; combating sexual and domestic violence; respectfully managing immigrant populations; securing resources for older adults; understanding social determinants of health; distinguishing between defamation, opinion, and free speech; empowering one's future; discerning fact from fiction on social media; and understanding the legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jack W. Bradley, Mayor of the City of Lorain, do hereby recognize the Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues & Progress (CHIP) as the organization celebrates its 26th Silver Anniversary Hispanic Leadership Conference. The citizens of Lorain thank you for your hard work and dedication to improving the lives of our Hispanic population in the City of Lorain and surrounding area. You are truly "Lorain Proud!" Keep up the great work!

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the great seal of the City of Lorain to be affixed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, Two Thousand Twenty-Five.

Jack W. Bradley, Mayor City of Lorain, State of Ohio

#### **PROCLAMATION**

### IN THE MATTER OF HONORING THE 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISPANIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, the Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues & Progress (CHIP) has, for over two decades, demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the empowerment, self-sufficiency, and advancement of the Hispanic/Latino community in Lorain County and beyond; and

WHEREAS, CHIP's mission is to promote cooperation, unity, access to resources, and participation in the civic and social life of the greater community, thereby improving the quality of life for Hispanic/Latino individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, through its Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference, CHIP has provided a vital forum for addressing the major issues that negatively impact the Hispanic/Latino community, promoting education, advocacy, civic engagement, and cultural pride; and

WHEREAS, this year's 26th Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference continues this legacy with a day of knowledge-sharing, expert-led workshops, and empowering dialogue on topics including free speech, public health, artificial intelligence, elder care, social media literacy, and youth engagement; and

WHEREAS, CHIP's leadership, including President Juanita Senquiz, Vice President Alisha Pardon, and Treasurer Elizabeth Soto, along with its dedicated committees and trustees, exemplify the values of servant leadership and continue to foster opportunities for growth, equity, and representation within Lorain County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lorain County Commissioners do hereby recognize and honor the 26th Anniversary of the Hispanic Leadership Conference and commend the Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues & Progress for its enduring commitment to advancing Hispanic/Latino leadership, empowerment, and civic participation throughout Lorain County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this proclamation be entered into the official record of the Lorain County Commissioners as a symbol of gratitude and continued support for the vital work of CHIP and its impact on the region.

Unidos Podemos — United We Can

Witness our signatures this 13th day of May 2025.

LORAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jeff Ridden President

David J. Moore Vice-President

Marty Gallagher Member



#### BLUE CAMPAIGN

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Blue Campaign is a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners to recognize the <u>indicators (/blue-campaign/indicators-human-trafficking)</u> of human trafficking, and how to appropriately respond to possible cases.

Blue Campaign works closely with DHS Components to develop general <u>awareness trainings (/blue-campaign/videos)</u>, as well as specific educational resources to help reduce victimization within vulnerable populations.

Located within the <u>DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking (/dhs-center-countering-human-trafficking)</u>, Blue Campaign leverages partnerships with the private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), law enforcement, and state/local authorities to maximize national public engagement on anti-human trafficking efforts. Blue Campaign's educational awareness objectives consists of two foundational elements, prevention of human trafficking and protection of exploited persons.

En español: ¿Qué es la trata de personas?



(tel:18663472423)

To report suspected human trafficking to Federal law enforcement:

**1-866-347-2423** (tel:18663472423)



(tel:18663472423)

Para reportar un posible caso de trata de personas:

**1-866-347-2423** (tel:18663472423)



(tel:18883737888)

To get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline:

**1-888-373-7888** (tel:18883737888)

or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)



(tel:18883737888)

Obtenga ayuda de la Línea Directa Nacional de Trata de Personas:

1-888-373-7888 (tel:+18883737888)

o enviando un mensaje de texto con HELP o INFO a BeFree (233733)



## Know Your Rights: If You Encounter ICE

All individuals in the United States have rights, regardless of immigration status.

The following information can help you protect yourself and your family, and defend your rights.

