

Our Mission:

To promote the academic success of Hispanic students.

Our Vision:

Every student in Howard County of Hispanic heritage will complete high school and will continue in productive and satisfying directions.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

The season is changing and a new school year has begun. During the last school year Conexiones' members and volunteers worked hard with our students and HCPSS to fulfill our mission. We invite you to learn about the marvelous achievements of our Hispanic students! Celebrate the superb accomplishments of our Maryland Hispanic Youth Symposium participants. Applaud the outstanding performance of our Jovenes del Barrio/Teens from the Hood Smoking Cessation Program. We look forward to another year full of accomplishments. Join Conexiones so you, too, can work with us to make a difference in the lives of our Hispanic students.

Feli Sola-Carter



2007-2008 Officers

President

Feli Sola-Carter

Vice-President

Marcelino Bedolla

Vice-President

Roger Lerner

Treasurer

Neta Warren

Secretary

Nicola Hildreth

Announcing the new and improved version of the Conexiones website! To view it, go to:

www.conexioneshc.org

Conexiones of Howard County
PO Box 6997
Columbia MD 21045
E-mail: feli@conexioneshc.org
Website: www.conexioneshc.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CONEXIONES

Tobacco Cessation Program

Working with a grant from the Howard County Health Department, Conexiones sponsored a series of programs entitled “*Jovenes de Barrio: Teens from the Hood*” to illustrate the health dangers involved in smoking. Several students participated in the skits, giving much of their time to auditions, practicing and performing. This has been an extremely successful project which has been ongoing for the past several years and has ended in June 2008. The most recent series of performances have occurred at such venues as the Howard County Rec and Parks Summer Day Camp and was seen by 80 campers and their counselors. Also, performances have been given for the Tobacco Coalition of Howard, Anne Arundel and Montgomery Counties, at the Hispanic Youth Mini Symposium at Howard High School, at the Oakland Mills Teen Center, and at Howard County Central Library. In the time period alone between April and June, between 800-900 students received this education. We are proud of the many students who devoted their time towards the dissemination of such an important message to our community.

Conexiones especially wishes to express our sincere appreciation to Betty May who unselfishly devoted her time and talents to make this project a success!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CONEXIONES

Conexiones Monthly Board Meetings

Our board meetings will take place in the Media Center at Mt. Hebron High School every Wednesday from 7:00-9:00pm. . The address is: 9440 Route 99 Ellicott City, MD.

Conexiones Board Meeting Schedule for '08-'09!

9/17/08

10/15/08

11/19/08

12/17/08

1/21/09

2/18/09

3/18/09

4/16/09

5/20/09

6/10/09

Members of the community are welcome to attend. Please come for a visit to see what we're about and we hope you will consider becoming a member/volunteer!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CONEXIONES

MARYLAND HISPANIC YOUTH SYMPOSIUM: HCPSS PERFORMANCE AND STATISTICS from a report by Elisa Montalvo, Hispanic Achievement Specialist, HCPSS

We're proud to report that out of 153 participants from across the state, 43 were from HCPSS, representing a major increase since the beginning. For comparison purposes, HCPSS attendance to the last three Symposiums: is as follows:

2006 - 3 students from 1 high school:- Long Reach

2007 - 16 students from 5 high schools: Atholton, Centennial,, Howard, Long Reach, Oakland Mills

2008 - 43 students from 9 high schools: Atholton, Centennial, Hammond,
Howard, Mt. Hebron, Oakland Mills, Reservoir, Wilde Lake

Several Spanish speaking countries of origin were represented by HCPSS 2008 participants and/or their parents: Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, México, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Venezuela. We were by far the most diverse delegation in terms of: countywide representation, races, countries of origin, levels of proficiency in English and Spanish, socioeconomics.

Out of 15 finalists in the talent show competition, nine were from HCPSS. We had one violin player, two guitar players, two piano players, and four dancers.

Out of 20 scholarships/awards given, eight went to HCPSS: Ariel Arieta, Long Reach HS, won third place in the talent competition. \$500 towards college tuition..

