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Summer Employment Looking Up for Youth Empleo de Verano está Buscando a la Juventud



Clyde McQueen, president and CEO of the Full Employment Council, said the job market this summer is tough for both students and for the more experienced job-seeker. It is an employer's market and they are looking for the right people with the right job skills.

Clyde McQueen, presidente y Ejecutivo del Concilio para el Empleo Completo, dijo que el mercado laboral de este verano es difícil tanto para los estudiantes como para los buscadores de trabajos más experimentados. Es un mercado de los empleadores y ellos buscan a las personas adecuadas con las aptitudes laborales adecuadas.

JOE ARCE AND DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

Adult job applicants are applying for seasonal work that was once the staple of teens looking to fill the summer months. The shrinking job market has adults seeking employment at amusement parks, water parks and fast food restaurants. Teens are finding it harder to obtain the once plentiful part-time employment. The usual job markets that sought teens in previous years, now have hired mature adults.

Teens needing money for college tuition have found themselves walking the pavement, going door to door, dropping off applications and hoping for job interviews that sometimes do not materialize. The shrinking job market has left

VERY COMPETITIVE/PAGE 6

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Postulantes adultos a trabajos están solicitando empleo para trabajos temporales los que una vez fueron el sustento de adolescentes buscando llenar los meses de verano. El decreciente mercado laboral está compuesto por adultos que buscan empleo en los parques de entretenimiento, en parques acuáticos y en restaurantes de comida rápida. Los adolescentes están encontrando que es más difícil obtener los que una vez fueron una plenitud de empleos de medio tiempo. Los mercados laborales usuales que eran buscados por los adolescentes en años previos, ahora han contratado a adultos más maduros.

Los adolescentes que necesitan dinero para matriculas universitarias se han en-

UN MERCADO/PÁGINA 6

MARTINEZ VOWS TO BRIDGE STATE, COMMUNITIES

Martinez promete conectar estado, comunidades

JOE ARCE AND DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

Linda Martinez is making history as the first female director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development. As the highest ranking Hispanic woman in Missouri government, she will oversee state programs and services designed to create and retain jobs, attract businesses and help communities to grow and prosper.

At a recent reception hosted by Consulate of Mexico and by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Mark Funkhouser welcomed Martinez to Kansas City.

"I look forward to working with you and I want to talk with you about the new focus that we have on economic development especially in distressed areas. A significant part of the Latino and Hispanic population in Kansas City live in the Old Northeast and Westside and other areas where we are trying to focus a new approach to economic development that focuses on human capital and infrastructure and work force and growing skills for laborers in the 21st century," said Mayor Funkhouser.

Martinez, of St. Louis, will work closely with Governor Nixon to implement his bi-partisan Show Me JOBS plan which focuses on creating new jobs, supporting small business growth and training Missouri for the jobs of the future.

During her recent visit to Kansas City, she told those gathered at a re-

KC WELCOMES/PAGE 6



Linda Martinez not only made history as the first female director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development. She now wants to connect with cities such as Kansas City and work on building for the future and growing business.

Linda Martínez no hizo tan sólo historia como la primera directora femenina del Departamento de Desarrollo Económico de Missouri. Ella quiere ahora conectarse con ciudades tales como Kansas City y trabajar para construir para el futuro y para el crecimiento de los negocios.

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Linda Martínez está haciendo historia como la primera mujer en ser Directora del Departamento de Desarrollo Económico de Missouri. Como la mujer Hispana de más alto rango en el gobierno de Missouri, ella supervisará programas y servicios del estado diseñados para crear y retener trabajos, atraer a negocios y a ayudar a las comunidades a crecer y a prosperar.

En una reciente recepción patrocinada por la Cámara Hispana de Comercio

y el Consulado de México, el Alcalde Mark Funkhouser le dio la bienvenida a Martínez a Kansas City.

"Espero trabajar con usted y quiero platicar con usted respecto al nuevo enfoque que tenemos en el desarrollo económico especialmente en áreas más desoladas. Una parte significativa de la población latina e hispana de Kansas City vive en el área del Old Northeast y del Westside y en otras áreas en donde estamos tratando de implementar un nuevo enfoque para el desarrollo económico que se enfoque en

KC LE DA LA/PÁGINA 6

AT-RISK STUDENTS CAN CONTINUE EDUCATION WITH VIRTUAL CLASSROOM Estudiantes en riesgo pueden continuar Educándose con el Salón de Clases Virtual

JOE ARCE AND DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

Technology is changing the face of the classroom for students in the inner city. Classrooms today can be literally at their finger tips.

