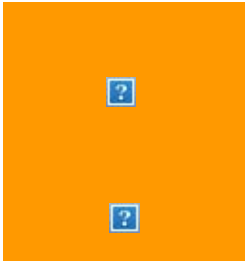


From: [Angelo Falcon](#)
To: [Angelo Falcon](#)
Subject: NiLP Latino Census Network: Census Bureau Meets with Latino Leaders
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Census Bureau Heads Meet with Latino Leaders

The NiLP Network on Latino Issues (December 13, 2012)

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Latino leaders representing the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) met with the Acting Director of the US Census Bureau and his senior staff on December 3, 2012 in Washington, DC to discuss Latino concerns about planning for the 2020 Census and related issues. The immediate issue that prompted the meeting was community concern about the underrepresentation of Latinos on the Census Bureau's newly-created National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations.

The Census Bureau committed itself to meeting with the NHLA at least once a year to discuss, in an ongoing fashion, Latino concerns and ways that the Latino community can support the work of the Bureau. The December 3rd meeting was a follow-up to a similar gathering held early last year between the NHLA and then Census Director Bob Groves and then Deputy Director Mesenbourg.

Latino Underrepresentation

Mesenbourg, who is now the Census' Acting Director, explained that he will be making every effort to assure full Latino participation on their [National Advisory Committee](#) on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations (NAC) on both its membership and in the ad-hoc Working Groups that it will be forming to conduct its work. He reported that the NAC will have a number of openings in its membership this and next year and that it will be forming three Working Groups on specific topics that will present additional opportunities to include Latino experts on a variety of subjects. Currently, the National Advisory Committee has only three Latinos among its 32 members (9 percent).

The Census Bureau also agreed to develop a more targeted and coordinated approach to addressing the long-standing problem of Latino underrepresentation at all levels and especially at the upper management (GS-14/GS-15 and Career Senior Executive Service [SES] levels), on its staff. Latinos currently only make up 7 percent of Census Bureau staff, despite being 15 percent of the civilian labor force.

There was agreement that [a different approach](#) is required to address this Hispanic employment problem at the Bureau, including serious consideration of the NHLA's proposal to create a special task force focused on Latinos. Associate Director Steve Jost agreed to develop a media strategy starting with a webinar geared specifically towards Hispanics on career opportunities in the Bureau. In addition, Arturo Vargas of NALEO explained that the NHLA will be meeting with the Commerce Secretary to discuss ways to increase the appointment of Latinos to senior policy level positions within the Census Bureau and other agencies of the Commerce Department.

Related to this, the Census Bureau will be providing the NHLA with quarterly equal employment opportunity (EEO) reports on the racial-ethnic breakdown of its staff. This

information, it was suggested, should be broken down by headquarters staff, national processing centers and for each of the Bureau's regional offices. They will also be providing a written version of the data presented at the meeting by the Acting Director on the impact of the [current reorganization of the Bureau's regional offices](#) on Latino staffing and community outreach efforts. They are in the process of reducing the number of regional offices they operate from 12 down to 6.

The Future of the Race and Hispanic Questions

The Census Bureau committed itself as well to co-sponsoring a national briefing in 2013 on the findings and recommendations of the [Alternative Questionnaire Experiment \(AQE\) research](#) on potential changes in the race and Hispanic questions for the 2020 Census. They agreed to work with the National Institute for Latino Policy (NiLP) and the NALEO Educational Fund as they develop meetings and conferences on this issue. Related to this research on the race and Hispanic questions, the Bureau will be making available to eligible researchers raw data from the 2010 AQE survey and the 67 focus group sessions they conducted for independent analysis on the impact of question changes on the Latino count.

Census Information Centers

The Census Bureau will also be working with the NHLA to increase the participation of Latino institutions in their [Census Information Centers \(CIC\) Program](#), which assists the Bureau in the dissemination of Census data to communities of color and other underserved communities. Associate Director for Communications Jost agreed to make a formal presentation before a meeting of the full membership of the NHLA to encourage their members and other eligible Latino organizations to apply.

The NHLA was represented at the meeting by: Hector Sanchez, NHLA Chair and Executive Director of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA); Angelo Falcón, President of the National Institute for Latino Policy (NiLP); Arturo Vargas, President of the NALEO Educational Fund; and Al Gallegos, President of the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives. Falcón and Vargas are co-chairs of the NHLA Census Subcommittee; Falcón is a member of the Census National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations, and of the Steering Committee of the Census Information Centers (CIC) Program..

The Census Bureau was represented by: Acting Census Director Thomas Mesenbourg; Nancy Potok, Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer; Steve Jost, Associate Director for Communications; Enrique Lamas, Associate Director for Demographic Programs; Frank Vitrano, Associate Director for the 2020 Census; and Angela Manso, Chief of the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. Also present was [Joanne M. Caldwell, Associate Under Secretary for Communications of the US Commerce Department](#), of which the Census Bureau is a part.

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