Ivanna Cusick, Howard HS, won one of 5 scholarships for \$1,500 towards college tuition. *Ivanna is the daughter of Sandra Cusick, Hispanic Achievement Liaison at Talbott Springs ES.*

Javon García, Atholton HS, won one of 2 scholarships for a training course in a dance school in Baltimore.

Julio Jiménez, Long Reach HS, won first place in the speech competition. \$2,000 towards college tuition.

Julio also won second place in the talent competition. \$1,000 towards college tuition.

Julio is the son of Lety Jiménez, Hispanic Achievement Liaison at Wilde Lake HS

Odis Ponce, Wilde Lake HS, won one of 5 scholarships for \$1,500 towards college tuition.

Fabian Rodríguez, Oakland Mills HS, won second place in the art competition. \$1,000 towards college tuition.

The team "Latinas Unidas" composed of three students from Oakland Mills HS, Liliana Jiménez, Wendy Pérez and Nora Tiznado. won the only grant awarded in the "Issues to Action" competition.

They will receive \$1,000 to tackle the issue of teen pregnancy in their high school.

All participants in any of the Hispanic Youth Symposiums in Arizona, California, D.C., Maryland, New Mexico and Virginia who are admitted to Towson University and decide to go to college there, will receive a \$500 yearly scholarship for four years from the University, matched by another \$500 yearly scholarship for 4 years from the Hispanic College Fund.

There were college recruiters from many universities including nationally renowned ones like: Harvard, Yale, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia, University of Maryland at College Park, University of Virginia, Johns Hopkins, and many more.

Read an article about the Symposium from the Baltimore Sun July 12, 2008 on the next page.

Daring students to reach higher

Course makes college a reality for Latino youth

By Kelly Brewington | Sun reporter

Seventeen-year-old Luis Pena has few doubts about his plans after high school.

"Harvard," he says emphatically. "Or [MIT](#)." He wasn't always so confident. A year ago, when Pena and his family left the Dominican Republic for [Ellicott City](#), he assumed college was beyond his reach. But midway through a [Towson University](#) workshop sponsored by the Hispanic College Fund yesterday, he proclaimed that such prestigious colleges were worth shooting for.

"The symposium has increased my desire to try to go there," said Pena, who will be a senior this fall at Mount Hebron High School in Ellicott City and reads profiles of his idol, Apple founder Steve Jobs, in his free time. "I've learned that you just need to be crazy enough to believe in yourself and think you can change the world."

Pena is one of nearly 200 Latino high school students from around the state taking part in the fifth annual Maryland Hispanic Symposium, an initiative of the Washington-based Hispanic College Fund that aims to keep Latino students on the college track.

The program, which ends today, invites students to spend four nights on the campus of Towson University to get a feel for college life. Daylong workshops offer advice in crafting a college application essay, applying for financial aid and winning scholarships. Organizers keep the setting intimate, dividing students into small "*familias*," and pairing them with mentors who will track their process throughout the coming school year. The program also gives scholarships of its own to the winners of competitions in categories such as speech and art.

"Our ultimate goal is to create the next generation of Hispanic professionals," said Idalia Fernandez, president of the Hispanic College Fund. "What we are doing is capturing young people at the right age to be able to get on a higher trajectory. At the end of the day, they will be aspiring for a career, rather than just a job after high school." The program, which began in Washington in 2004, expanded to Maryland three years ago. This year, workshops are planned in seven cities around the country. Nationwide, Latinos are the least likely ethnic group to earn a bachelor's degree. In 2005, 12 percent of Hispanics age 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or higher, while that figure was 17.7 percent for blacks and 30.5 percent for whites, according to the U.S. census.

The workshop didn't focus on the challenges faced by Latino teenagers who are in the country illegally. Rather, organizers tried to inspire students, regardless of their circumstances, to see college as a possibility. Too often, students lack the confidence to apply to a four-year-college, even though they have excellent grades, Fernandez said. Others are intimidated by the costs. Fernandez said that as a high school student she was accepted to Boston University but was taken aback when she learned that tuition exceeded what her parents earned in a year. She ended up attending, paying with a combination of scholarships, loans and part-time jobs.