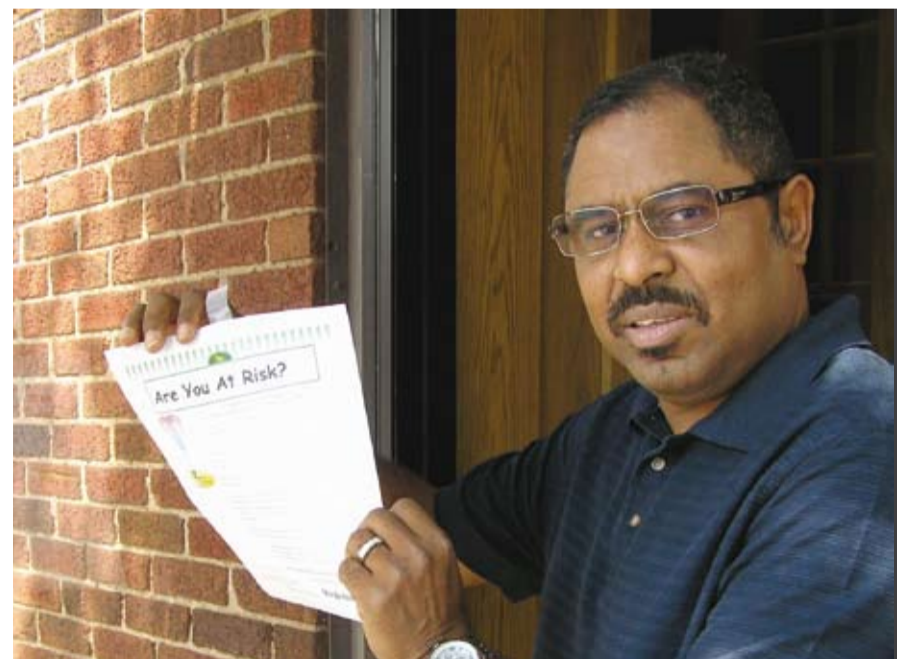
A Second Chance at Learning is a virtual classroom that gives students who may not fit into the traditional classroom an opportunity to learn at their own pace in a curriculum that has been structured to fit their needs.

This unique program is the first one to be offered in Kansas City, Missouri for at-risk-youths between the ages of 10 and 17 years old. The city is paying the \$150 tuition fee for each enrolled student. City administrators and Second Chance instructors see the program as a way to help children become involved in positive activities and steer away from crime, alcohol and drugs.

The program will increase academic, technological, life and social skills literacy for all participants by utilizing a comprehensive customized interactive web based curriculum of online lesson plans in a virtual classroom setting.

"We are a school where the entire curriculum are internet based. All of our lesson plans are delivered across the internet. We customize or personalize an educational environment for each of our participants based off of our assessments that we do with them to determine where their challenges and deficiencies are and allocate lesson plans to address them," said Haywood "Woody" Parker, Technology Training Instructor for Second Chance at Learning.

GOING TO CLASS/PAGE 3



Haywood "Woody" Parker is taking his Second Chance at Learning program into the communities of Kansas City. He is connecting with area civic and community leaders and if area businesses allow him to place a flyer in a window, he believes it will help get his message out to the public.

Woody Parker le está llevando su programa Segunda Oportunidad para Aprender a las comunidades de Kansas City. Él se está conectando con líderes cívicos y comunales del área y si los negocios del área le permiten poner volantes en una ventana, él cree que ello ayudará a llevarle su mensaje al público.

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

La tecnología le está cambiando la cara al salón de clases para los estudiantes del corazón urbano. Los salones de clases de hoy en día pueden literalmente estar al alcance de sus dedos.

El programa una Segunda Oportunidad para Aprender es un salón de clases virtual que le entrega a los estudiantes, que pudieran no tener cupo en un salón de clases tradicion-

al, una oportunidad para aprender a su propio paso utilizando un currículo que ha sido estructurado para adaptarse a sus necesidades.

Este programa único es el primero en ser ofrecido en Kansas City, Missouri para estudiantes en riesgo que se encuentran entre las edades de 10 y 17 años. La ciudad está pagando los \$150 millones del costo de la matrícula para cada estudiante inscrito. Administradores de la ciudad e instructores del programa Segunda Oportunidad ven

ASISTIR A CLASES/PÁGINA 3

RECALL EFFORT MAY NOT BE OVER

JOE ARCE AND TONY BALANDRAN
HISPANIC NEWS

Organizers of a petition drive to oust Mayor Mark Funkhouser are asking the City Clerk to recount the signatures submitted for a recall election. Last weekend, city election officials determined that the submitted petitions containing the names of registered Kansas City voters were 129 signatures shy of the required 16,950.

Now members of the Committee to Recall Mark Funkhouser is asking the City Clerk's office for detailed written guidelines, including time limits and procedures, about how a recount of the petitions is conducted — a process that is not stipulated in the city charter.

In a letter to City Clerk Vickie Thompson, the committee spokesman, Harris Wilder, wrote: "As you know, more than 21,000 signatures were submitted and the initial count is short by 129 signatures. We believe that seven-tenths of 1 percent is such a small margin that a recount is justified."

The letter acknowledges that there is no defined procedure for a recount of a recall petition. According to The Kansas City Star, the city clerk rejected

20 percent of the 20,811 signatures. Among the reasons listed were that some signers were not registered voters or lived outside the city limits or whose signatures did not match city records.

Wilder's letter also asks for the clerk's office to supply the committee with all the documents and databases used to verify or disqualify signatures. "We realize how much pressure your office is under and we thank you for your help and consistent good humor," Wilder wrote.

Susan Ramirez, an organizer who has been with the recall effort from the beginning, said she was disappointed about the clerk's findings but is hopeful that the margin will shrink after a recount. She said the mayor has not heard the last of the committee.

"He is accountable to me, to you and to all of Kansas City. We will not slink away, rather continue to force this man to do his elected job," Ramirez told *Hispanic News*.

Since the recall campaign began, Funkhouser has stated several times that the effort would fail. In a written statement, Funkhouser said, "To those of you who signed the recall petitions I pledge to work harder to gain your trust. I hope you understand that I am doing my best to fulfill my election promises and do what I believe is right for the city of Kansas City."

