CAMINOS PARA EL PROGRESO



The Latino Women Conference with a theme of "The Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with One Step," was held on Saturday, March 1, 1975 at Lansing Community College.

The workshops offered by the Latino Women's Conference were: "Latino Women and Employment, Substance Abuse, Women and Social Services, Women in Community Participation, Women in Education and the Latino Women and Latino Man." The Workshops attendance was overwhelming met by the Latinos present. An estimated two-hundred and fifty women attended. One reason for the large crowd was because this conference was the first one ever held for the Latino Women in the State of Michigan.

The Conference had plenty of representation from Flint, which made the efforts and work being done by the education people from Flint more rewarding. The Educational Workshop was presented by Celia Perez Booth, Maria Enriquez, Maria DeLeary, Maria Guzman, and Phyllis Valdez Wood.

The Conference had Miss Margarita Valdez, a young lady from Detroit, as one of the two speakers for the conference. After giving a most incentive speech to the audience, Miss Margarita Valdez was able to show the audience that "Latino women are also talented." Miss Valdez sang a beautiful song and played the guitar as well. Mrs. Delia Vorhauer was the other speaker. Mrs. Vorhauer reached out to the audience with words of encouragement. However, Delia wins people over with her sensitivity of other human beings.

Idali Feliciano served as moderator doing a fantastic job. It is often said "big things come in small packages." Idali, small as she is has big ideas and not only does she have them, but she makes them a reality.

Jane Gonzalez, who did a presentation on community participation was honored by Las Mujeres de Michigan at the conference. Her active participation for the good of the Latino people not only in her community, but throughout the State of Michigan as well, makes her an outstanding woman.

Rosa Torres Dayha, State of Michigan Bureau of Community Services, presented a workshop on the Latino Women and Employment. Rosa is well informed in employment practices and is willing to share her knowledge with groups who request her services. Isabel Salas offered a workshop on the Latino Women and Latino Men. Her comments drew interested controversial reactions from the women present.

Margarita Sotomayor, presented the workshop on Latino Women and Social Services. The ladies in her workshop were active participants asking questions and getting answers from Ms. Sotomayor.

Some of the women who were not in the limelight but helped tremendously with the conference were: Mrs. Rosa De La Cruz, (Lansing); Ms. Adelfa Arredondo (Lansing); Mrs. Ana Maria Lecea, (Flint); Ms. Ann Benjamin (Flint); Mrs. Maria Garcia (Saginaw); Irene Alba, (Grand Rapids); Ms. Yolanda Flores, (Pontiac); and Virginia Ramos of (Flint). Sincerest thanks to these beautiful sisters who gave so much of themselves to make this conference the success that it was. While this conference was a Latino women's conference, men who were of service must also be recognized. Jessie Guzman, (Lansing) is a wonderful person who helped wherever and whenever he could. This included serving as a waiter at Famous Taco where lunch was provided to all women participants free of charge. He also helped with the Substance Abuse group, a round of applause for Edmundo Georgi, Editor of El Renacimiento (Lansing) who since the initial planning gave the conference publicity. Incidentally, those of you in Flinto who are not receiving El Renacimiento may request information about it at the S.S.I.C. or ask Andy Enriquez, Mott Chicano Club, Mott Community College.

Other men to be thanked are the two male drivers who drove vans from Flint: Oscar Flores, a S.S.I.C. board member, and Jose Diaz, S.S.I.C. staff.

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En una opinión de febrero de 1972, el Procurador General Kelley, reglamentó que una sección del Decreto de Seguridad de Empleo de Michigan que estipulaba que una mujer esperando un hijo no sería elegible para recibir los beneficios del seguro federal de desempleo entre la décima semana anterior al parto y la sexta semana después era inconstitucional y una violación al Título VII.

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