"So many times, just knowing the cost will make them stop and say, 'I'm never going to get in there'," said Fernandez, who came to the United States from Honduras when she was 9 years old. "Other times, they aspire to be only what they see in their communities, like a social worker or a policeman, which is good. But some have the talent to be a [NASA](#) engineer - they just don't realize it."

Some students expressed anxiety about how they would be perceived as a minority on a college campus, said Christopher Tapia, who will be a senior at Laurel High School in the fall. But Tapia said he was inspired by meeting other Latinos at the workshop with similar backgrounds. "I'm Mexican, and you know people at school are always saying, 'Oh, are you going to plant my trees?'" said Tapia, whose parents moved from Mexico to Maryland 30 years ago and attended college in the United States. "Sometimes it bothers me, because there are a lot of people like me whose families are not like that."

Many students, such as Jennifer Romero, 16, of Silver Spring, are the first in their families to aspire to attend college. Romero said her parents, who came to the United States 20 years ago from El Salvador, have urged her to pursue college. But they don't know how to help her navigate the application process. "They always insist that I must go to college," said Romero, who hopes to attend the University of Maryland or the [University of Miami](#) to study education and psychology. "I feel a little bit of pressure sometimes. But after doing this, I feel like, 'OK, it's going to be fine. I'm going to college.'"

"I just try not to let [the pressure] get to me," she said. "Because I know they only want me to have a better life, a better future."

NOTEWORTHY COMMUNITY EVENTS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Please make a note of this website—it provides useful information about the various scholarships that low income high achieving students may qualify for, at the following link:

www.questbridge.org

Hispanic Heritage Month is here!!! It is a time to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Latinos in the United States. Celebrated from September 15th thru October 15th, the month includes the independence anniversary days of many Latin American countries, including; Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Spain.

The Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs would like to share with you its

Hispanic Heritage Month Calendar of Events 2008.pdf which includes many of the festivities across our great state celebrating the month.






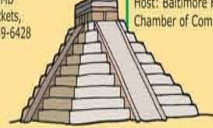
Hispanic Heritage Month Calendar of Events 2008.pdf

Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs

"Many Cultures, One Community, One Maryland"






Septiembre
SEPTEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
Brazil Independence Day						
September 14, 2008 Festival de El Salvador Montgomery County Fairgrounds Perry Parkway and Route 355 16 Chestnut Street Gaithersburg, MD 20877	September 15-17, 2008 Healthy Homes Conference Hilton Baltimore Hotel Baltimore City, MD Host: Baltimore City Government <i>Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua</i>	September 16, 2008 Hagerstown Community College First Annual Hispanic Festival 11400 Robinwood Drive Hagerstown, MD 21742	September 17, 2008 Maryland Governor's Official Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation at Capital-for-a-Day in Port Towns Bladensburg Community Center 4500 57 th Avenue Bladensburg, MD 20781 10am-11am	September 4-October 17, 2008 Smithsonian Education- Hispanic Heritage Month-long Celebration The Smithsonian Institution is offering special programs, lectures and musical events throughout the month at several National Museums. For programming schedule please call 202-633-1000 or go to www.smithsonianeducation.org/heritage	September 12-14, 2008 Healthy Homes Conference Festival Druid Hill Park Baltimore City, MD 21217 Host: Baltimore City Government	September 6, 2008 Baltimore County Latino Fest Dundalk Heritage Park Baltimore, MD 21222 Host: EBLO 410-563-3160
September 21, 2008 Hagerstown Hispanic Festival Fairgrounds Park of Hagerstown 420 N. Mulberry Street Hagerstown, MD	September 22, 2008 Belize	September 16, 2008 "Getting Involved: Our Families, Our Community, Our Nations" Administration 991 Corporate Blvd Linthicum, MD 21090 9:30am 12:00pm	September 17 - October 7, 2008 American Film Institute Latin American Film Festival AFI Silver Theater Silver Spring, MD 20910 www.dclatinamericanfilmfestival.org	September 25, 2008 Hispanic Bar Association Fifteenth Anniversary Gala Martin's Crosswinds 7400 Greenway Center Drive Greenbelt, MD To order tickets, call 410-659-6428	September 26, 2008 Hispanic Heritage Golf Classic The Woodlands Golf Course Baltimore, MD 21230, 443-622-6181 Host: Baltimore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	September 13, 2008 Port Discovery Hispanic Heritage Celebration Port Discovery Children's Museum 35 Market Place, Baltimore, MD 21202 Host: Port Discovery, 410-727-8120
September 28, 2008 Latino Festival of Frederick Community College 7932 Opposumtown Pike Frederick, MD 21702	September 29, 2008	September 30, 2008				September 20, 2008 Guatemala Day Festival Montgomery County Fairgrounds Perry Parkway and Route 355 16 Chestnut Street Gaithersburg, MD 20877 info@granchain.org