Ramirez said the mayor's intentions are too little too late.

"He is a proven liar," she said. "I put no stock in what he says, but maybe, just maybe there will be real action on his part."

NCLR PRESIDENT CALLS ON REPUBLICAN LEADERS TO DENOUNCE EXTREMIST RHETORIC SURROUNDING SOTOMAYOR NOMINATION

Saying that, "The Republican party is better than this," Janet Murguía, president and CEO of the National Council of La Raza — the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States — called on Republican leaders to denounce the extremist rhetoric surrounding the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court. She also released a petition asking them to restore the debate to a more appropriate level of civil discourse. In three days, the petition has gathered about 2,500 signatures.

"The nomination of Judge Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court was an historic and proud moment for Latinos in America," said Murguía. "But as proud as our community is over her nomination, we have been stunned and repelled by the visceral reaction it has generated among many in the Republican party."

Murguía cited a number of

extreme statements by voices within the Republican party that have gone virtually unchallenged since the Sotomayor nomination by President Barack Obama.

Rush Limbaugh, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former Congressman and presidential candidate Tom Tancredo, and others are claiming that Sotomayor is a "reverse racist." Mark Krikorian of the Center for Immigration Studies — the "think tank" of white supremacist John Tanton's anti-immigrant groups — and the National Review online attacked Judge Sotomayor for pronouncing her own name correctly.

In an article that appeared in The Hill newspaper, Republican insiders are quoted as being "concerned" that Sotomayor's avowed love of arroz con gandules and other Puerto Rican delicacies will cloud her judicial decision-making. Conservative commentator Debbie Schlusel

called Sotomayor "Judge J-Lo" and suggested that she was about as qualified to be on the Supreme Court as the well-known singer.

"Clearly," said Murguía, "her ethnicity has proven to be too much of a temptation for those who give voice to hate and extremism. Instead of looking at her judicial record, they have launched a vocal rampage that has reached new heights of absurdity."

"While we applaud Senator John Cornyn's call for civility, these gross mischaracterizations of Judge Sotomayor coupled with the deafening silence of the Republican leadership are leaving many within our community with a disturbing picture of the Republican party. Much hangs in the balance, including our votes."

"We are calling on Republican National Committee Chair Michael Steele, House Minority Leader John Boehner, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch

McConnell to stand up to the extremists. Stand up for your party. Stand up for what is best in America. We are better than this. The Republican party is better than this."

In one attack on Judge Sotomayor late last week, Tom Tancredo faulted the Justice nominee for being a member of "La Raza" and likened Murguía's organization to a "Latino KKK."

"It was offensive, shameful, and a slap in the face to my predecessor, Raul Yzaguirre, who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to secure civil rights for all Americans," said Murguía. "Raising questions and concerns about Judge Sotomayor's 17-year record on the bench is legitimate. Resorting to outdated stereotypes, defamation of character, and outright falsehoods is not."

For more information, visit www.nclr.org.

PUBLISHER EDITORIAL



JOE ARCE
HISPANIC NEWS

hasn't lived that life." The comment is harmless, but self-righteous conservatives already are calling on her withdrawal as the court nominee.

President Barack Obama has nominated federal Judge Sonia Sotomayor for the U.S. Supreme Court. If confirmed, she would be the first Latino and third woman to serve on the nation's highest court. That notion is admirable and certainly, it would be another milestone coming on the heels of another great moment in history — the election of the first African-American president.

But a comment that Sotomayor made eight years ago is making headlines and fueling a Republican campaign against the judge, who many in judicial circles are describing as a brilliant judge with impeccable qualifications to serve on the Supreme Court.

At issue is a comment she made at a 2001 Duke Law School symposium. According to CNN, Sotomayor spoke about her hope that "a wise Latina woman would more often than not reach a better conclusion than a white male who

Even one talk-show host, Rush Limbaugh, is calling Sotomayor a racist wrapped in a judicial robe and her affiliation with the National Council of La Raza an association with a racist group. That is one talk-show host who is ill-informed and usually as the cheerleader and mouthpiece for the Republican Party, he is the first to slam — whether it is a candidate, group, or law — that remotely appears ethnic-friendly.

Sotomayor has a three-decade legal career that includes big-city prosecutor, corporate litigator, federal trial judge and federal appellate judge. She deserves to be heard. Her comment is not enough to warrant her withdrawal. She is not accused of anything illegal. She spoke her opinion, which is what judges do.

So did Sotomayor misspeak? Did she make a human error? You be the judge. Give Sotomayor her day in the court of public opinion.

El partido republicano es mejor que esto

JANET MURGUÍA

La nominación de la jueza Sonia Sotomayor para la Corte Suprema de EE.UU. fue un momento histórico y de orgullo para los latinos que viven en Estados Unidos, y para el país en general. Aunque como comunidad latina estamos orgullosos de su nombramiento, también estamos sorprendidos y nos sentimos descorazonados por la reacción visceral generada en muchos miembros del partido Republicano. Su origen étnico, claramente ha demostrado ser una tentación para aquellos que promueven el odio y el extremismo. En lugar de ver su currículum judicial, han creado un alboroto desenfrenado llegando a lo absurdo.

