

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own." --- César Chávez

You are cordially invited to attend a **Public Meeting** on pressing social issues facing the Latino communities of Washington, matters that touch the interests of all residents of this state. A group of advanced undergraduates at Whitman College has collaboratively authored an entirely new 2006 edition of the report on *The State of the State for Washington Latinos*. Please join us to learn about the students' findings and to participate in a community discussion that is **free and open to the public**. Please encourage others to come as well. (Light refreshments served.)

Date and Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m., Monday, December 4, 2006

Location: Room 130, Olin Hall, Whitman College (off Isaacs Ave.)

Parking: Lot behind the adjacent Hall of Science (off Isaacs Ave., across from Penrose St.)

Agenda: Includes the following issues...

- What can public schools do to raise the number of Latino youth finishing high school, and to support **high academic achievement** among these kids?
- How can we give more young Hispanic children a good start to school by fostering inclusive, high quality **preschool** experiences with well-trained teachers?
- How can Washington State open the doors of **higher education** to more young Latinos, especially in four-year bachelors degree programs?
- What innovative steps can be taken to bring down the disproportionately high number of Hispanic youth caught up in the **juvenile justice system**?
- What can the state do to help **community-based health programs** meet the health care needs of the poor and undocumented and prevent the spread of HIV among Latinos?
- How can schools become key partners in helping prevent **domestic violence** in Hispanic communities of this state?
- What can be done at the state and local levels to reduce the gap in **homeownership** between Latinos and non-Latinos?
- How do we mobilize the Latino youth vote, dramatically increase the level of Hispanic **political representation**, and ensure voting rights enforcement – enhancing the political

power of Hispanics to address all of these vital issues and others? (OVER)

*The State of the State for Washington Latinos* continues to be the only broadly inclusive report on social and political conditions for Latinos in Washington State, where the Hispanic population has been rapidly rising while inequalities remain multiple and serious. The students have done this research in a seminar taught by Professor Paul Apostolidis; and they have conducted their projects in **partnership with professionals in the local community and elsewhere in the state**. These individuals have graciously contributed their time and expertise, serving as crucial resources for the students and motivating the students to produce work of high quality, and we are extremely grateful to all of them and their organizations:

- Cynthia Selde, Walla Walla Latino-American Forum
- Diana Erickson and Cindy Gregoire, Walla Walla Public Schools
- Yolanda Esquivel, Walla Walla Migrant Head Start Program
- Melinda Brennan and Andrea Valencia, Building Bridges Preschool Program
- Ricardo Iniguez, Wenatchee Public Schools
- Andrew Dankel-Ibañez and Victor Chacón, Walla Walla Community College
- Vance Norsworthy, Walla Walla Juvenile Detention Center
- Suzanne Morrissey, Walla Walla Heart to Heart
- Mary Jo Ybarra-Vega, Quincy Community Health Center
- Mario Paredes, CONSEJO
- David Pesel, Columbia Legal Services
- Roger Bairstow, Broetje Orchards
- Barbara Guzzo, Beacon Development Group
- Melinda Townsend, Helpline of Walla Walla
- Bill Erickson, Walla Walla High School, Club Latino
- Joaquin Avila, Seattle University School of Law

Please join us on Monday, Dec. 4, to take part in this important conversation about the future of Latinos and all

residents of the State of Washington!