Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO) Newsletter

GALEO News and Updates

May 2005

In This Issue

Dear Jerry,

In November 2003, the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials was founded to provide another voice to the growing Latino community in the state of Georgia.

As you may know, GALEO’s mission is to increase representation of Latino/Hispanic elected and appointed officials, to proactively address the issues and needs of the Latino community, and to engage the Latino/Hispanic community in the democratic and policy process across the State of Georgia.

We hope you will support the work we are accomplishing. We’d like to invite you to celebrate our accomplishments with us at our 2nd Annual GALEO Power Breakfast. We are honored to present Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (CA), Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute as our keynote speaker for this year’s function. We hope you will consider supporting our organizations through your generous contribution and participation with our 2nd Annual GALEO Power Breakfast Fundraiser.

In addition, GALEO is spearheading efforts to provide LeadershipPlenty®, a grassroots leadership training program, throughout the state in targeted Latino communities. GALEO collaborated with the Pew Partnership for Civic Change and Kennesaw State University to organize the leadership program and train the volunteer facilitators. Some of the LeadershipPlenty® sessions will be taught in Spanish, thanks to the collaborative efforts of GALEO, the Governor’s Latino Commission for a New Georgia and Kennesaw State University.

We are very proud of the successes and achievements GALEO has been able to accomplish in only a year and a half. In fact, due to this success, GALEO is now considered a model for how to develop and mobilize the Latino community at the state level. However, we cannot do this work without the continued support from our community, our business partners, our supporting organizations and individuals. We are asking supporters of the Latino community to contribute to the great work we are doing and support our 2nd Annual GALEO Power Breakfast.

As we completed our first year, GALEO is proud to have played such an instrumental role in the community’s continued development. Please let us know how you will be able to help our work within the Latino community.
Thank you to our 100 Founding Friends!

2nd Annual GALEO Power Breakfast Fundraiser, Monday, May 23rd

Latino Organizations Unite Against HR256

Wall Street Journal Editorial, "Immigration Reality Check"

Georgia’s PeachCare Lockout: Who Suffers?—GBPI calls PeachCare lockout bad public policy

A. E. Martinez, Associate Professor of Religion, Reinhardt College, "The Criminalization of Our Children: Legislation and Undocumented Immigrants"

A. E. Martinez, Associate Professor of Religion, Reinhardt College, "Love Undocumented Immigrants! A Call to Justice and Hospitality"

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GALEO Intern Highlight! Carlos Lares from Kennesaw State University

Thank you to our Members!

Upcoming Events...

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M. Sanchez, "Finally, Kansas gets it right in education", Knight Ridder Newspapers

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hits Senate roadblock", AJC

C. Tucker, Opinion Editorial, "Have Bush toil for immigrants", AJC

D. Simpson, "Doraville Police Chief Trains for duty in Iraq," AJC

Thank you to our 100 Founding Friends!

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Make a difference today! Join GALEO now!

Contribute and Support GALEO!

Quick Links...

- Our Website
- Become a GALEO Member
- Contribute to GALEO Online
- About Us

Other Links...

- Make a Tax Deductible Contribution to the GALEO Latino Community Development Fund
- About HR-256...
- Previous GALEO Newsletters

Quick Links...

- More NEWS & Press (Updated weekly)
- Christian Coalition Conference 2005 Report
- University of Georgia & GALEO "Identifying Latino Voters"
- GALEO Latino Community Development Fund

- 2nd Annual GALEO Power Breakfast Fundraiser, Monday, May 23rd

Join us with Congresswoman Napolitano, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute

Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, will come to Atlanta to speak at the 2nd Annual GALEO Power Breakfast Fundraiser. We hope you will make every effort to join us!