Mark Krikorian del Centro de Estudios de la Inmigración — el "centro de pensamiento" de los grupos anti-inmigrante del supremacista blanco John Tanton — y sus cuates del National Review online están fuera de sí porque la jueza Sotomayor tuvo la osadía de pronunciar su propio apellido correctamente. Básicamente dijeron que si ella fuera una verdadera estadounidense, lo pronunciaría de una manera diferente.

En un artículo aparecido en el periódico The Hill, los mismos republicanos están, en sus mismas palabras, "preocupados" de que el amado arroz con gandules y otras delicias puertorriqueñas pudieran nublar la toma de decisiones

judiciales de Sotomayor. La comentarista conservadora Debbie Schlusel la llamó "Judge J-Lo" y sugirió que estaba tan capacitada como la conocida cantante para estar en la Corte Suprema.

Éste, sin embargo, ha sido el peor.

Tom Tancredo, ex-congresista, candidato presidencial fracasado y extremista anti-inmigrante, afirmó que la jueza Sotomayor es "racista", y siendo incapaz de proporcionar una pizca de evidencia que respalde dicha afirmación, Tancredo estalló en CNN diciendo que Sotomayor pertenece al "KKK latino".

Tancredo se refería a mi organización, el Consejo Nacional de La Raza, una organización nacional de apoyo y defensa de los derechos civiles de los latinos, que fue fundada hace 40 años y que trabaja con otras organizaciones comunitarias de todo el país, para ayudar a que las familias latinas alcancen el Sueño Americano. Tal caracterización es ofensiva, vergonzosa y una auténtica cachetada en la cara de mis antecesores, los cuales marcharon con el Dr. Martín Luther King, Jr. para garantizar los derechos civiles de todos los estadounidenses.

El NCLR ha sido reconocido como una de las diez mejores organizaciones sin fines de lucro del país y alabada por congresistas de ambos partidos. Desde nuestra fundación, hemos trabajado mano a mano con otras organizaciones nacionales de derechos civiles de

manera bipartidista para mejorar la vida de todos los estadounidenses.

Plantear interrogantes y preocupaciones sobre los 17 años como magistrado de Sotomayor es legítimo. Recurrir a los estereotipos anticuados, a la difamación, y a la falsedad, no lo es; es reprochable no sólo para los hispanos y las comunidades de color, sino para todos los estadounidenses.

La comunidad hispana siempre ha sido diversa tanto en puntos de vista como en política. Nunca nos hemos inclinado más por un partido que por otro. Si bien aplaudimos el llamado a una discusión cívica del Senador John Cornyn, la burda caracterización de la jueza Sotomayor y el silencio ensordecedor del liderazgo republicano, están dejando a muchos integrantes de nuestra comunidad con una imagen inquietante del Partido Republicano. Hay mucho en juego, incluidos nuestros votos.

Como organización que ha sido anfitriona de los candidatos presi-

denciales y ha reconocido los logros de los miembros del Congreso y del Senado de ambos partidos, apelamos al presidente del Comité Nacional Republicano, Michael Steele; al Líder de la Minoría en la Cámara de Representantes del Congreso, John Boehner; y al Líder de la Minoría del Senado, Mitch McConnell a denunciar estas afirmaciones y a restaurar el proceso de nominación de la juez Sotomayor con un discurso cívico y más apropiado.

Todos sabemos que las nominaciones para la Corte Suprema se politizan, incluso cuando el nominado está tan capacitado como la jueza Sonia Sotomayor. Sin embargo, eso no quiere decir que los políticos tengan carta blanca para atacar al nominado únicamente bajo premisas de raza o etnia. Enfrenten a los agresores. Defiendan a su partido. Defiendan lo que es mejor para los Estados Unidos, porque nosotros — y el partido republicano — somos mejor que esto.

LETTER TO THE PUBLISHER

Judge Sonia Sotomayor, the U.S. Supreme Court nominee, has an excellent educational and experienced judicial background. Comes forth now U.S. Sen. Roberts, Newt Gingrich, Rush Limbaugh — three pots calling the kettle black. Immediately after the announcement, the hate-mongering began to nullify a historical Latina promotion. American democracy? Jealousy? This is dirty politics that is lower than whale poop. It gets worse. Tom Tancredo

joins the fray, and starts the war against Latinos by comparing a respectable national Latino organization with the KKK. This is the 21st Century America where every person through positive achievements merit equality and respect. Yet our so-called political leaders have started a fight with Latinos they can't finish.

Ascension Hernandez
Shawnee, KS

I have just called Senator Robert's office and also emailed him my concern regarding his view on Obama's Nominee for the Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor.

I advised him that the statements from Gingrich and Limbaugh seemed to spur his coming out against Sotomayor. (I'm hoping his views are not racially motivated.)

I stated to his Overland Park Staffer, Ms. Corbin, that the Latino Community in Kansas is apparently outraged by his potential NO vote on Sotomayor's confirmation; also that as a

Kansan I was embarrassed and ashamed of my senator's position on this issue.

Please take time to call or email the esteemed Senator from Kansas and voice your concerns regarding his stance on Sonia Sotomayor.

We need to get behind Obama on his nomination.

Louis Ruiz Kansas State Legislature

Senator Robert's office.

Overland Park, Ks.

913-451-9545

Topeka, Kansas 785-295-2745

Stop the hate now. Republicans have to be called on all the hate they are putting out on talk radio and cable stations. We must be the voice against all the hate towards all Latinos.

Latino organizations must take a stand and unite with other civil rights and Human

Rights organizations. We must have one strong voice against all the voices of hate.

