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Enlaces Latinos: Newsletter of the New York Latino Research and Resources Network

New York Latino Research and Resources Network

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Enlaces Latinos

Newsletter of the New York Latino Research and Resources Network

Labor, Migration, Socioeconomic Status Colloquium



NYLARNet colloquium participants from left to right, Dr. José E. Cruz, Lina Rincón, Guillermo Pérez, Dr. Chris Bose.

On October 23, 2008, NYLARNet held a colloquium as part of its annual series to present three perspectives on the situation of Latinos in the Capital Region of New York State. Three presentations explored the motivation of Latinos to migrate upstate as well as their working and living experiences in the region. Guillermo Pérez, from the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LACLA), talked about immigration and the labor movement. Chris Bose, from UAlbany's Sociology Department presented on the socio-economic status of Latinos and Lina Rincón, also from UAlbany's Sociology Department, shared preliminary findings of her study of Latino intra-state migration. Dr. José E. Cruz moderated the panel. The colloquium was co-sponsored by LACLA, the Department of Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies, the Department of Sociology, and the Department of Political Science at UAlbany.

NYLARNet Launches Latino Political Barometer

by Dr. José E. Cruz

In November 2008, NYLARNet contracted with Opinion Access, Inc., a private polling firm, to carry out a post-election survey of Latinos in six Northeastern states: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania. This survey is the first of NYLARNet's Latino Political Barometer (LPB), a project established in January 2008 to gauge the political attitudes, values, and behavior of Latinos in the Northeast. The long-term goal of the LPB is to generate public opinion data and analysis on topical social, economic, and political questions as well as longitudinal data from a comparative perspective, focusing on Latinos. The focus on Latinos seeks to gather both aggregate and discrete data to assess and compare the political culture and behavior of Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Cubans, Dominicans, Colombians and any other demographically significant Latino subgroup in the region.

In 2000, New York State Latinos were 15 percent of the total population but in New York City they were 27 percent of all residents. In Connecticut, Latinos were 9 percent of the state population but in Hartford, the state capital, they constituted 41 percent of the total. Hartford is the only New England city with a Puerto Rican-origin mayor. New Haven also hosts a large Latino community that in 2000 represented 21 percent of the total; so does Bridgeport with a Latino community that was 32 percent of its residents in 2000. Massachusetts and Rhode Island are also important centers of Latino concentration with populations that were 7 and 9 percent Latino respectively, according to the decennial census. In cities such as Boston and Providence,

Latinos comprised 14 and 30 percent of the population respectively at the last official count. The Latino population of New Jersey was 13 percent of the total; in Pennsylvania their proportion was much smaller, only 3 percent, but in Philadelphia they were 9 percent of all residents in 2000 and their proportion is currently estimated at over 10 percent. Between 1990 and 2000 the Latino population grew by 50 percent in Connecticut; 49 percent in Massachusetts; 51 percent in New Jersey; 30 percent in New York; 70 percent in Pennsylvania; and 99 percent in Rhode Island. In 2000, Latinos were 10.3 percent of the total population in these six states.

Census estimates for New York document systematic Latino population growth since 2000. Interestingly, the greatest increases were registered outside areas of traditional concentration such as Bronx county, which registered a modest 7.82% growth from 2000 to 2007, and Kings county where the Latino population grew in numbers only by 1.36%. While the Latino population in New York County decreased by 3.12%, Latino numbers grew by 24% in Albany county, by 29% in Delaware county, by 37% in Dutchess county, by 31% in Richmond county, by 22% in Westchester county, and by an astonishing 62% in Putnam county. New York City continues to be the area of greatest concentration but a dispersion pattern is clearly afoot. As Latinos spread out throughout New York, it is important to gauge any changes this may cause in their political attitudes and political behavior. This, the LPB intends to do for New York and for other states where Latinos are also on the move.

For more information on the LPB and the results of our first survey go to www.nylarnet.org

City Variation in the Socioeconomic Status of Latinos in New York State: 2000-2005

by Dr. Chris Bose

NYLARNet's report "City Variation in the Socioeconomic Status of Latinos in New York State" concluded that by 2000 the geographic dispersion of Latinos across New York did not consistently result in the positive socioeconomic outcomes that many might have expected when they decided to live in smaller cities outside of New York City, such as Albany, Buffalo, Rochester or Syracuse. A new report, "Changes in Socioeconomic Status—City Variations Among Latino New Yorkers, 2000-2005" documents important changes in Latino economic outcomes during the first five years of the new century.