Octubre
OCTOBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
	6	7	1	2	3	4
	13	14	8	9	10	11
October 4-5, 2008 Fells Point Fun Festival Hispanic Heritage Weekend at La Plaza 100 - 200 Blocks of S. Broadway Street Fells Point Baltimore City, MD 21231			October 15, 2008 Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs 2008 Hispanic Heritage Awards Luncheon in conjunction with the Maryland Hispanic Business Conference BWI Marriott, 1743 West Nursery Road Hanover, MD 21240	October 3, 2008 Latino Heritage Night at the Aquarium 5-8PM 501 East Pratt Street Baltimore City, MD 21202 Host: Baltimore Aquarium	October 17, 2008 Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs October Meeting at Salisbury University 6:00pm 8:00pm Salisbury, MD Please call for more details 410-767-7857	October 4, 2008 The Americas Award for Children and Young Adult Literature 10am-12pm Library of Congress, 6 th Floor Mumford Rm 101 Independence Avenue, SE Washington, DC RSVP at 202-707-2013 www4.uwm.edu/clacs/aa/index.htm
Spain Independence Day	20	21	15	16	17	18
	27	28	22	23	24	25
26			29		31	



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
3410 COURTHOUSE DRIVE, ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21043

APPLY NOW

FOR A SPOT IN YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY

The Howard County Police Department has developed its own Citizens' Police Academy in order to provide as much information as possible to citizens of Howard County regarding the operations of the Department and the experiences shared by their law enforcement officers.

The Academy runs a class twice a year. The **eleven (11) week program is conducted one evening a week from 7:00-9:30 PM**. The training is conducted at a number of locations which provide the best environment for the diverse learning opportunity.

After completing the eleven week program, citizens will have a greater appreciation of the various activities and challenges facing Howard County police officers. The Academy is an **informational program only**. Graduates of the program will have **no police powers or authority**.

Participants in the program will learn about the organizational structure of the Police Department, the mission, role and values of the agency, community policing concepts, criminal procedural law, criminal investigation techniques, evidence collection procedures, traffic law enforcement, drug enforcement, community relations/crime prevention programs, youth programs and use of force issues.

Participants will engage in practical exercises including driver training, firing range activities, and a patrol ride-along opportunity.

The **minimum requirements for the Citizens' Police Academy** are:

18 Years Of Age Or Older
Resident of Howard County (exceptions made)
No Criminal Record

Fill Out An Application And Return It To The Police Department

HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY

APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION

Name _____
FIRST Middle Last

Address _____

Phone Number: (H) _____ (W) _____

(Cell) _____ (Email) _____

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age _____ Sex ____ Race ____

What prompted you to apply for the Citizens' Police Academy: _____

Openings Available In:

_____ September 30, 2008

_____ March, 2009

DATE OF APPLICATION: _____

RETURN TO:

SUE KLEIN
*Howard County Police Department
Education and Training Division
2200 Scott Wheeler Drive
Marriottsville, Maryland 21104
Or Fax to: 410-313-1323
Or email to: sklein@howardcountymd.gov*

Any questions, please call 410-313-1364



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI Howard County

**SE SIENTE TRISTE?
SE SIENTE SOLO?**

SU SER QUERIDO O AMIGO NECESITA AYUDA EMOCIONAL?

