

**TRI-STATE HISPANIC FORUM**  
**(October 30, 2010)**  
**BIO SKETCHES OF SPEAKERS/RESOURCE PERSONS**

**KEY NOTE SPEAKER:**

**Saul Solorzano**, Executive Director. Mr. Solorzano joined the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) in Washington, D.C. in 1991, assuming the position of Executive Director in 1992. He has experience in management, program development, evaluation, public policy and community economic development, and holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from American University and a BA in Business Management from the University of the District of Columbia. In 2000-2004 he led community efforts to protect Latinos and other Washington, DC., low to moderate-income residents confronting displacement and gentrification under the Mayor's "Neighborhood Revitalization Plan". Beyond his professional experience, Mr. Solorzano has been an advocate for refugee rights, civil rights, housing, and immigrant rights. He has been active in leadership positions in numerous local and national policy and advocacy coalitions, including co-chair of the DC Latino Civil Rights Project, and member of the 2000 US Census Advisory Committee on the Hispanic Population. He currently serves in the Mayor's DC Housing Production Trust Fund.

**SESSION 1: EXPANDING HISPANIC ACCESS TO QUALITY SERVICES (focus on health, education, social)**

**Alicia Billy** is a 2008 graduate of West Virginia University with a Masters in Social Work, Community Organization and Social Administration (COSA). Alicia has been employed with Telamon Corporation for approximately six years. Her positions held with Telamon Corporation consisted of Case manager, Regional & Project Manager, and Program Coordinator. She has managed programs such as the National Farm workers Jobs Program, Right from the Start, TAX VITA site program, HUD and Veteran Homeless Programs and currently developing a Job Readiness Program. She has also coordinated the Eastern Panhandle Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership and was co-founder of the Eastern Panhandle Hispanic Advocacy Coalition (EPHAC), now currently known as UNIDOS. She and the UNIDOS group have helped plan for seven successful Hispanic Heritage festivals at War Memorial Park. Alicia has presented at community forums in regards to racial unity and Latino Cultural Awareness. She has also done educational presentations on current Immigration Policy and the construction of grassroots organizations (EPHAC).

**JEANIE R. CRONIN**, Centro Hispano de Frederick, Inc. and Hood College. Jeanie has worked for Hood College for over 20 years, and served the community for over 30 years. Jeanie is one of the founders and president of Centro Hispano de Frederick, Inc. The mission of Centro Hispano de Frederick is to inform, refer and educate the limited English proficient residents of Frederick County to promote full participation in the community. From a Religious Education High School instructor to a translator for various non-profits. Jeanie is a recipient of various awards, For God and Youth Award, given to a person that has demonstrated outstanding outreach to young people in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Volunteer of the Year from Advocates for the Homeless, and numerous at Hood College. On November 18, 2010 Jeanie will be one of three chosen to receive the 2010 Wertheimer Fellows for Excellence in Volunteerism. Jeanie is past Board member of Interfaith Housing, Latinos Unidos of Frederick and Nuestra Casa del Pueblo and Frederick Alliance for Youth.

**Pat Hatch**, a graduate of the State University of New York College at Buffalo, has worked for the Maryland state refugee office, known as the Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees (MORA) in the Maryland Department of Human Resources, for 12 years. Pat serves as Program Manager of MORA, and primary staff liaison to MORA's one-stop refugee resettlement centers in Baltimore and Silver Spring. She also provides periodic trainings on cultural competence, linguistic access, and immigrant eligibility and immigration issues.

Prior to working for state government, Ms. Hatch served for 16 years as Executive Director of the Foreign-born Information and Referral Network (FIRN), a non-profit agency in Columbia, Maryland, that annually serves refugees and immigrants from over 100 countries of origin. Prior to her work at FIRN, Ms. Hatch taught school in her hometown of Buffalo, New York and in Seoul, Korea, where she resided for 3 years.

**Mauricio Lopez**, Originally born in Panama, but lived and traveled throughout Latin America. This experience drew him to work at an organization like CASA, where the struggle for social justice in low-income immigrant communities is on the forefront of its mission. Mr. Lopez comes to CASA with several years of real estate experience, working in the Latino community. He has a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Maryland. His responsibilities at CASA include executive administration, Board development, and staff support to the Executive Director.