In recent years, we have seen increased geographic dispersion of Latinos throughout the Northeast region and more generally across the United States, spurring growth in newer communities and decline in older ones. For example, in New York City the Puerto Rican population dropped by 6.2 percent between 2000 and 2005 (from 839,073 to 787,046 people). Although this Latino dispersion is often motivated by the search for a better community, reality often thwarts motivation. In 2000, the geographic dispersion of Latinos across New York did not consistently result in positive socioeconomic outcomes.

A comparison of census data for 2000 and 2005 shows that Latinos have increased their high school graduation rates in all cities in New York State for which there is comparative data, except in Buffalo, where graduation rates are holding steady. However, there is some variation, with rather low graduation rates in Rochester (56.7%) and relatively high ones in Nassau County (68.8%). Over this same five-year period the non-Hispanic white high school graduation rate increased, too, but not as quickly as among Latinos. Similar to the trend for high school diplomas, rates of bachelor's degrees (BAs) for Latinos and non-Hispanic whites also have increased over the five year period, except in Buffalo where fewer of both

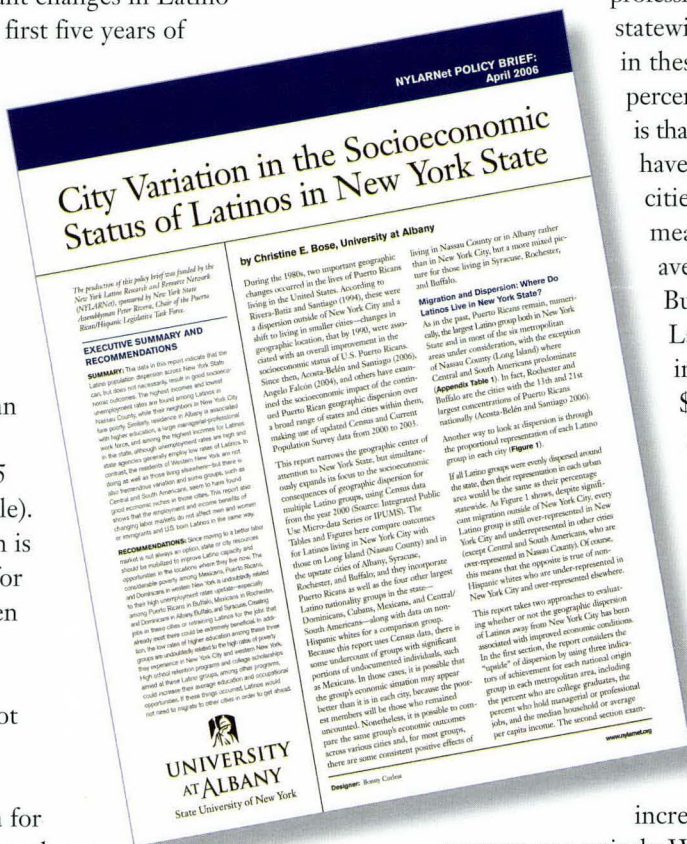
groups are college graduates in 2005 than previously, suggesting that the college-educated are seeking jobs elsewhere.

One important measure of success is employment in managerial and professional work. This analysis shows that the statewide percentage of Latinos in these jobs remained fairly stable between 2000 and 2005 at about 20.7 percent, while non-Hispanic whites increased their hold on these jobs by about 2 percent to reach 42.5 percent employment in managerial or professional work. Because of this pattern, the statewide gap between Latinos and whites in these jobs is large and has increased by 2 percent. In terms of income, the good news is that, statewide, Latino household incomes have increased over five years in all the cities for which there are comparable measures, and the Latino household average is \$33,472. However, in Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse, Latinos have much lower household incomes, ranging from \$18,301 to \$20,559, reflecting both job opportunities in upstate economies and fewer highly educated Latinos.

These figures are near or below the 2005 national poverty level of \$19,971 for a family of four.