Florentino Camacho Jr.

A very concerned American

Kansas City

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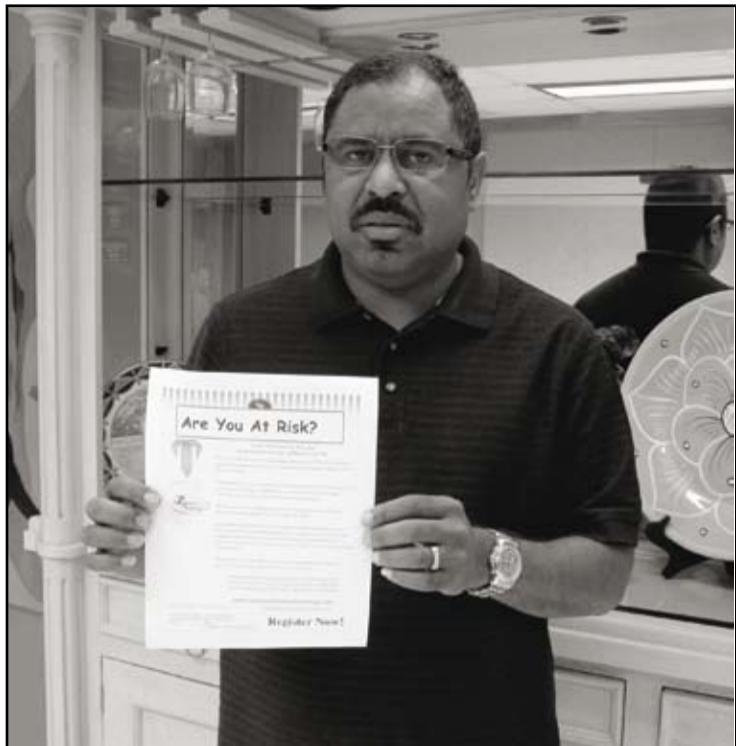
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Going to class on the internet

CONT./PAGE 1



Woody Parker, technology training instructor for Second Chance at Learning, said, 'We are a school where the entire curriculum are internet-based. All of our lesson plans are delivered across the internet.'

Woody Parker, instructor de entrenamiento tecnológico para el programa Segunda Oportunidad para Aprender, dijo, 'Nosotros somos una escuela en donde la totalidad del currículo es basado en la Internet. Todos los planes de nuestras lecciones son entregados a través de la Internet.'

Students can access their lesson plans from their computers at home, at the library or at one of the three curriculum delivery partners in the city. After they are enrolled in the program, a student account is set up and they have access to the lesson plans for a year.

"We encourage our students to come to one of the participants at least twice a week. That gives them the opportunity to have access to the curriculum and also have access to our trained instructor staff," he said.

The curriculum delivery partner sites are located at Vineyard Neighborhood Association, 4301 E. 43rd Street, Alta Vista Guadalupe Charter School, 1722 Holly Street, and the Palestine Neighborhood LINC Center, 3449 Indiana.

Registration brochures for the program are available at the sites. Students can enroll either with the brochure or they can enroll online at www.asecondchanceatlearning.com or they can call the office for more information at 816-682-8477.

The Second Chance at Learning Virtual classroom kicked off on May 4 but it is not too late to register for the program. "Our target is to

register 400 kids between the ages of 10 to 17 years old. We are hoping to exceed that number so that we can go back to Kansas City, Missouri and say we have a waiting list," said Parker.

It is the belief of the instructors at Second Chance that every individual in the global economy needs to have a certain level of technological aptitude. "This gives us the opportunity to increase the literacy of our at-risk population within the urban core communities. A major focus of the program is to reduce crime by increasing self-awareness, self-discipline, self-confidence and technological, life and social skills," he said. The online curriculum will not give the students a GED certificate, but it will help them to prepare to take their GED exam.

"Life is full of choices and we have to be held accountable by the choices we have made. I made the choice instead of following the crowd and fit in socially, I made the choice to exercise what was between my ears. I recognized early in order to change the circumstances in which I grew up in that I had to get an understanding of knowledge. Technology has opened up doors of opportunity

for me and has taken me across the United States to places an inner city kid probably never thought was possible," explained Parker.

The Second Chance program is a supplemental education to individuals who have been left out or left behind in the traditional education system. It also seeks to combat higher truancy and dropout rates. "Being smart is associated with being soft for some reason," said Parker, "and many of our young people feel as though even with an education they won't be successful. I would like to think that I am a living testimony of what technology can do to change your life," he said.

Parker grew up in the urban core of Kansas City. He was raised by a single parent and bounced between three or four schools per school year. He had many obstacles including racism to overcome in the business world but he never let that detour him.

"I recognized that I had a choice to either pursue negative opportunities or positive opportunities. America has changed over the years, when companies network computers are down and they are losing money, it doesn't become about your color, it becomes about your ability," he said.

He understands that not all youth fit the typical mold of the high school and college student. He wants to help those students find their niche in society and to develop their talents into their own business.

"We are focused on creating entrepreneurs and business owners. We want to get our youth to thinking about their talents and how they can develop them into their own business. If they can do that then they do not have to wait by the telephone for someone to hire them. They will learn how to develop a business plan, how to operate their business and develop their talent into a commodity for the community," he said.

Not only is this program reaching out to the youth, it is also reaching out to ex-offenders who will soon be released. They are setting up programs for ex-offenders at least six months prior to their release.

