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Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative Update Edition

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month: Join us at the Latinos Unidos Student Summit!

As we dive into the vibrant tapestry of Hispanic Heritage Month, we are thrilled to share an exciting initiative that embodies the spirit of unity, education, and empowerment within our Latino community.

It is with immense enthusiasm that we introduce our inaugural Latinos Unidos Student Summit, set to take place on **Saturday, September 16, 2023**, at **Hodgson Vo-Tech High School in Newark**.

The Latinos Unidos Student Summit is a half-day celebration of knowledge, inspiration, and collective growth. Our mission is to bring together students, educators, and community members in a dynamic atmosphere to amplify the voices of Latino high school students and their allies. Under the theme *"Amplify Latino Youth Voices,"* our summit promises to be a day of enlightening experiences, camaraderie, and empowerment.

This landmark event will feature a keynote address by Rony Baltazar Lopez (Vice chair and youngest member of Delaware Hispanic Commission), six workshops, 16 vendors from community based organizations and higher education, delicious lunch, uniquely designed event t-shirts created by students, and bus transportation – all at no cost to attendees. We are committed to making this experience accessible to all.

What makes our Latinos Unidos Student Summit truly exceptional is that it's driven by the passion and vision of our young leaders. The summit is student-led, meaning that the ideas and perspectives of our youth are at the heart of every planning and implementation stage with adult oversight. This approach empowers students to take charge of the issues that impact them and their communities, fostering a profound sense of agency and leadership.

Our dedicated student planning committee, consisting of 24 teens with representation from all three Delaware counties, has been meeting bi-weekly since May to create an educational and fun celebration. This collaboration embodies the essence of power sharing, as adult involvement is intentionally limited to amplify the students' voices and influence in decision-making. From choosing the event name, venue, and



workshop topics to selecting keynote speakers and extending invitations to workshop presenters, our young leaders are steering the ship.

Now, as we look forward to this occasion, we invite you to join us in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15.

I will begin Hispanic Heritage Month by joining with Latino high schoolers, their allies and the adults who serve them in schools to amplify Latino youth voices!

How will you advance your commitment to racial justice and celebrate Hispanics/Latinos in Delaware?

Sincerely,

Raina

Raina Allen
Director, Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative



DRJC: Who We Are and What We Do

The Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative (DRJC) provides a platform for communities throughout Delaware to address institutional policies and procedures related to racial justice.

DRJC comprises hundreds of individuals and organizations working in committees to uncover, repeal, and restructure policies and practices that negatively impact people of color. The work is organized around seven impact areas: health equity, wealth creation, public policy, education, criminal justice, youth advancement, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI). The DRJC also hosts events, community conversations and other meetings.

We need you, your involvement and passion, to power up the fight! Please reach out to Alex asoutherst@uwde.org for invitations to committees, workgroups and general body meetings and to be added to our email list.

The Delaware Racial Equity Challenge: Why You Should Tell a Friend

By Tierra Fair
Vice President, Engagement and Partnerships

The Delaware Racial Equity Challenge is an essential initiative that fosters a greater understanding of racial disparities, systemic racism, and the importance of equity.



Set to take place from **September 18th to 22nd**, this quarterly event provides a unique opportunity for individuals to engage in meaningful conversations about these crucial issues. But, why is it so important to not only participate in the challenge but also to spread the word and encourage friends to join?

Firstly, the Delaware Racial Equity Challenge serves as a vital tool for education and awareness. It offers participants a chance to explore a wide range of resources, articles, videos, and activities that shed light on racial disparities in Delaware and beyond. By sharing this initiative with friends, you're helping to create a ripple effect of awareness that can lead to a more informed and empathetic society.

Secondly, discussing the challenge with friends promotes dialogue and understanding. Conversations about race and equity can be uncomfortable, but they're necessary for progress. Encouraging your friends to participate can open the door to valuable discussions, enabling everyone to learn from different perspectives and experiences.

Lastly, participating as a group can be more impactful and motivating. When you and your friends engage in the challenge together, you provide each other with support, encouragement, and accountability. This shared experience can strengthen your commitment to racial equity and inspire positive change.

In conclusion, the Delaware Racial Equity Challenge is a powerful platform for education and change. By telling a friend about the challenge, you contribute to a growing movement towards a more equitable future.

So, mark your calendars for September 18th to 22nd and spread the word – because together, we can make a difference.

Not enrolled yet? Go to www.deraciaequitychallenge.org

DRJC Recognizes the Power of Diversity

By Tierra Fair
Vice President, Engagement and Partnerships

In a world that is increasingly interconnected, celebrating diversity has become more important than ever. Hispanic Heritage Month is a perfect occasion to recognize the contributions of Hispanic individuals who have shaped history and society in various ways. The Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative firmly believes in the power of diversity and strives to honor it. Here are five important individuals for Hispanic Heritage that exemplify the Collaborative's commitment to celebrating diversity:

Cesar Chavez: A civil rights and labor leader, Cesar Chavez fought tirelessly for the rights of farmworkers. His legacy of nonviolent activism continues to inspire social justice movements worldwide.