The flip side of income is, precisely, poverty. Between 2000 and 2005, the percentage of both non-Hispanic whites and of Latinos living below the poverty level in New York State increased only slightly, by .83 and .44 percent, respectively. While about one quarter of New York's Latinos lived below the poverty level in 2005, Latinos had dropped from being 3.2 times more likely to live in poverty than non-Hispanic whites in 2000 to being 2.9 times more likely to do so in 2005. Still, there was considerable variation across the state: Latino poverty sharply increased in Buffalo (29.4% to 43.4%), but decreased somewhat in Nassau County (12.8% to 10.3%). In almost all settings, both non-Hispanic white women and Latinas were more likely to be poor than their respective men.

For the full report including policy recommendations go to www.nylarnet.org



NYLARNet Finds Disparities in Latino Political Representation

by Jackie Hayes

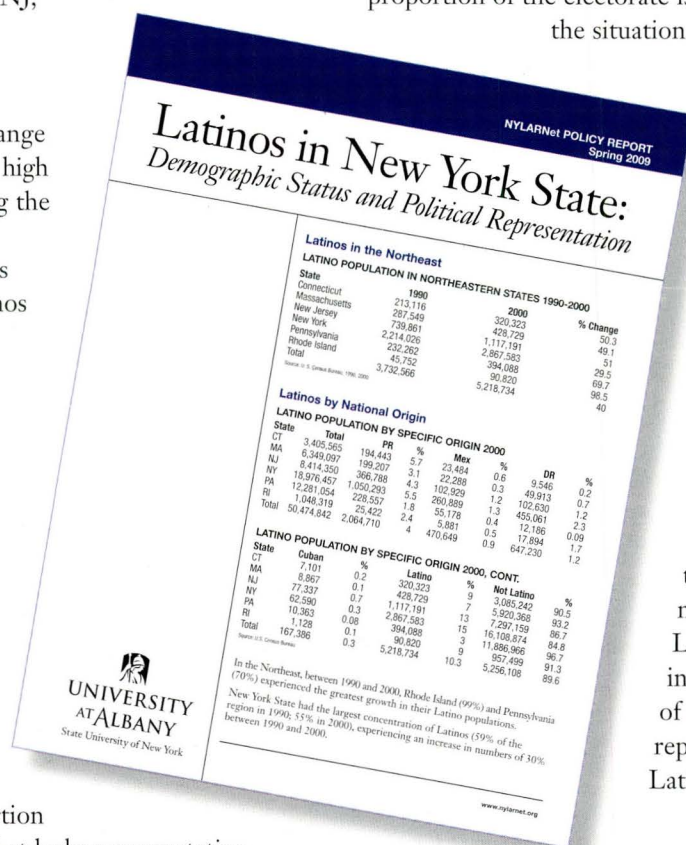
Although Latinos are over 15 percent of the New York State population, they comprise only 11 percent of the elected officials in the state legislature and the New York City council, according to NYLARNet's report, *Latinos in New York State: Demographic Status and Political Representation*. The report is a compilation and analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data gathered by the Center for Social and Demographic Analysis at the University at Albany.

Northeastern states (CT, MA, NJ, NY, PA, RI) have experienced a significant increase in Latino populations from 1990-2000. Increases in Latino populations range from a low of 30 percent (NY) to a high of 99 percent (RI). Despite having the lowest percentage increase in Latino populations, New York has the largest concentration of Latinos in the Northeast (59% of the region in 1990; 55% in 2000).

Puerto Ricans are the largest Latino group in the Northeast (4% of the total population in selected states) and New York State has the largest concentration of Puerto Ricans (they are 5% of the total state population). Even though Puerto Rican elected officials at the state legislature and the New York City council are 8% of the total, there is a significant proportion of the Puerto Rican population that lacks representation due to their geographic dispersion. Dominicans are the second largest group in the region and New York is also the location with the greatest numbers. They are 2% of the state population and Dominican elected officials are 2% of all elected officials at the state legislature and the New York City Council. Overall, however, even though Latino populations have increased significantly, Latinos continue to experience disparities in political representation.