#### 1. Create a safety plan

- Identify your emergency contacts and memorize their phone numbers.
- Provide your child's school or day care with an emergency contact to pick up your child.
- Provide authorization in writing for your emergency contact to make medical and legal decisions for your child.
- Tell your loved ones that if you are detained by ICE, they can try to use ICE's online detainee locator to find you: https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search
- Read more about guardianship considerations for immigrants in Illinois (PDF). Read more about guardianship considerations for immigrants in Indiana (PDF).

#### 2. Defend your rights

All persons in the United States have constitutional protections, including the right to remain silent when questioned or arrested by immigration officers. Being stopped by immigration officers or other law enforcement can be frightening, but it's important to stay calm. During any encounter with law enforcement, it's important to do the following:

- Stay calm and don't run, argue, resist, or fight the officer, even if you believe your rights are being
  violated or you are being treated unfairly. Keep your hands where police can see them, and tell them if
  you need to reach into a glove compartment or for a wallet to show your papers.
- Don't lie about your status or provide false documents.
- If you are pulled over in a traffic stop: Ask if the officer is from the police department or immigration. Immigration officers often identify themselves as "police," but they are not police. Ask if they are from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Customs and Border Protection (CBP). If they are immigration officers, follow these guidelines about what information to provide.
  - If you are a U.S. citizen or have lawful immigration status: Show your passport, legal
    permanent resident card, work permit, or other documentation of your status. If you are over the
    age of 18, you should carry your papers with you at all times.
  - If you are undocumented: You have the right to remain silent and do not have to discuss your immigration or citizenship status with the police, immigration agents, or other officials. Anything you tell an officer can later be used against you in immigration court.
- **If an officer knocks on your door:** Do not open the door. Teach your children not to open the door. Officers must have a warrant signed by a judge to enter your home. ICE "warrants" are not signed by

judges; they are ICE forms signed by ICE officers and they do not grant authority to enter a home without consent of the occupant(s).

- If you are outdoors and think you see immigration officers nearby:
  - Move to a safe indoor space
  - If you are a U.S. citizen and feel safe to do so, record the activity with your phone or write down any relevant information about what you witness—ALWAYS being careful to not interfere or otherwise obstruct the operation
  - o DO NOT:
    - Post unverified information on social media
    - Interfere with the investigation or otherwise put yourself in harm's way

#### If you need support:

**24-Hour Emergency Support:** Call the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) Family Support Hotline at 1-855-HELP-MY-FAMILY (1-855-435-7693). For additional resources, visit: https://www.icirr.org/community-resources

**NIJC legal services for Illinois and Indiana:** Chicago residents are eligible for free legal services from NIJC through the <u>City of Chicago Legal Protection Fund</u>. Immigrants in Illinois and Indiana can obtain free or low-cost legal consultations and representation from NIJC.

Visit the following link or scan the QR code below to view this page on our website:

https://immigrantjustice.org/know-your-rights/know-your-rights-if-you-encounter-ice





/ImmigrantJustice



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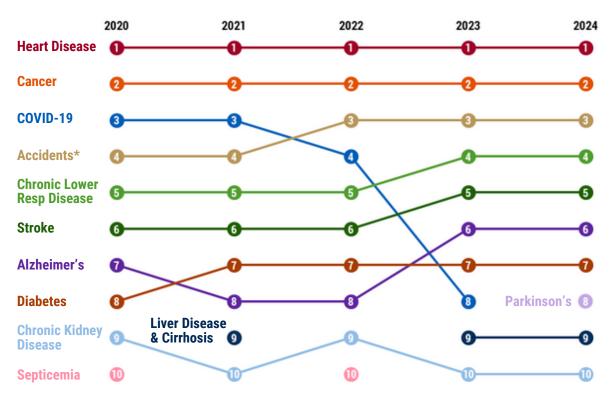
National Immigrant Justice Center



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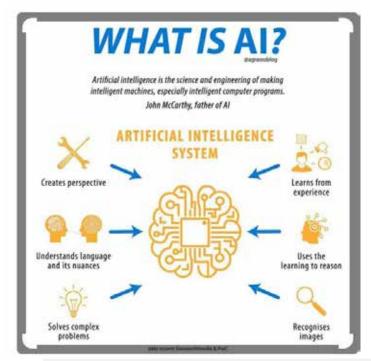
#### **Leading Causes of Death** <sup>1</sup>