Dolores Huerta: As a labor leader and civil rights activist, Dolores Huerta co-founded the United Farm Workers with Cesar Chavez. Her dedication to workers' rights and gender equality remains an inspiration.

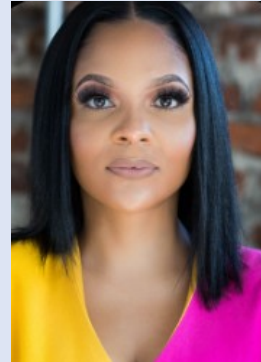
Roberto Clemente: A baseball legend, Roberto Clemente was not only an exceptional athlete but also a humanitarian. He dedicated his life to helping others and tragically lost his life in a plane crash while delivering aid to earthquake victims in Nicaragua.

Sonia Sotomayor: The first Latina Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor's career exemplifies the power of education and determination. She has been a trailblazer for women and minorities in the legal field.

Julia de Burgos: A Puerto Rican poet and activist, Julia de Burgos used her words to advocate for women's rights and social justice. Her poetry continues to inspire generations.

HBCU Week Begins Sunday

Ashley Christopher Esq., who captivated our audience as the keynote speaker at last year's annual Black Student Union, is returning to Delaware for *HBCU Week September 17-24*.



The event encourages high school students to enroll in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) by offering scholarships to support their educational journey. Moreover, it aims to establish a sustainable pipeline for employment opportunities, bridging the gap between undergraduate school and corporate America. Over the years, HBCU Week has awarded more than \$23 million in scholarships.

Participants can look forward to a series of exciting events during HBCU Week, including a Comedy Show, HBCU Week Concert, and HBCU Week Panel Discussion, among others. A College Fair will be Friday, September 22 at Chase Fieldhouse, Wilmington.

A conversation on Social Justice will feature Ben Crump, Esq., a renowned American civil rights attorney and advocate known for representing the families of high-profile cases involving police brutality, such as George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery.

Find out more about this year's events, times and locations, visit <https://www.hbcuweek.org/wilmington>.

For more information on why HBCUs are a great choice for higher education, [watch the video below](#).



Working Toward a Statewide Unified Community

By Johnny Perez-Gonzalez
WHYY
Sept. 13, 2023

It started as a conversation among Latino students at Hodgson Vocational Technical High School. Students in the school's Spanish club wanted to build better connections with Latino students from across the state. Their teacher then helped them coordinate with the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative to create Delaware's first Latino Unidos Student Summit which is planned for this Saturday at Hodgson.

The students hope to build a united Latino community, a goal that was inspired by the Black Student Summit held earlier this year.

“We are attempting to establish a community and attempting to give people access to information and connections,” said Oscar Hageman, a senior at the Cape Henlopen High School. “This is a good opportunity to meet people across the state that come from a similar background of Latino students that are looking [for] possibly similar interests, maybe different interests, but are all looking to build a community.”

[Read the entire article here](#)

Small Business Entrepreneurs: Mark Your Calendars For the 2024 Pitch-or-Ditch Competition

By Savannah Goff
DRJC intern

The third annual Pitch-or-Ditch competition will be held January 26th, 2024. Sponsored by United Way, Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative, the Delaware Black Chamber of Commerce and the Wilmington Public Library, the Pitch-or-Ditch competition is an exciting opportunity for aspiring minority business owners to showcase their business model and possibly win one of three cash prizes. Last year's winner, Nikita Thomas of God's Green EarthRx was awarded \$10,000.



DRJC's wealth creation committee is now developing this year's contest rules, application, and timeline. The committee is looking for volunteers with diverse backgrounds and perspectives to join us. Wealth Creation committee meetings are held the first Monday of each month from 10:30 – 11:30 am on Zoom. Our next planning discussion will be Monday, October 2. You do not have to attend committee meetings in order to make a contribution.

For more information and Committee Zoom links, please contact [Raina Allen](#).

Join the Fun! Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month!
Visit our celebration page by clicking the image below.



Attention Small Business Owners!
Enrollment for the FREE 2023-2024
Minority Small Business Program is open now!
Free one-on-one coaching with experienced business coaches
to help you grow your business.
[Click here for the enrollment application!](#)

New Stand By Me Podcast Released

A new Stand By Me podcast has just been released: *FAFSA Changes for 2024 and Beyond*, that details the many changes that have been made to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This information will guide parents and high school students through the new application form and several changes in documentation and calculation.

The Stand By Me podcast series provides valuable information about important financial topics such as budgeting, saving for a home, debt management, and more.

[To listen, visit the Stand By Me website here.](#)



Governor's Summer Fellowship Program Ends Second Successful Year

Recently, Dr. Michelle Taylor joined Governor Carney and Delaware Secretary of Education Mark Holodick in the closing ceremonies for the second Governor's Summer Fellowship Program.

"United Way of Delaware is proud to partner with Governor Carney and the Delaware Department of Education on the Governor's Summer Fellowship Program," Michelle said. "We are incredibly proud of this year's Summer Fellows, 11th and 12th graders who stepped up to support our younger children in summer camps across our state."