Latinos are the majority population in 14 Assembly Districts in the state yet only nine districts (Districts 39, 51, 53, 72, 76, 78, 84, 85, and 86), are represented by Latino elected officials. In Senate District 31, where Latinos are the majority of the voting age population, they have no Latino representation. New York City has the largest concentration of Latinos in the state. The gap between their proportion of the population and their proportion of the electorate is small (2% points), echoing the situation at the county level.

In the three districts where Latinos are 40% or more but less than 50% of the population, they have Latino representation in only one district (District 6 in Suffolk County). Only two Latinos from New York serve in the United States Congress — Nydia Velázquez (CD 12) and José Serrano (CD 16), representing districts where Latinos are 49 and 63% of the population respectively. However, there are at least two congressional districts, number 7 and 15, where Latinos ought to be at least influential in the selection of the next congressional representative or have direct Latino representation.



For the full report go to
www.nylarnet.org

Latinas Face Barriers to Health Care in the Capital Region

by Jackie Hayes

Barriers to health care have resulted in Latinas delaying the use of preventive health care, including screenings and seeking mental health services. According to a NYLARNet report, almost 70 percent of Latinas reported delaying health care, primarily due to the cost of care, health literacy, and access to transportation.

The Capital District of New York has seen a 185 percent rise in Latino population from 1980 to 2000. While all Latinos in the state face barriers to health care, Latinas in rural areas and in smaller communities tend to face different obstacles than those in areas with larger Latino populations.

Language and cultural barriers identified between Latinas and their providers may also contribute to Latinas delaying health care. The study points out that "about 29 percent of women reported leaving their provider's office with directions they did not understand, 33.6 percent felt that the doctor had misunderstood them when they described their symptoms, and one third felt uncomfortable asking questions about their care, treatment, or prescription."

Miscommunications could lead to inadequate treatment, prolonged illness, or an increase in severity due to a symptom

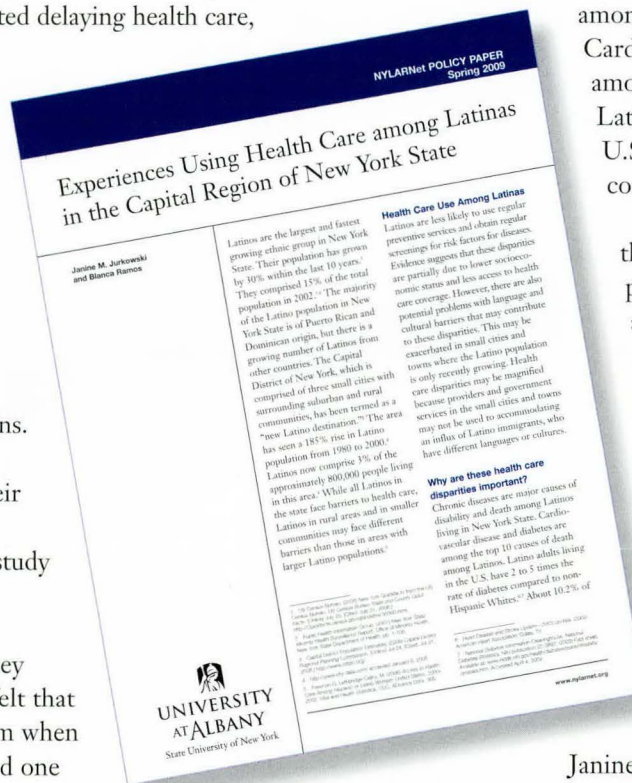
or illness not being addressed. Seeking out preventive health care is especially important for Latinas because chronic diseases are a major cause of disability and death among them in New York State.

Cardiovascular disease and diabetes are among the top 10 causes of death among Latinas and Latino adults living in the U.S. have 2-5 times the rate of diabetes compared to non-Hispanic Whites.

The report recommends increasing the number of Spanish speaking service providers in the Capital District, as well as offering cultural competency training for local providers, which could "improve sensitivity of providers and also prevent misunderstandings that occur between a proportion of Latinas and their providers."

The report, *Experiences Using Health Care Among Latinas in the Capital Region of New York State*, summarizes the findings of a study of Latinas in Albany, Schenectady, Montgomery, and Rensselaer Counties conducted in 2007 by

Janine M. Jurkowski, an Assistant Professor at UAlbany's School of Public Health and Blanca M. Ramos, an Associate Professor at UAlbany's School of Social Welfare.