Mr. Lopez has been with CASA for 3 years. Last year he managed a phone bank for Reform Immigration for America (RIFA). As part of the RIFA coalition, CASA hosted this phone bank and the main objective was to transfer calls from constituents nationwide, primarily in swing states, to their elected official's office and ask them to support a comprehensive immigration reform. This was the first phone bank of its kind.

**Doris Reimer**, a native Pennsylvanian, moved to West Virginia with her family 13 years ago. Ms. Reimer has been a registered nurse for 25 years. Her first job as a nurse was working in an orphanage in Mao Valverde, Dominican Republic where her love and respect for the Hispanic people and culture was born. For the past 9 years Ms. Reimer has worked at Shenandoah Valley Medical System, Inc. She currently holds the position of Director of Staff Development and Special Populations Program and is responsible for healthcare teams that offer health related services to the migrant Farm workers throughout the Shenandoah Valley of WV & VA. Ms. Reimer is involved in many activities within her faith community and is a member of the Eastern Panhandle Medical Reserve Corp.

**Nohemy Zamitiz** has served Winchester Public Schools as an interpreter and ESOL Parent Liaison since 2004. Her ability to assist as a cultural broker and advocate for Winchester's Latino newcomer population is directly shaped through her personal experiences and beliefs. A native of Honduras, Nohemy arrived to the U.S. in 1990 and completed her education in Los Angeles before her family relocated to the east coast. Since her arrival to the Shenandoah Valley she has provided language access and advocacy in the fields of health care, education and law enforcement.

## **SESSION 2: IMMIGRATION ISSUES: STATUS AND STRATEGIES (grassroots to national perspectives)**

**Sam Nickels** worked in El Salvador for 5 years with the Mennonite Central Committee. He continues to visit El Salvador annually to provide volunteer project management for a mental health education and family support program there. Currently, he works with New Bridges Immigrant Resource Center in Harrisonburg VA, where he has provided diversity workshops for university classes and staff, school personnel, small rural churches, health care professionals and the Chamber of Commerce. Immigrants and refugees have powerful stories, so part of his workshops always includes immigrants sharing their life stories. It's empowering for them, and it helps workshop participants to build bridges of understanding and personal connection to these foreigners who live among them.

**Jen Smyers** serves as the Associate Director for Immigration and Refugee Policy with Church World Service, and has been with CWS for more than four years. In this position, Ms. Smyers advocates for improved assistance for refugees resettled in the United States and humane immigration reform that reunites families, improves the visa process, treats all workers with respect, reforms detention conditions, and provides a pathway to legal status for undocumented immigrants. A graduate of American University with a B.A. in Law and Society, B.A. in Public Communication, and Masters in Public Policy, Ms. Smyers has worked with Border Action Network in Tucson, Arizona and the Migration Policy Institute in Washington, D.C.

**Rich Stolz** is the Campaign Manager of the Reform Immigration FOR America Campaign and is serving as the Senior Director for Campaigns at the National Immigration Forum. Reform Immigration FOR America is a broad coalition and campaign organized to advance the cause of comprehensive immigration reform in Congress. In less than 18 months, the Campaign built a list of supporters exceeding 600,000 and generated more than 1.8 million calls and contacts to targeted policy makers while coordinating a large, integrated, multi-sector strategy in base communities and in key swing target states. The National Immigration Forum is the premier national organization advocating for the value of immigrants and immigration to the nation, and the Forum has served as the home of the Reform Immigration FOR America Campaign. Rich was born in Seoul, South Korea and was brought to the United States at the age of 3. He grew up in California. Following graduation from college, Rich served as a VISTA volunteer through the Congressional Hunger Center in Wichita, KS and then in Washington, DC at the Center for Community Change, where he landed a full time job. Throughout his tenure at the Center, Rich has organized in diverse communities (ranging from Maine to Arizona) on a wide range of issue (including transportation access, health care, welfare reform and job training) and helped to manage the Center's policy and organizing units. He also co-directed the Center's immigration program, including the Fair Immigration Reform Movement, a national coalition of grassroots immigrant rights organizations.