2nd Annual GALEO Power Breakfast Fundraiser

The Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO)

and

the GALEO Latino Community Development Fund

Cordially Invite YOU to our
2nd Annual GALEO Power Breakfast

Featuring:

**U.S. Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (CA)**

Chair for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute

In collaboration with The Coca-Cola Company

**DATE:** Monday, May 23, 2005  
**TIME:** 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM  
**LOCATION:** La Mansion, 5522 New Peachtree Road, Chamblee, Georgia, 30341

[Click here for more information including cost and RSVP...](http://www.galeo.org/)

- Latino Organizations Unite Against HR256

  Honorable Glenn Richardson
  Speaker, Georgia House of Representatives
  Subject: Opposition to HR-256
  Honorable Glenn Richardson:

  We are writing to you as a collective of Latino organizations. With this letter, we express our opposition to HR-256 and other anti-immigrant legislation. Thank you for not making HR-256 a priority this legislative session; however, we are concerned about it for the 2006 legislative session. We do not condone illegal activity of any sort; however, as President Bush has recognized, our immigration system needs serious reform and repair. We strongly believe these types of state initiatives and proposals are based on rhetoric and are not in the best interests of our state or our nation.

  [Read More...](#)

- Wall Street Journal Editorial, "Immigration Reality Check"

  "Seal the border" populists on cable news and talk radio maintain that anti-immigrant sentiment in the U.S. is ascendant. But a recent Senate vote shows more support for the type of guest-worker initiative that President Bush proposes. Economic reality bites - - even in Congress.

  Last month 53 Senators voted for a temporary-visa program to address labor demands in the agriculture industry. And while that was fewer than the 60 votes needed to add the measure to an Iraq spending bill, it does indicate a recognition by a majority of Senators that enforcement-only approaches to illegal immigration won’t work.

  [Read more...](#)

- Georgia's PeachCare Lockout: Who Suffers?---GBPI calls PeachCare lockout bad public policy

  ATLANTA - The Georgia Budget and Policy Institute (GBPI) today released PeachCare Lockout: Who Suffers?, an analysis of a controversial administrative policy implemented by the Georgia Department of Community Health. The policy provides for children to be "locked-out" of the children's health care program, PeachCare, for a period of three months if their monthly premium is late or not received.

  Approximately 79,600 children have been placed on PeachCare lockout between August 2004 and April 2005 as a result of this policy. Note: GBPI's research reports are available on its web site at www.gbpi.org.

  **ABOUT GBPI** The Georgia Budget and Policy Institute (GBPI) is the state's leading independent, nonprofit, non-partisan organization engaged in research and education on the fiscal and economic health of the state of Georgia. The Institute provides reliable and timely analyses of Georgia's budget and tax policies and promotes greater state government fiscal accountability, improved services and an enhanced quality of life for all Georgians.
A. E. Martinez, Associate Professor of Religion, Reinhardt College, “The Criminalization of Our Children: Legislation and Undocumented Immigrants”

Published online by GALEO, May 5, 2005

Our children are the future of our nation. Their education is essential to the social, economic, cultural, political, and moral growth of the tapestry of races and cultures that comprise America. It is the ticket to upward social mobility; the best route to leaving poverty and its destructive, vicious cycle. After September 11, 2001, however, strong, anti-migratory sentiments began to emerge, disseminate, generate heated debates, and possess the minds of our legislators and their constituents. Unfortunately, these aroused passions have put in jeopardy the future of a growing sector of our most valuable and vulnerable generation. The children of undocumented immigrants have become the target of misplaced fear, aggression, ignorance, and discrimination. In the state of Georgia, House Resolution 256 and Senate Bill 171 are prime examples of cruelty made legalistic discourse.

A. E. Martinez, Associate Professor of Religion, Reinhardt College, "Love Undocumented Immigrants! A Call to Justice and Hospitality"

Published online by GALEO, May 5, 2005

The history of humanity has been the history of endless migratory waves and changes of settlements. For millennia, individuals, families, and communities have moved from one place to another to escape from suffering and improve their life conditions. In this undertaking, many have succeeded and failed, but they all have shared the same dream. Complicated social circumstances forced them to cross borders only to live as courageous refugees and hard-working expatriated in foreign lands. Political instability, unjust distribution of resources resulting in poverty, repression, armed conflicts, underemployment and unemployment, and no possibilities to succeed are a few of those circumstances. To add to their predicament, these migrants have not always been welcomed with open arms; they have encountered hostility instead.