Asistir a clases por internet

CONT./PÁGINA 1

al programa como una manera de ayudar a que los niños participen en actividades positivas y se alejen del crimen, del alcohol y de las drogas.

El programa incrementará las aptitudes académicas, tecnológicas, de la vida cotidiana y sociales de todos los participantes mediante la utilización de un exhaustivo currículo interactivo basado en la Internet que es adaptado para cada necesidad y el cual está compuesto de lecciones en la Internet y es impartido en el entorno de un salón de clases virtual.

"Nosotros somos una escuela en donde la totalidad del currículo es basado en la Internet. Nosotros adaptamos o personalizamos un ambiente educacional para cada uno de nuestros participantes basándonos en las evaluaciones que les hacemos para determinar cuáles son sus desafíos y deficiencias y poder situar los planes de las lecciones para tratarlos", dijo Woody Parker, Instructor de Entrenamiento Tecnológico del programa Segunda Oportunidad para Aprender

Los estudiantes pueden acceder a sus planes de lecciones desde sus computadoras en casa, en la biblioteca o en uno de los tres socios que entregan currículos en la ciudad. Luego de que ellos son inscritos en el programa, a los estudiantes se les abre una cuenta y así ellos tienen acceso a los planes de lecciones por un año.

"Nosotros exhortamos a

nuestros estudiantes a que vengán a uno de los participantes a lo menos dos veces por semana. Eso les da la oportunidad de tener acceso al currículo y también tener acceso a nuestro entrenado personal de instructores", dijo él.

Los sitios de socios de entrega de currículos están ubicados en la Asociación Vecinal Vineyard, del 4301 E. de la Calle 43, en la Escuela Charter Alta Vista Guadalupe, del 1722 de la Calle Holly y en el Centro LINC del Vecindario de Pelestine del 3449 de Indiana.

Folleto de inscripción para el programa están disponibles en esos sitios. Los estudiantes se pueden matricular ya sea con el folleto o lo pueden hacer mediante la Internet en el www.asecondchanceatlearning.com o pueden llamar a la oficina para obtener más información en el 816-682-8477.

El salón de clases Virtual del programa Segunda Oportunidad para Aprender dio su puntapié inicial el 4 de mayo, pero aún es tiempo de inscribirse. "Nuestro objetivo es el de inscribir a 400 jóvenes de entre las edades de 10 a 17 años. Esperamos exceder esa cifra para que podamos regresar a Kansas City, Missouri y decir que tenemos una lista de espera", dijo Parker.

Los instructores de Segunda Oportunidad tienen la creencia que cada persona en la economía global tiene que tener cierto nivel de habilidades tecnológicas. "Esto nos entrega la oportunidad de incrementar el nivel

académico de nuestra población en riesgo dentro de las comunidades del corazón urbano. Uno de los mayores enfoques del programa es el de reducir el crimen mediante el aumento de la propia toma de conciencia, de la autodisciplina, del amor propio y de aptitudes tecnológicas, de la vida cotidiana y sociales. El currículo de la Internet no le ofrecerá a los estudiantes un certificado de GED, pero les ayudará a prepararlos para tomar su examen de GED.

"La vida está llena de opciones y a nosotros se nos tiene que responsabilizar por las opciones que hemos tomado. Yo tomé esa opción en vez de tratar de seguir a la muchedumbre y tratar de tener cabida socialmente, tomé la opción de ejercitar mi cerebro, reconocí tempranamente que para poder cambiar las circunstancias dentro de las cuales crecí, tenía que obtener un entendimiento de qué se trataba el conocimiento. La tecnología ha abierto puertas de oportunidades para mí y me ha llevado a través de los EE.UU. hasta lugares que un niño del corazón urbano nunca pensó ser posible", explicó Parker.

El programa Segunda Oportunidad es una educación suplementaria para personas que han sido dejadas fuera o dejadas atrás del sistema educacional tradicional. El programa también busca combatir los promedios de ausentismo y deserción. "El ser inteligente es por alguna razón asociado con ser blando", dijo Parker, "y muchos de nuestros jóvenes sienten que incluso con una educación, ellos

conducted online only, they do not have curriculum delivery partners where participants can meet.

"Many are coming back to the community with no knowledge about email, texting, how to use an ATM machine or other technology and then we tell them to go and find a job. They need some skills to help them get that job and we are hoping with our curriculum that we

re-entry a little easier," he said.

The ex-offenders program cost \$50 and is paid by the individual. Studies indicate many ex-offenders have an eighth grade or lower literacy level. "We are trying to increase their academic level as well as their technological level. We are working with the Missouri Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole officers and Social Service Agencies

the educational tools they need to re-enter the workforce and society," said Parker.

"We are a tool for dialogue and a tool for change. We are non-traditional, we are outside of the box, we are trying to find ways to engage not only the people who qualify for this program but on a larger scale the at-risk community itself," he said.

no tendrán éxito. Me gustaría pensar que yo soy un vivo testimonio de lo que la tecnología puede hacer para cambiar tu vida", dijo él.

Parker creció en el corazón urbano de Kansas City. Él fue criado por uno sólo de sus padres y solía gravitar entre tres o cuatro escuelas por cada año escolar. Él tuvo que enfrentar muchos obstáculos incluidos el racismo para sobreponerse a sí mismo en el mundo de los negocios, pero él nunca dejó que eso lo desviara de su camino.

