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Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO) Newsletter

GALEO News and Updates

February 2005

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Dear GALEO Member,

2005 promises to be a great year!

GALEO will begin LeadershipPlenty sessions across the state to encourage further civic engagement and active participation within the Latino community. These sessions will provide participants with the tools to become more effective leaders within their own communities. Sessions will take place in Atlanta, Cobb County, Dalton and Athens. Please contact us for more information or if you would like to support these sessions financially

In addition, GALEO will be working on promoting the benefits and contributions that immigrants provide for our state and nation. President Bush has continued to move forward with his promise of comprehensive immigration reform and GALEO plans to be active in the public discussion by ensuring a fair discussion around the facts concerning immigration. To that end, we will focus our legislative efforts towards creating a greater understanding of Georgia State Legislators as well as our Georgia delegation in the U.S. Congress. Please follow the link under our "2005 Legislative Agenda" to learn more.

Last but not least, we will be having a GALEO Membership Reception on Thursday, Feb 17th, 2005. The GALEO Membership Reception will be for GALEO members and our supporting organizations and individuals. It is not too late to join GALEO and to join us at this event, which will feature a legislative update and an excellent opportunity to meet with our GALEO Board of Directors and other elected officials. The reception is graciously being hosted and sponsored by Holland & Knight LLP. Hope to see you there!

We hope you find this newsletter informative. Please send us your feedback.

Sincerely,

Jerry Gonzalez, Executive Director

to Hispanic Media

The Newsmagazine of Texas
Baptists on Immigration Reform

Thank you to our
100 Founding
Friends!

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AMERIGROUP Corporation
Attaché Public Affairs, LLC
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Juan Blanco
Blue Cross Blue Shield
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Hon. Terry Coleman (HD-118), Speaker, GA
House of Representatives
Brenda Foye Cornelius
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Hon. Tony Del Campo, DeKalb County State
Court Judge
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Teamsters Local Union 728
Tenet Health Care Systems
The Coca-Cola Company
Hon. Michael Thurmond, Georgia Labor
Commissioner
Carmen Vega
Felipe Yanes
Hon. Sam Zamarripa, State Senator (SD-36)

Join GALEO now!

New GALEO Members include: Joe
Cwik, Hall County Republican Party,
Linda L. Keller, Steve Neeley, and

Bobbie Paul.

Thank you for joining GALEO!

[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](#)
- [Latino Voting Strength in Georgia \(2004\)](#)
- [About GALEO in Spanish...](#)
- [Previous GALEO Newsletters](#)

- 2005 GALEO Legislative Agenda

Due to the urgency of immigration reform, GALEO will focus most of our efforts in the 2005 legislative session on providing pertinent immigrant community information to federal, state and local officials. All other issues will be secondary to this issue; GALEO wants to be a leading voice for immigration policy as our nation moves forward with the immigration reform initiated by President Bush.

[Read More...](#)

- "Getting It Right!" Series of Fact Sheets for Elected Officials

Due to the growing **rhetoric** of anti-immigrant groups, GALEO felt it was important to provide facts regarding immigration and what these facts are saying regarding impact to our state and nation. GALEO started the "Getting It Right!" series delivered to state legislators as well as Georgia's Congressional delegation in order to provide them with factual information as President Bush leads our nation forward with comprehensive immigration reform.

[Learn more and read GALEO's "Getting It Right!" Fact Sheets...](#)

- Sen. Zamarripa on Immigration Reform in response to Op-Ed by M. King in AJC

I was encouraged to see Mike King enter the conversation about immigration and especially his opening remarks about the polarization of this issues and the need for a "frank" discussion. He is right in suggesting that we need balance in the debate and an honest airing of the issues surrounding immigration.

[Read more...](#)

- Gonzales' Confirmation a Milestone in American History

Alberto Gonzales becomes the nation's first Hispanic Attorney General

(Atlanta, GA, February 4, 2005)-GALEO applauds Alberto Gonzales as the first Hispanic to serve as the U.S. Attorney General. On Thursday February 3, 2004 the U.S. Senate confirmed White House counsel Alberto Gonzales as the nation's first Latino Attorney General. Gonzales was sworn in Thursday afternoon and succeeds John Ashcroft.

[Read more...](#)

- NCLR, LULAC, MALDEF, AND NALEO SEND LETTER URGING WHITE HOUSE TO OPPOSE "THE REAL ID ACT"

Washington, DC - [The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund (NALEO) sent the following letter to the White House urging President Bush to oppose the "REAL ID Act" (H.R. 418) and to work toward comprehensive immigration reform]... GALEO also supports this position.