For the full report go to www.nylarnet.org

NYLARNet Publications Online

Gregory Acevedo, Manny González, Victoria Santiago, and Carlos Vargas Ramos, *The Status of Latino Health/Mental Health in New York State*.

Clive Belfield, *The Costs of Inadequate Education in New York State*.

Christine E. Bose, *City Variation in the Socioeconomic Status of Latinos in New York State*.

José E. Cruz, *Looking Backward, Looking Forward: Puerto Ricans in the Quest for the New York City Mayoralty*.

José E. Cruz, editor, *Latino Immigration Policy: Context, Issues, Alternatives*. Papers presented at NYLARNet's Latino Immigration Policy Conference, November 3, 2006. **Also Available In Paperback. See page 7.**

José E. Cruz, Cecilia Ferradino, and Sally Friedman, *Latino Voting in the 2004 Election: The Case of New York*.

Anthony De Jesús and Daniel W. Vasquez, *Exploring the Education Profile and Pipeline for Latinas in New York State*.

James Freeman and Gilbert Marzán, *From the South Bronx to Sobro: Gentrification in Mott Haven, The Bronx*.

Janine M. Jurkowski and Blanca Ramos, *Experiences Using Health Care Among Latinas in the Capital Region of New York State*.

NALEO, *A Report on Accessibility of Polling Places in the November 2005 Election: The Experience of New York Voters*.

NYLARNet Report, *Latinas in New York State: Demographic Status and Political Representation*.

Felipe Pimentel, *The Decline of Puerto Rican Full-Time Faculty at the City University of New York (CUNY) from 1981-2002*.

Blanca M. Ramos and Janine M. Jurkowski, *Latinas in Small Cities in Upstate New York: Health and Mental Health Issues*.

Victoria Santiago, *Constricted Airways: Status of Asthma Among Puerto Ricans and Latinas in New York State*.

Carlos Vargas Ramos, *The State of Housing for Hispanics in the United States*.

To access or purchase NYLARNet's publications go to www.nylarnet.org

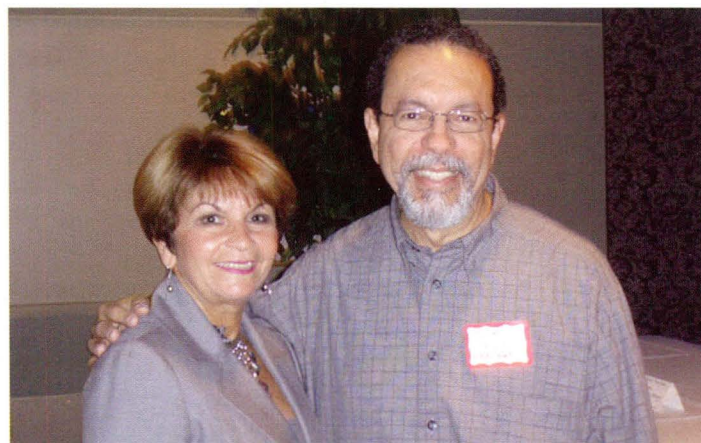
NYLARNet Goes to Puerto Rico and Rochester

Dissemination is an important part of NYLARNet's work. In October 2008, NYLARNet joined efforts with its lead partner center, the Center for Latino, Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CELAC) at the University at Albany, to travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico on the occasion of the 8th conference of the Puerto Rican Studies Association, held from October 1-4. NYLARNet and CELAC co-sponsored a table at the conference where participants could purchase or acquire recent CELAC and NYLARNet publications. NYLARNet's director, Dr. José E. Cruz, also presented a paper on Puerto Rican politics in New York City during the 1960s and Dr. Edna Acosta Belén, CELAC Director and Chair of NYLARNet's advisory board at UAlbany, presented a paper on New York's Puerto Rican tabaquero culture during the 1920s and 1930s.



From left to right, Dr. Edna Acosta-Belén and Dr. José E. Cruz behind the CELAC/NYLARNet table at PRSA.