"There's nothing more important than making sure all Delaware children have the opportunity to excel," said **Governor Carney**. "The Summer Fellowship Program allows students to gain paid work opportunities and valuable life experiences, explore their interest in public service, and help out their community."

The Governor's Summer Fellowship Program provides paid camp counselor opportunities for Delaware high school seniors and juniors in each county. Two Fellows, Molly Shay and Jeremiah Bailey, received Certificate of Appreciation awards with these comments:

Jeremiah Bailey is honored with this certificate for his exceptional leadership qualities during the 2023 summer camp. His unwavering willingness to help others, which led to great conversations, and his selfless act of assisting his mother and baby sister at 4 a.m. reflect his outstanding character and dedication to making a positive impact.

This certificate is proudly presented to **Molly Shay** in recognition of her exceptional leadership during the 2023 summer camp. Your inspiring guidance left a lasting impact on both campers and staff, making this summer camp an unforgettable

experience. Thank you for your outstanding contributions!



Governor Carney also visited Sussex County Boys and Girls Club to hear about their experiences. Pictured, right, a Fellow and campers are showing Governor Carney UWDE's BookNook program, an online learning platform designed to enhance K-8 literacy skills through small-group guided reading instruction and high-impact tutoring.

UWDE invests in BookNook to support our partners in enhancing literacy skills to ensure all students are reading on grade level. For more information on BookNook and the Governor's Fellowship program, please contact Ebony Brown at ebrown@uwde.org.



Seeking Educators for After School Program

United Way of Delaware seeks teachers, para-educators, and support staff (navigators) for our 21st Century Community Learning Center Enrichment After School Program. These roles are to 3-4 hours a day, Monday-Thursday. For more information or to apply, please get in touch with Ken Livingston at klivingston@uwde.org or Amber Battle-Winston at abwinston@uwde.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your Opinion Counts

Do you use tobacco, vaping, or e-cigarette products?

Are you living with someone who smokes tobacco products?

We are looking for adults, ages 18 and older, to join us in small two hour focus group meetings sponsored by the Delaware Division of Public Health to discuss these topics.



Dates and Times:

New Castle County residents: evenings, Wednesday, October 11 or Thursday, October 12

Kent/Sussex County residents: evenings, October 2, October 3, October 4, and October 5

Please contact Jayden Carr if you are interested.

Email address: jayden@goeinswilliams.com

Phone number: 443-742-6677 or 302-983-3044

A light meal will be provided.

Participants will receive a \$150 cash incentive.

WILMINGTON ALLIANCE EXPUNGEMENT & JOB EXPO



DO YOU NEED HELP FINDING
EMPLOYMENT?

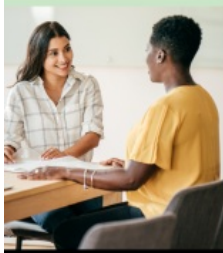
IS YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD
HOLDING YOU BACK?

Employers and community
resource partners will be
on site!

Walk-ins welcome but
pre-registration for
pardon and expungement
services is preferred.



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER
FOR PRIVATE ONE-ON-ONE
EXPUNGEMENT SERVICES



If you are an
employer or
resource agency
and would like to
participate, please
contact:
[Larry@wilmington
alliance.org](mailto:Larry@wilmingtonalliance.org)

JOIN US!

FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

1:00PM - 6:00PM

WILLIAM "HICKS" ANDERSON
COMMUNITY CENTER

501 N. MADISON STREET
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801



FREE FOOD | GIVEAWAYS
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Book Festival Highlights Six Black Authors to Lewes

The Seventh Annual History Book Festival is bringing six Black authors to Lewes to present their work. The festival is Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1 at Cape Henlopen High School. To see the full slate of authors, [click here](#).

The Closing Address will be delivered by National Book Award-winning author James McBride

The **Ticket** price to the closing address includes a signed hard cover copy of McBride's new novel.

PROUD PARTNER OF THE

HISTORY
BOOK
FESTIVAL



SEVENTH ANNUAL HBF

WHITE ALLY WORKSHOP

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Delaware

Do You Consider Yourself an Ally?

This workshop is designed for white allies to develop skills to engage racism skeptics in productive conversations with friends, family, and neighbors. It is designed to help white allies see the task of using their influence to bring other white people along on their lifelong mission of dismantling racism. Participants will leave with the opportunity to build a support system with other white allies and continue to develop the skills learned in the workshop.



Includes lunch & all materials

Partial Scholarships Available!
Email: rcotto@ywcade.org

REGISTER NOW:

bit.ly/3KuhLES

In-person Workshop at

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1502 W. 13th St, Wilmington, DE

SAT, OCT. 21
9A - 3P



Please Support Our Work

Live United!

If you would like to support our efforts to help build a better Delaware, please donate to United Way of Delaware [here](#). You can make a one-time donation or a recurring monthly contribution. When you give to the United Way of Delaware you're joining individuals and organizations who are working together to improve life for everyone in Delaware and Salem County (NJ). We appreciate your support.



United Way of Delaware



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