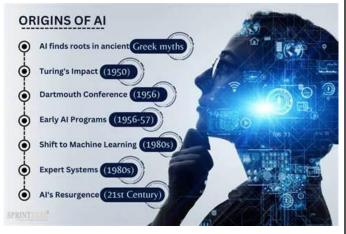
Lorain County 2020-2024



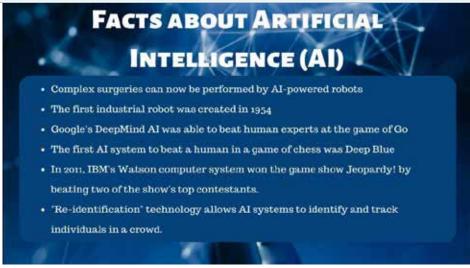
<sup>\*</sup> includes unintentional drug overdoses. 1 Ohio Department of Health - Bureau of Vital Statistics.

| Leading Causes of Death, Death Lorain County 2024 | Count |
|---|-------|
| 1. Heart Disease                                  | 716   |
| 2. Cancer   | 695   |
| 3. Accidents (unintentional injuries)             | 209   |
| 4. Chronic lower respiratory diseases             | 202   |
| 5. Stroke   | 169   |
| 6. Alzheimer's disease                            | 110   |
| 7. Diabetes                                       | 83    |
| 8. Parkinson's disease                            | 60    |
| 9. Chronic liver disease and Cirrhosis            | 54    |
| 10. Chronic kidney disease                        | 50    |









## Thank you to Community Supporters of the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference

Major Jeffrey Krepina – LC Sheriff's Office

Major Steve Scharschmidt – LC Sheriff's Office

Major Heath Testor – LC Sheriff's Office

Major A. J. Torres – LC Sheriff's Office

Inspector Scott Moran – LC Sheriff's Office

Inspector Jim Widmer – LC Sheriff's Office

Sujeiry Coll - LC Sheriff's Office

Angela Hammond – LC Sheriff's Office

Jessica Newton – LC Sheriff's Office

Chad Tibbitts – LC Sheriff's Office

Robert Vansant – LC Sheriff's Office

Audi Visalden – LC Sheriff's Office

Deputy Chief Michael Failing – Lorain Police Department

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**Our Vision** 

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We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community.

-Cesar Chavez





## 

## **Felicidades**

#### To the Coalition for Hispanic-Latino Issues & Progress

Comité Mexicano de Cleveland proudly congratulates CHIP for its unwavering dedication to empowering Hispanic and Latino communities across Ohio. Your commitment to advocacy, education, and progress serves as an inspiration to us all.

#### ¡Adelante siempre!

With admiration and solidarity,

Comité Mexicano de Cleveland

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#### DJ Abner "Gozadera" Santiago,

specializes in Latin music. He has been DJing for over 30 years serving the Northeast Ohio communities. He has been the headliner DJ for many Latin festivals such as the Puerto Rican Parade in Lorain and Cleveland. He opened up for many world-known Latin bands like Gran Combo, Tito Nieves, Aventura, Grupo Mania and more.

#### **Evening Gala**



Son Gitano's infectious energy ignites the stage, captivating audiences with their magnetic performances, while the seamless blend of guitar strums, rhythmic beats, and soulful vocals takes listeners on an exhilarating journey through the heart of Latino music, evoking an irresistible urge to dance and a profound connection to the band's cultural roots.