In Rochester, Puerto Ricans and other Latinos have had a longstanding presence. On October 17, 2008, the Ibero-American Action League of Rochester, a group founded in 1968, hosted the second annual Latino Upstate Summit. This event brought together Latinos from across the state for a one-day conference replete with workshops on topics such as education, immigration, and health, as well as cultural activities. In keeping with its mission to pay special attention to upstate Latino communities, NYLARNet reserved space to disseminate its publications, all of which were quickly snapped up by the participants.



At the Rochester Latino Summit, Hilda Rosario Escher, President and CEO of Ibero-American Action League, and Dr. José E. Cruz.



Rochester Latino Summit, from left to right, County Legislator and Ibero Board President José Cruz, Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy, and Roberto Burgos, Ibero Board member.



Plenary session at the Rochester Latino Summit.

NYLARNet Ongoing Projects 2008-09

POLITICS AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- *Electoral Data Collection By Race and Ethnicity: An Analysis and Comparison*

Principal Investigators, Dr. José E. Cruz, Director, NYLARNet and Jackie Hayes, Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies Department, University at Albany.

This project examines the practice of electoral data collection by race and ethnicity in comparative perspective to understand the reasons why some states collect data by race and ethnicity and others, specifically New York State, do not. The analysis aims at developing an argument for the collection of electoral data by race and ethnicity in New York with guidelines for implementation.

- *Latino Political Participation in the 2008 Election: The Case of New York City*

Principal Investigator, Lori Minnite, Barnard College, Columbia University.

This project is an analysis of the voting behavior, political attitudes, and political concerns of native- and foreign-born Latinos in the city of New York on November 2008.

- *Latino Political Participation in the 2008 Election: The Case of New York State*

Principal Investigator, Lori Minnite, Barnard College, Columbia University.

This project seeks to produce estimates of Latino registration and turnout statewide by assembly districts, by areas of demographic concentration, by partisan affiliation, and by New York City borough using an ecological regression statistical analysis.

- *University Collaborative 2008 Election Exit Poll*

Research collaboration between NYLARNet, Columbia University, The City University of New York, and the New York Immigration Coalition.

This poll seeks to identify and understand the demographic characteristics, political attitudes, and political behavior of immigrant New Yorkers, including Latino native- and foreign-born citizens, during the 2008 presidential election.

EDUCATION

- *Bilingual Education Provision in New York State: Requirements and Gaps*

Principal Investigator, Jennifer Woodward, Political Science Department, University at Albany, State University of New York. Advisors: Dr. José E. Cruz, Director NYLARNet and Carmen Pérez Hogan, State Department of Education (Ret.).

This research will review compliance with requirements to provide bilingual education program in selected New York State schools districts, establish the reasons for non-compliance, and make recommendations for service provision.

- *Implementation of College In-State Tuition Benefits for Undocumented Immigrants in New York*

Principal Investigator, Kevin J. Dougherty, Institute for Urban and Minority Education, Teachers College, Columbia University.

This case study will investigate how New York's in-state tuition legislation for undocumented immigrants has been implemented. The goal is to expand postsecondary access for undocumented immigrants by informing New York policy leaders in government, education, and the community about the challenges faced in the implementation of the in-state tuition policy. Moreover, the study's findings may have wider relevance,

since the challenges undocumented students find in gaining college access are likely to be reflective of challenges undocumented immigrants generally face in gaining access to other social services as well.

- *Schools and Latino Immigrants in Northern Manhattan*

Principal Investigator, Regina Cortina, Institute for Urban and Minority Education, Teachers College, Columbia University.

This project will research the characteristics of the Latino student population in the north Manhattan region comprising Central Harlem, Manhattanville, Hamilton Heights, and south Washington Heights and examine the implications for educational interventions currently being planned. This research will provide data aiming to build greater understanding of the cultural, racial, and ethnic contexts that are crucial to strengthening public education and addressing the learning needs of Latino students.

IMMIGRATION

- *New York State Internal Migration: The Latino Experience*

Principal Investigators: Lina Rincón and Katherine Platt, CELAC, University at Albany.

This research seeks to understand the reasons for migration of Latinos within New York State to the Capital region, with a focus on Albany.

