

ILACHEIllinois **LA**tino Council on **H**igher Education**Nuestra Voz**
November 2020

Message from the President

I hope this newsletter finds you well and in good health. I am pleased to present to you our new electronic newsletter: **“Nuestra Voz.”** The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed of Latinx higher education issues in the State of Illinois and beyond. We will also use this venue to share best practices, celebrate accomplishments, share information about higher education and community events, and provide resources for you, our members. We invite you submit feedback and content for future publications.



I am also delighted to share that ILACHE will be hosting a number of virtual webinars and conversations focused on students, families (en español) and professionals. I hope you can join us. I encourage you to stay connected and engaged with ILACHE via our website www.ilache.org and our [social media platforms](#).

For now, stay safe.

Enhorabuena,

Daniel López, Jr., Ph.D.
ILACHE President

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ILACHE News and Updates

The Illinois **LA**tino Council on **H**igher Education (ILACHE) is going **VIRTUAL!**

Over the next several months, ILACHE will be hosting a series of webinars, or ILACHE Critical Conversations. There will be three official tracks for these events:

- **Students - Navigating the Academy**
 - Thursday, November 12, 2020 from 6 PM - 7 PM
 - Thursday, January 14, 2021 from 6 PM - 7 PM
 - Thursday, December 10, 2020 from 6 PM - 7 PM
- **Para los Padres - Cafecito Con ILACHE**
 - Friday, December 4, 2020 from 7 PM - 8:15 PM

- o Friday, January 8, 2021 7 from PM - 8:15 PM

- **Professionals - Desarrollo Profesional**

- o Friday, November 13, 2020 12 PM - 1:15 PM
- o Friday, December 18, 2020 3 PM - 4:45 PM
- o Friday, January 15, 2021 12 PM - 1:15 PM

Don't forget to save the dates! Registration and event details can be found [here](#).

Hope you can join us!

ILACHE Executive Board

Last Day of Early Voting in IL - November 2nd

Monday, November 2nd is the last day of early voting in IL. Check vote.org to find your polling place.

On Election Day, voters who are not registered to vote can register and vote at their home precinct only. If registering to vote you will need two forms of ID. One of these two IDs must list your current address.

Acceptable Forms of ID

- Passport or Military ID
- Driver's License or State ID card
- College/University/School/Work ID
- Vehicle registration card
- Lease, mortgage or deed to home
- Credit or debit card
- Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid card
- Insurance card
- Civic, union or professional membership card
- LINK/Public Aid/Department of Human Services card
- Illinois FOID card

Examples of first-class mail addressed to voter that can be used as ID:

- Bill, Transcript or Report Card from School
- Bank Statement, Pay Stub or Pension Statement
- Utility, Medical or Insurance Bill
- Official mail from any government agency



The info is above taken from <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/service/when-voters-do-and-dont-need-identification-id>

No time to vote early??? You still have a chance to do it on Election Day, November 3, 2020. Check vote.org to find your polling place.

Commentary

Haciendo las Cuentas (Doing the Math)

by

Leonard Ramirez, Ph.D.
ILACHE Vice President of Policy



Despite the outcome of this election cycle, Latinx peoples must take stock of three lessons that should have been learned under Trump if they had not been recognized beforehand. These factors need to be taken into consideration as we develop a progressive agenda as we advance.

At least 30% of the US electorate is solidly racist. The lack of a wave of opposition to the policy of family separation and the caging of brown children should be resounding. The cavalier disregard for health prevention protocols by those Whites who believe themselves immune to the most severe consequences of COVID-19 is also instructive. COVID disproportionately affects the elderly and people of color. Some are willing to sacrifice seniors--perhaps even regrettably--in the service of the economy and a return to "normality." At best, they are indifferent to Black and Brown people's fortunes and even view disparate health impacts as an opportunity to rebalance the demographical scales more to their favor.

It should be clear that a good portion of the population does not value facts, the search for truth, or science's wisdom. Talk radio, conservative TV, sensationalist cable, and social media have contributed to creating distorted reality bubbles where the most illogical and ridiculous ideas are not only accepted as possible but treated as probable and linked to a hidden alternate reality. Breitbart, QAnon, Alex Jones, and Fox News are popular conduits of misinformation. Therefore, the benighted have believed that a child abuse ring operated in the backroom of a pizzeria; a physician who has preached about the existence of demon seed is a credible source for health policy, and disinfectant is a promising medicinal remedy. Magical thinking is not a recent phenomenon. It has deep roots and includes the dissemination of historical mythologies: cherry trees, the silver linings of slavery, phantasmagorical patriotic absurdities such as elevating Ronald Reagan's presidency ignoring his illegally funding a war, promoting greater economic inequality, and supporting policies that created the foundation for the current state of runaway homelessness.

The weaknesses of democratic institutions should also be frightfully apparent. The courts have been weaponized to support the economic interests of the 1% and to favor authoritarianism. The executive is a vehicle for self-aggrandizement and raw power. The legislature is hamstrung by partisan gerrymandering and hypocritical rule changing, motivated by an allegiance to special interests purchased by Washington lobbyists. The sanctity of the vote has become an inconvenience, something to be gamed and suppressed when necessary.

Latina/o educators have a unique role to play. We must reinforce our leadership and neighborhood structures. We must value community-based experience and rescue those among us who have fallen into the ideological well of obfuscation that blinds them to their self-interests. We must resist being seduced into returning to the middle of the road. The old consensus dismissed us and neglected our needs. The resurrection of the status quo will not yield different results. Engaging youth and working with them to develop our cultural insights and organizing capacity will allow us to sidestep mythologies and think and advance independently. Together, we can create a pathway that rejects assimilation and facilitates a healthy social integration as empowered and independent peoples.

Spotlight On...

Meet our New ILACHE Treasurer, Paola Vargas!

Paola is a long time ILACHE member, currently serving as Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs at NEIU. Dedicated to the Latino/a/x community, she has supported ILACHE in various events with her event planning skills, as well as has been a one of our most committed volunteers for our annual ILACHE conferences. Paola is also an ENLACE Fellow NEIU alumna and we are proud to have her as a member of the ILACHE Executive Board.



Exploring Traditions:

A celebration of both life and death in which families pay respects to their deceased loved ones. A traditional holiday celebrated during the first two days of November. The literature mentions that Mexico is the birthplace of the traditions of Día de los Muertos but we have seen many families celebrate and many different ways.

Want to share with us how you celebrate and your own experiences? Email us a brief summary along with a picture. This will be highlight at our next newsletter.



Other Important Events and Resources:

- [Bilingualism in a Post-COVID America - St. Augustine College Lecture Series Event, November 4th, 2020](#)
- [Domestic Violence: A Pandemic within a Pandemic - Chicago State University, Mujeres Latinas en Acción, Online Virtual Event, November 5th and 6th, 2020.](#)

What type of content would you like to see in our next newsletter? Feel free to contact us for newsletter comments, feedback, ideas, etc. to be included for future content @ ilache.chicago1@gmail.com.

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