## CHIP

On your 26th Conference



10

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We print weekly! Ad specs, publication dates, and deadlines are available in our Media Kit online at

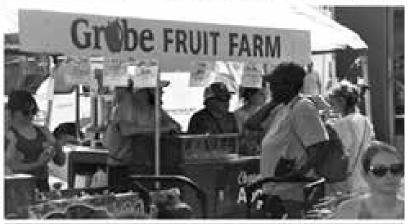
## Lorain County Information Headquarters Contact Us For:

- Attractions
- Events
- Maps
- Brochures
- Meetings
- Conferences
- Reunions





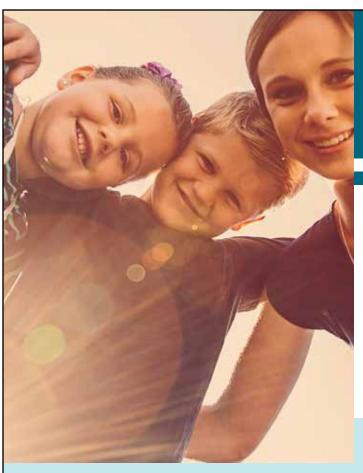






Lorain County Visitors Bureau 226 Middle Avenue #532 Elyria, Ohio 44035 Ph: 440-406-3119

www.loraincountyohio.gov/cvb ggibbs@loraincounty.us



Lorain County Children Services



# FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

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#### Take the Next Steps

#### 1. Call us at 440-329-5608 or scan the QR code below

When you call us, you will be asked a few questions about yourself, your family, and your interest in fostering or adopting our children.

#### 2. Review the information provided to you.

We will send you a packet of information about Lorain County Children Services, the children we serve, and the importance of fostering

#### 3. Come to pre-service training.

The pre-service training is an opportunity to learn more about the specific issues related to foster parenting.

#### 4. Complete a Family Assessment with our social worker.

Our staff will guide you through an assessment process designed to help us, and you, learn as much about each other as possible.





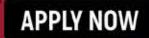
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#### Servicio

Desde que la compañía se fundó, nos hemos comprometido a brindar a nuestros clientes un servicio excepcional.



#### Sin complicaciones

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#### Competitivos

Tenemos tasas de interés competitivas vigentes y una amplia variedad de programas de préstamos.



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#### Tamaño

NFM Lending tiene licencia en todo el país con más de 54 ubicaciones en todo el país.



#### Cultura

Nuestra compañía tiene fuertes valores familiares que son la base de nuestro éxito.



#### Solidarios

NFM Lending ha estado involucrado con más de 25 organizaciones benéficas y tiene una campaña anual de Apoyo a Nuestras Tropas.





#### **DAVID AROCHO**

Branch Manager
O: 614-840-5013
C: 614-657-1167
teamarocho@nfmlending.com
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Hosted by the Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues & Progress





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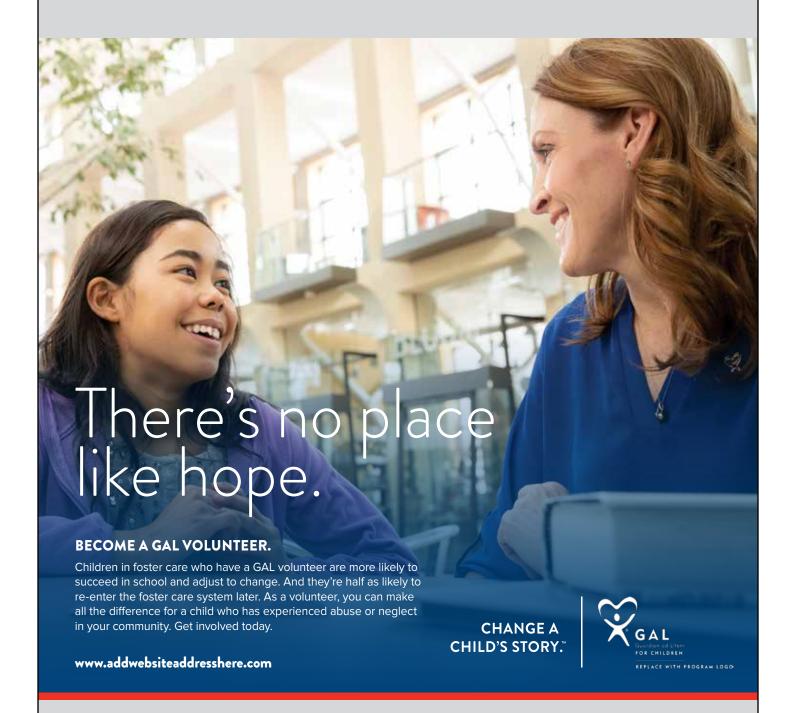
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We work to empower African Americans and underserved individuals to not just survive, but thrive, through a trifecta of direct service, collaborative efforts, and unyielding advocacy.