"Reconocí que tenía la opción de, ya fuera haber seguido las oportunidades negativas, o las positivas. Estados Unidos ha cambiado a través de los años, cuando las redes computacionales de las compañías están inactivas y ellos están perdiendo dinero, aquello no se convierte en algo relacionado con tú color, se convierte en algo relacionado con tú habilidad", dijo él.

Él entiende que no todos los jóvenes se adaptan al molde típico de un estudiante de secundaria o universitario. Él quiere ayudar a aquellos estudiantes a encontrar sus respectivos sitios dentro de la sociedad y a desarrollar sus talentos en sus propios negocios.

"Nosotros estamos enfocados en crear empresarios y dueños de negocios. Queremos hacer que nuestra juventud reflexione respecto a sus talentos y cómo ellos pueden desarrollarlos para utilizarlos en sus propios negocios. Si ellos pueden hacer eso, entonces no tendrán que esperar junto al teléfono por alguien

que los pudiera contratar. Ellos aprenderán cómo desarrollar un plan de negocios, cómo operar sus negocios y cómo desarrollar sus talentos para convertirlos en una materia prima para el beneficio de la comunidad", dijo él.

Este programa no está solamente llegando a la juventud, le está también llegando a convictos que pronto serán puestos en libertad. Ellos los están implementando para ex convictos a lo menos seis meses antes de que éstos obtengan su libertad. Los programas para los ex convictos están siendo conducidos solamente vía Internet, ellos no tienen un socio de entrega de currículos en donde los participantes se puedan reunir.

"Muchos están regresando a la comunidad sin conocimientos acerca de correos electrónicos, envío de mensajes de texto, cómo utilizar un cajero automático (ATM) u otras tecnologías y luego nosotros les decimos que vayan a conseguirse un trabajo. Ello necesitan de algunas aptitudes para ayudarlos a obtener ese trabajo y nosotros estamos esperando que con nuestro currículo se los podamos ofrecer, esto hará más fácil su reentrada", dijo él.

El programa para ex convictos cuesta \$50 y es pagado por la persona. Estudios indican que muchos ex convictos tienen un nivel de alfabetización comparado con un octavo grado o menos que eso. "Nosotros estamos tratando de aumentar su nivel académico además de su nivel tecnológico. Estamos trabajando con el Departamento de Correccionales de Missouri,

con oficiales de probación y de libertad bajo palabra y con Agencias de Servicios Sociales para ayudar a estos ex convictos a obtener las herramientas educacionales que ellos necesitan para reentrar a la fuerza laboral y a la sociedad", dijo Parker.

"Nosotros somos una herramienta para el diálogo y una herramienta para un cambio. No somos tradicionales, estamos fuera de los márgenes, estamos tratando de encontrar maneras de atraer no tan sólo a la gente que califica para este programa, sino que también, en una mayor escala, a la propia comunidad en riesgo", dijo él.

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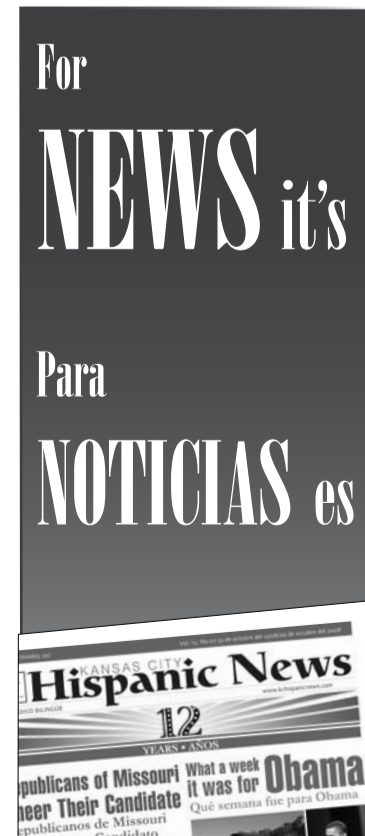
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Full Employment Council

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The Full Employment Council in partnership with the Missouri Department of Economic Development and the United States Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration is offering

1,200 Next Generation Jobs Team internships

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This program will provide eight-week paid internships and career exploration to low income eligible youth from

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Internships will be provided by healthcare facilities, government and educational agencies, community-based, faith-based, non-profit, and private-for-profit organizations.

Next Generation Jobs Team Applications are available at any of the Full Employment Council/Missouri Career Center locations.

Central Kansas City
1740 Paseo Blvd.
Kansas City, MO. 64108
(816) 471-2330
Contact: Dot Coleman
James Robinson

South Kansas City
Southern Jackson County
6801-A Longview Road
Kansas City, MO. 64134
(816) 966-0289
Contact: Lewis Smith
Larry Carr

Independence
Eastern Jackson County
15301 E. 23rd Street
Independence, MO. 64055
(816) 325-5890
Contact: Spencer Harris
Alice Mendoza

Cass County
West Central Missouri
Community Action Agency
109 Congress
Belton, MO. 64012
(816) 318-3922
Contact: Roxanne Writesman
Amanda Davidson

Clay County
Maple Woods Community College
Northland Human Services Ctr.
3100 NE 83rd Street Suite 2100
Kansas City, MO. 64119
(816) 468-8767
Contact: Tori Pankey
Richard Salazar