Mission and Contact Information

In 2004, with initial funding from the New York State Assembly under the leadership of Assemblyman Peter M. Rivera as well as in-kind support from the University at Albany, the New York Latino Research and Resources Network (NYLARNet) was created to conduct and sponsor policy-relevant research focused on Latinos in New York State. The network is a project of the Center for Latino, Latin American, and Caribbean Studies (CELAC) at the University at Albany and it was originally constituted by CELAC, the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College, CUNY, and the Institute for Urban Minority Education at Columbia University. Currently the consortium also includes the Institute for Dominican Studies at City College, CUNY and the Latino Studies Program at Cornell University. NYLARNet brings together the combined expertise of scholars and other professionals doing research in four target areas: Health, Education, Immigration, and Politics. NYLARNet addresses a broad spectrum of concerns related to these four target areas and it disseminates its work among legislators, public agencies, community organizations, and the media. NYLARNet pays special attention to the realities and needs of the largely neglected Latino populations outside of New York City.

DR. JOSÉ E. CRUZ

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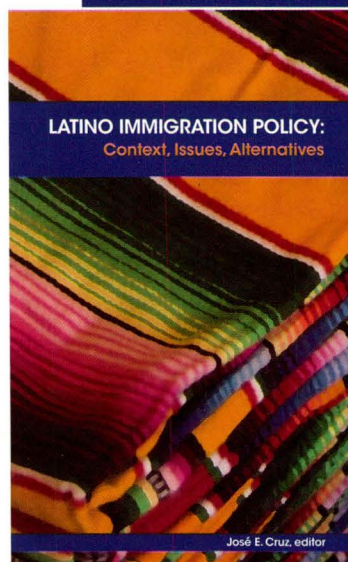
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LATINO IMMIGRATION POLICY: Context, Issues, Alternatives

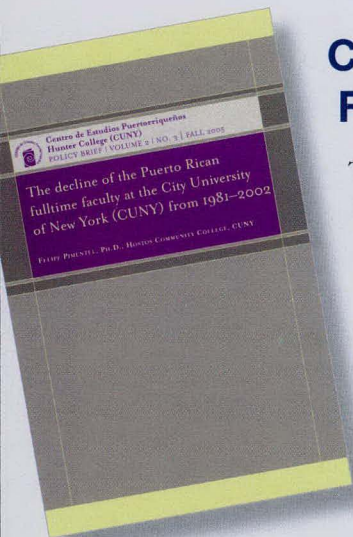
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CUNY Latino Faculty Initiative

The primary functions of this initiative, which was originally named the CUNY Puerto Rican Faculty Recruitment Project, are to conduct outreach and recruitment activities in all disciplines at CUNY and to work with CUNY colleges to connect candidates with positions available within the CUNY system. The original project was established by CUNY Chancellor

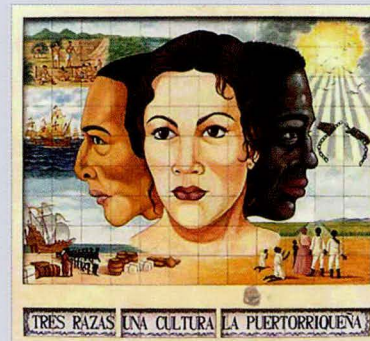
Mathew Goldstein in 2006 in response to the publication of *The Decline of the Puerto Rican Full-time Faculty at the City University of New York (CUNY) From 1981-2002*, a Centro/NYLARNet policy paper authored by Hostos Community College Professor Felipe Pimentel.

For more information contact Professor Andrés Torres at andres.torres@hunter.cuny.edu

U.S. Latino Studies at the University at Albany

For more than three decades the Department of Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies (LACS) has promoted interdisciplinary research and teaching in area and ethnic studies. LACS is particularly proud of its pioneering role in offering instruction and training in Puerto Rican studies and more recently in the broader field of U.S. Latino Studies. The core Latino Studies faculty consists of Distinguished Professor Edna Acosta-Belén (Literature and Women's Studies), Associate Professor José E. Cruz (political science), and Professor Pedro Cabán (political science). Cabán is currently Vice Provost for Diversity and Educational Equity at SUNY Central Administration.

For more information go to www.albany.edu/lacs



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