For more information call: (440) 323-3364



Providing community education about eligibility benefits available to you. Call for a benefits consultation: Health Care with Heart

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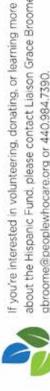
SCORE provides Free expert mentoring and educational resources for entrepreneurs. For more information call:

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about the Hispanic Fund, please contact Liaison Grace Broome at gbroome@peoplewhocare.org or 440,984,7390

peoplewhocare.org | 440.984.7390





## C.H.I.P would like to say...

GRACIAS
Mercy Heafth

Dr. Thomas

For your continued support and collaboration!

### UAW LOCAL 2192

Proud supporter of the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Hispanic Leadership Gala



"There is no power in the world that can stop the forward march of free men and women when they are joined in the solidarity of human brotherhood." Walter Reuther- UAW President 1946-1970

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LORAIN COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES



# Congratulations C.H.I.P on your 26th Conference!









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- ✓ Bilingual learning and leadership
- ✓ Spaces where all voices are valued

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# 

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"Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women, and men who leave or are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share a legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being more."

Message for World Day of Migrants & Refugees, September 24, 2013



# Lorain County UAW Cap Council



Congratulates CHIP on its 26th Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference



Congratulations on the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference. The struggle continues.

Jeanine P. Donaldson, Executive Director

Naji McCall, President



Proudly supports CHIP on their 26th Conference!



#### Edward Jones<sup>®</sup>

Member SIPC

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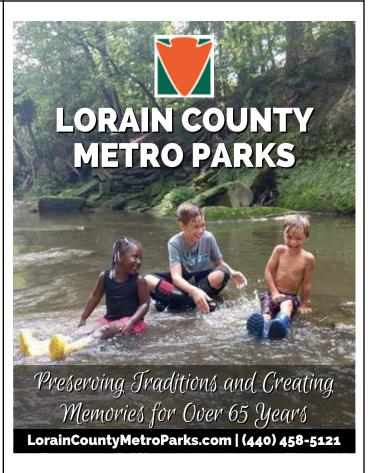
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# Congratulations CHIP on your 26<sup>th</sup> Conferences



From: Mexican American Citizens Club

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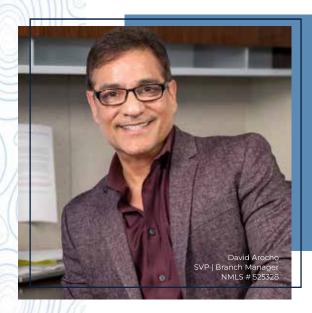


Working with David felt like we had a personal advisor accessible 24/7. In today's competitive market, David went above and beyond to support us in our search of a new home and ensured our approval process went as smooth as possible. Communication was stellar, secure document upload system was flawless and entire process from start to finish very smooth.

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La línea directa de crisis y suicidio 988 ofrece acceso a profesionales capacitados que pueden ayudar a las personas que atraviesan una crisis de salud mental o consumo de sustancias.

# Notes

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Call 988 now if you need help with any of the following:

- Thoughts of suicide
- Drinking too much
- Using drugs
- Feeling depressed
- Dealing with trauma

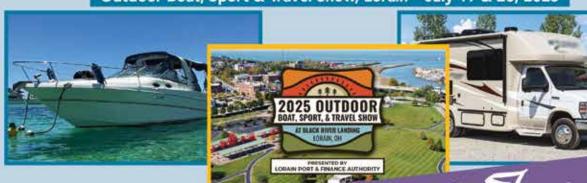


The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline offers access to trained professionals who can help people experience a mental health or substance use crisis.

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Outdoor Boat, Sport & Travel Show, Lorain • July 19 & 20, 2025



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Apple Festival, Elyria • September 19-21, 2025



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