[Read more...](#)

- **Youth Soccer Program Funded in Doraville**

Councilman Jason Anavitarte passed an amendment today to the Doraville Fiscal Year 2005 Annual Budget that would allocate \$10,000 for the establishment of a new Youth Soccer program under the City's Parks and Recreation Department. The program would potentially target youth in a community that is predominantly Latino up to ages 10 for both boys and girls with the use of fields at Honeysuckle Park between April and May of 2005.

[Read more...](#)

- Wall Street Journal, Opinion Editorial, Paul Greenberg, "Illegal Aliens! (In Arkansas), Arkansas Democrat Gazette

LITTLE ROCK -- Arkansas is fighting for its soul again. It feels a little like 1957, when the Crisis of Central High became a permanent footnote in the history of the American civil rights movement. That confrontation was a turning point in the state's history, and the state turned the wrong way.

[Read more...](#)

- President Bush, State of the Union Address on Immigration Reform

"America's immigration system is also outdated -- unsuited to the needs of our economy and to the values of our country. We should not be content with laws that punish hardworking people who want only to provide for their families, and deny businesses willing workers, and invite chaos at our border. It is time for an immigration policy that permits temporary guest workers to fill jobs Americans will not take..."

[Read more...](#)

- GALEO Intern Highlight! Nicole Faurot from Emory University

Nicole is a third year undergraduate at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She is studying Spanish, Inter-disciplinary Studies and Economics and hopes to pursue a career in international business. Raised in Boulder, Colorado Nicole grew up playing soccer, swimming and running. She had a lot of contact with the Latino population tutoring high school students, teaching English and learning Spanish in unique ways. Following high school graduation she studied for a summer at the University of Salamanca in Spain and then continued her studies at Emory. At Emory Nicole became involved in a commission that advocates for women, peer counseling, and tutoring local elementary school students. Through the summer of 2004 Nicole worked with the Mexican Consulate and Emory University as lead intern for a Mexican Cultural Immersion Program with local elementary school students. That July she traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina for a six-month study abroad experience. During this time Nicole worked with a human rights organization and completed a research paper on the organization. Nicole looks forward to the opportunities presented through GALEO and is excited to help the community in Georgia.

[Read More About GALEO's Spring 2005 Interns!](#)

- Thank you to our Members!

Senator's Circle

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
Robert Mendez, Indwell Corporation
Felipe Yanes
Hon. Sam Zamarripa, State Senator (SD-36)

- Upcoming Events...

Save the Dates!

- GALEO Membership Reception, Thurs, 2/17/05, 6:30 PM
- Family Day at the Capitol, Saturday, March 12th
- 2nd Annual GALEO Power Breakfast, Wed., 4/6/05
- GALEO Fall Fundraiser, 9/22/05
- GALEO Membership Holiday Reception, 12/1/05

[Read on...](#)

- 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...](#)

- A Conversation Begins on Georgia's Education Financing

On Thursday, January 27th, 2005, Governor Sonny Perdue and State Superintendent of Schools, Kathy Cox conducted a successful first Community Conversation for the Governor's Education Finance Task Force. The Community Conversation was conducted at the Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) studios in Atlanta as well as at 23 state-wide satellite sites.

[Read on...](#)

- The Chattanooga Free Times Press, The Dalton Project: Racial Diversification in Dalton Rapid

DALTON, Ga. -The diversity of this town is in the classrooms and lunch lines of City Park School.

"It's just a mirror of the Dalton community," principal Rick Little said. "It gives children a perspective of the real world. It teaches them to accept everybody as they are."

[Read on...](#)

- Governor Perdue's Remarks on Immigration Reform and Remarks to Hispanic Media

Perdue stated his support of President Bush's proposal. "I applaud the President," said Perdue. "We have a certain degree of hypocrisy about how we treat immigrants. Nevertheless, it's the moral, right thing to do to address immigrants, documented and undocumented, to meet the needs of workers and citizens in our country."

[Read on...](#)

- The Newsmagazine of Texas Baptists on Immigration Reform

AUSTIN--Expect to see change in United States immigration policy during this congressional session, said Suzii Paynter, director of citizenship and public policy for the Baptist General Convention of Texas' Christian Life Commission.

"Our system is very broken, and the president has made it a priority" to fix the situation, Paynter said.

[Read on...](#)

- Tax Deductible Donation to the GALEO Latino Community Development Fund

Make a generous, tax-deductible donation for increasing Latino civic engagement in Georgia!

Thank you for your support!

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