M.L. Pickel, "Pioneering Latino officer honored," AJC

Officer Frank Figueroa remembers when he was the only cop in the DeKalb County Police Department who spoke Spanish.

“I was going everywhere in the county,” he said. "If someone didn't speak English, they'd call me."

AP, "States may disobey driver's license rules," The New York Times

WASHINGTON (AP) -- States are threatening to challenge in court and even disobey new orders from Congress to start issuing more uniform driver's licenses and verify the citizenship or legal status of people getting them.

There is concern among some states that they'll get stuck with a large tab to pay for implementing the new rules and that getting a driver's license will become a bigger headache for law-abiding residents.

GALEO Intern Highlight! Carlos Lares from Kennesaw State University

Carlos T. Lares is a senior at Kennesaw State University. This summer Carlos will be receiving a bachelor's degree from the Political Science & International Affairs department of KSU. Carlos was born in Denver, Colorado and raised in Venezuela, Canada and Europe. Carlos is a Certified program Provider of the Georgia Commission on Interpreters and serves as In-house Interpreter for Superior Court of Fulton County. Carlos enjoys swimming and coffee.

Read More About GALEO's Spring 2005 Interns!

Thank you to our Members!
Senator's Circle

Altria Corporate Services, Inc.
Kilpatrick Stockton LLP
Professional Association of Georgia Educators

Legislator’s Circle

Juan Blanco
Hon. Tony Del Campo, DeKalb County State Court Judge
Lino H. Dominguez
Georgia Association of Educators
Robert Mendez, Indwell Corporation
Felipe Yanes
Hon. Sam Zamarripa, State Senator (SD-36)

Become a GALEO Member to support our efforts!

• Upcoming Events...

  Save the Dates!

  ● Naturalization DRIVE, American Immigration Lawyers Association, 5/21/05
  ● 2nd Annual GALEO Power Breakfast Fundraiser, Join us with Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, Chair of the Congresional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Monday, May 23rd, 2005, 8:30 AM.
  ● Thursday, June 16, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. - The largest multi-group event so far this year for Hispanic professionals will take place at Villa Christina, featuring virtually all-major Hispanic organizations in Atlanta including GALEO. You will not want to miss “The White Party”!
  ● Soccer Initiative to Help Communities Connects Three Major Organizations, June 3rd
  ● GALEO Leadership Circle, Thursday, July 14th, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM, “State Budget and Taxes 101” presented by the Georgia Policy & Budget Institute
  ● The QUEST Concert promises to attract 30,000 people to Centennial Park, 9/10/05
  ● Fall Fundraiser, Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with GALEO, Thursday, Sept. 22, 2005
  ● GALEO Membership Holiday Reception, Thurs., Dec. 1, 2005

More info on EVENTS...

• The University of Georgia (UGA) partners with GALEO & other organizations for a conference on Latinos in the SE

FINDING SOLUTIONS: Latinos and the Socio- Economic Development of the Southeast

June 6-7, 2005

Georgia Center for Continuing Education
Athens, Georgia

The 2005 Latino conference will focus on:

  ● Latino workforce issues including education and skill development; labor and employment issues; legal immigration and financial issues; and leadership development;
  ● Analyzing the role of the Latino workforce in the socioeconomic future of the southeast, and in particular, the southeast's economic and community development; and
  ● Encouraging discussion of potential solutions to barriers to Latino socioeconomic development and to the problems facing the Latino workforce, including legislative measures, policy development, and multilateral agreements.

Read more...

• GALEO documents comments at a recent Christian Coalition Conference
Atlanta, Georgia - March 23, 2005 As President Bush meets with Mexican President Vicente Fox and Canadian Prime Minister Martin, GALEO urges President Bush to move towards achieving comprehensive immigration reform. The U.S. Congress and President Bush should act soon and develop a solution to our failed immigration policy. The reform efforts should consider our national security, should encourage and enhance continued economic development and should protect the rights and dignity of immigrants.


