

2016 Third Annual Latino Summit – “Civic Engagement”

The Delaware Hispanic Commission is proud to announce its third Annual Latino Summit that will be held at the DelTech Owens Campus in Georgetown, Delaware. The theme of the Summit is “Civic Engagement”.

“Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make a difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.” Thomas Erlich -*Civic Responsibility and Higher Education.*

Together we can make a difference by bringing key issues to the forefront and building the support and leadership necessary to bring about positive change. A perfect example of how civic engagement works is the Driving Privilege Card. The number one concern raised by many Latinos in the 2014 Summit was the inability to apply for a Delaware Driver’s License. Our voices were heard and the bill was passed, but not without your involvement and advocating for change. We can bring positive change when we unite and work together.

It is critical that we unite and get involved in the decision making process as the Latino population continues to grow rapidly in Delaware. It is important that the community be aware of vital issues that impact Latinos and the importance to be engaged in the decision making process at the local and state level.

The Latino Summit will bring the issues to the forefront and identify how best to address them and the action steps needed to facilitate real change. The Third Annual Latino Summit will offer various ways to participate in this process. It is imperative for Latinos to understand that civic engagement is about empowering the individual to demonstrate his/her civic responsibility to vote, volunteer, and engage in the everyday affairs of their local community to bring about positive changes. It is critical to identify community leaders and to develop future young leaders that will represent the community in order for the Latino voices to be heard. Without civic engagement our community is absent in a very important time where local and national issues are changing the face of America.

Once again, we invite you to join us at the 2016 Third Annual Latino Summit. Come and learn how you can bring about change through your civic engagement.

Javier G. Torrijos, Chairman
Delaware Hispanic Commission