SE SIENTE TRISTE?

SE SIENTE SOLO?

NO SABES QUE HACER?

VEN AL GRUPO DE APOYO GRATUITO

NAMI

Es una organización comunitaria de auto –ayuda apoyo y abogacía para las familias y amigos de personas que sufren de enfermedades emocionales.

Somos una organización comunitaria sin fines de lucro que ofrecen los servicios de Nami para las familias y amigos que viven en el condado de Howard en Maryland.

El Siguiete programa es gratuito y abierto a todas las personas, familiares y amigas de alguna persona que sufra de alguna enfermedad emocional.

Grupo de Apoyo Familiar Una Vez al Mes Gratuito

Grupo de Apoyo familiar Una Vez al Mes . Cada tercer martes del mes.

Este Grupo esta compuesto por familiares y Amigos que se preocupan por un ser querido que tienen problemas Emocionales como: Depresión, Ansiedad, Ataques de pánico, personalidad fronteriza, trastorno bipolar, desorden obsesivo-compulsivo y esquizofrenia.

LAS REUNIONES SERAN:

El tercer Martes de cada mes en las siguientes fechas:

Julio 15, Agosto 19, Septiembre 16, Octubre 21, Noviembre 18 y Diciembre 16 de este año 2008.

a las 7pm-8:30 pm en

Wilde Lake Interfaith Center

10431 Twin Rivers Road

Columbia ,Md 21044

Más información o para registrarse por favor llamar a:

Sandra Kvarnstrand al 410 313-7376 deje su nombre y número de teléfono.

Los Esperamos

Educación Gratuita

Esperamos ofrecer en Septiembre de este año .El programa de familia a familia un curso educacional para familiares y amigos.

LLAMENOS ! NUESTROS PROGRAMAS EDUCATIVOS SON GRATUITOS!

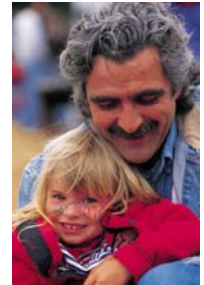
NAMI Howard County • (410) 772-9300 • 9151 Rumsey Road • Suite 150 • Columbia MD 21045



NAMI Howard County

*Learn about mental illness
from people who have been there.*

Free Support Group in Spanish for Family Members & Friends



Led by trained family members, in 2008 join us —

**July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18 y December 16 of this
year 2008.**

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

**Wilde Lake Interfaith Center
10431 Twin Rivers Road
Columbia, MD 21044**

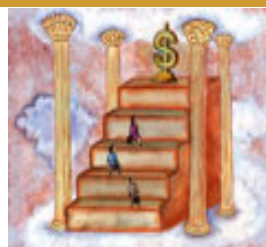
advocacy
support
respect
hope
recovery
cure
health

**For more information
call:
410- 313-7376**

At NAMI Howard County we help individuals and families affected by mental illness work towards the process of recovery, re-

NAMI Howard County • (410) 772-9300 • 9151 Rumsey Road • Suite 150 • Columbia MD 21045

**INVEST IN THE FUTURE BY BECOMING A MEMBER
AND/OR
MAKING A DONATION TO THE
SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR 2009**
(for more information see application below)



Membership Application

***MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

Members support the mission of
Conexiones and are encouraged to
participate in events and attend the
meetings.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____

Phone (work) _____

E-Mail _____

**In addition to membership, please
consider contributing to the Conexiones
Scholarship Fund to directly help a
Hispanic student.**

___ **\$25.00 Individual One Year**
Membership

Contribution to the Scholarship Fund:

___ \$50..00 ___ \$100.00 ___ \$250.00

___ \$500..00 ___ Other \$ _____

Please make checks payable to
CONEXIONES and send with this
application to:

PO Box 6997

Columbia MD 21045

Conexiones is an exempt organization under
501(c)(3). Contributions are tax deductible as
permitted by law.