Sample commentary: Mark Krikorian of the Center for Immigration Studies stated, “we round up all illegal aliens [put] them into boxcars and send them all back to Mexico in the middle of the night.”

Read more...

- AJC Editorial Opinion, "'Close the Borders' policy no solution," & D. Stein, FAIR, "Possible to Stem Tide on Illegal Immigrants"
  
  From AJC

  OUR OPINION: EDITORIAL: 'Close the borders' policy no solution

  Any measures to address illegal immigration will have losers as well as winners at home

  OTHER OPINION: EQUAL TIME: Possible to stem tide of illegal immigrants

  Dan Stein is executive director of the Federation for American Immigration Reform in Washington.

  Read more...

- C. Wolff, "Top 10 ways we can help fix illegal immigration," The Naples Daily News.

  The Naples Daily News, May 1, 2005

  By Casey Wolff

  Let me pose a question: Can you trace your family tree to the Seminoles, the Iroquois or the Sioux? Answer: We are all immigrants.

  Then why does this country, founded by immigrants, and the acknowledged world leader in international commerce, finance, technology, modern culture and democracy, continue to fear and stigmatize immigrants?

  Read More...

- T. Crawford, "Perdue signs Voter ID bill"

  Sonny Perdue, who was elected governor in 2002 with the support of Confederate-flag-waving white voters from rural Georgia, signed a bill Friday morning that could trigger another racially divisive debate in next year’s campaign.

  GALEO opposed this legislation. Click here for information.

  Read More...

- M. Sanchez, "Finally, Kansas gets it right in education", Knight Ridder Newspapers
(KRT) - Kansas is well-known for legal battles arguing some children do not deserve access to a public education. More than 50 years after the famous Brown v. the Topeka Board of Education, Kansas is preparing to do legal battle again - for the children of illegal immigrants.

This time, Kansas is on the right side of the argument.

Recall in Brown, Kansas fought to keep its schools segregated. The Supreme Court settled that one. This latest fight isn't likely to go that far.

Eight other states are like Kansas. The states had the foresight to offer the children of illegal immigrants the ability to pay in-state college tuition fees, rather than the sometimes three times higher out-of-state rates. At least seven other states are also considering similar legislation.

L. Lipman, "Immigration measure hits Senate roadblock", AJC

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

WASHINGTON - Efforts to pave the way for some illegal immigrants to work their way to citizenship failed in the Senate on a procedural vote Tuesday, but supporters of the legislation said they would try again.

The AgJobs Bill, which would allow an estimated 500,000 undocumented farm workers and their families to gain legal status in the United States, fell seven votes short of the 60 votes needed to force the Senate to consider the measure.

C. Tucker, Opinion Editorial, "Have Bush toil for immigrants", AJC

Published on: 04/17/05

If you pay attention to the spew on immigration coming from conservative talk radio and Web logs, you can easily get the impression that most of the Sept. 11 hijackers came from Mexico.

Verbal broadsides against Muslim terrorists mix easily with derisive comments about Latinos who sneak across the border seeking work. The growing backlash against immigrants doesn't distinguish between jihadists and would-be janitors.

D. Simpson, "Doraville Police Chief Trains for duty in Iraq," AJC

Published on: 04/14/05

Doraville police Chief John King is in the California desert preparing to spend a year in probably the biggest law-and-order operation on the planet.

King will go to Iraq as commander of Task Force Rough Rider, 1st Battalion 108th Armor, part of the Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Brigade Combat Team.

Advertise with GALEO!

From www.ajc.com: "Marketers out to woo Hispanics"
Eugene Robinson - Washington Post
Monday, May 9, 2005

Our aspirations drive the American consumer economy, so any change in the sacred process
--- we see, we want, we dream, we buy --- has to have major implications. Such a change is just beginning to sink in: In today’s America, more and more of our aspiring is in Spanish.

Read More...

Please ask us about placing an advertisement in this newsletter. We plan to have one ad per monthly newsletter. Please contact Jerry Gonzalez, GALEO Executive Director, 404.745.2580, or jerry@galeo.org for more information.

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