Platte County
Platte County Resource Center
11724 NW Plaza Circle, Ste. 500
Kansas City, MO. 64153
(816) 464-4620 / 4612
Contact: Richard Salazar

West Central Missouri
Community Action Agency
200 Oakland
Harrisonville, MO. 64701
(816) 380-6690
Contact: Roxanne Writesman

Ray County
103 E. North Main Street
Richmond, MO. 64085
(816) 776-3920
Contact: Carole Van-Bibber
Jenyl Hart

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JACKSON COUNTY MISSOURI PURCHASING DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR BIDS
 Sealed bids will be received by the Purchasing Department, Jackson County Courthouse, Room G1, 415 E. 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Bid documents and specifications may be obtained at this office. Bids close at 2:00 pm on the date indicated below and will be publicly opened at that time. Bid close 6/23/09, the bids are as follows: BB200926* Construction Tools, 21-09 One (1) Each Backhoe, John Deer 410J w/Bucket or Comparable, Bids indicated by asterisk must be accessed via the Internet at www.sicomm.net. If you have questions, contact the Purchasing Department at (816) 881-3267.

MBE/WBE Bids Requested for Four Rivers Conservation Area Office Replacement, Vernon Co. Westport Construction solicits proposals from MBE/WBE firms. Bids must be received by June 9th by noon. Please fax bids to Westport Construction at 660-885-7722. For more information call 660-885-2231.



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Very competitive job market

CONT./PAGE 1

both young and old competing against one another.

"There is extreme competition for any job that pays, whether it is part-time or full-time. It doesn't matter if we are talking about someone who has a family or is needing money for college, there is extreme competition for every job that is out there right now," said Clyde McQueen, president and CEO of the Full Employment Council.

Recently, the Schlitterbahn Water Park in Kansas City, Kansas announced that they were accepting applications for 350 jobs. They received an overwhelming response of 1,400 applicants for the jobs. Worlds of Fun in Kansas City has hired adults to run several of the rides within the park. The recession has been the driving factor of businesses receiving large amounts of applications for job openings. It can be good for the business owners who have job openings providing a larger pool to choose from.

In today's job markets, teens must take steps to help their application stand out against a person who has job experience. "An employee that can work as a team member no matter what diverse age group he or she is placed with will be a valued employee by the business owner," he said.

Employers have a larger employee base to choose from as applications cross their desk. The workforce dynamics are changing as young and mature employees work side by side in fast food restaurants, amusement parks, water parks and retail services.

"Employers are looking out to the future with younger employees and they are looking out for the present with experienced workers," said McQueen.

Un mercado laboral muy competitivo

CONT./PÁGINA 1

contrado a sí mismos yendo por las calles, yendo puerta por puerta, dejando solicitudes de trabajo y esperando a ser entrevistados para un trabajo que algunas veces no llega a materializarse. El disminuido mercado laboral ha dejado tanto a jóvenes como a mayores compitiendo en contra.

"Existe una competencia extrema por cualquier trabajo que paga, ya sea de media jornada o de jornada completa. No importa si nos estamos refiriendo a alguien que tiene una familia o necesita dinero para la universidad, en estos momentos existe una competencia extrema por cualquier trabajo disponible", dijo Clyde McQueen, presidente y Ejecutivo del Concilio para Empleo Completo.

Recientemente el Parque Acuático Schlitterbahn en Kansas City, Kansas anunció que estaban aceptando solicitudes de empleo para llenar 350 trabajos. Ellos recibieron la abrumadora respuesta de 1,400 postulantes para esos trabajos. El parque de entretenimientos Worlds of Fun en Kansas City ha contratado a adultos para operar varios de los juegos dentro del parque. La recesión ha sido el factor determinante tras la recepción de grandes cantidades de solicitudes de empleo para las vacantes. Esto puede ser bueno para los dueños de negocios que tienen ofrecimientos de trabajo y que ofrecen una vasta fuente desde donde escoger.

En los mercados laborales de hoy, los adolescentes deben dar pasos para ayudar a que sus solicitudes puedan equipararse en contra de una persona que tienen experiencia laboral. "Un empleado que pueda trabajar como miembro de un equipo sin importar en cual diverso grupo de edad él o ella es puesto, será un valioso empleado para el dueño de negocios", dijo él.

Los empleadores tienen una base grande de empleados de donde escoger mientras las solicitudes cruzan frente a su escritorio. Las dinámicas de la fuerza laboral están cambiando en el momento en que empleados jóvenes y maduros trabajan lado a lado en restaurantes de comida rápida, parque de entretenimiento, parques acuáticos y servicios de comercio al detalle.

"Los empleadores están mirando al futuro con empleados más

Baby boomers that once sought to retire early and placed their money in the stock market and retirement portfolios, were hit hard with the economic downturn. Today, many baby boomers face a future of working into their retirement age.

"It was thought that the baby boom generation would retire and the young people would move into those spots, but that is not happening. Many of these people were hit hard and lost large amounts of money forcing them to work longer and some of them enjoy working and say that working into old age keeps them healthy," said McQueen.

People who have lost their jobs are desperately seeking jobs that will help them pay their bills, give them and their families' medical coverage and help them to rebuild a nest egg for retirement. When the community begins to emerge from the recession, work places will have emerged with a blended working society of young and old working side by side.

"As we begin to emerge from the economic downturn we are going to see a blending of young and old in the workplace. It is to the benefit of both as young adults will have to work with mature persons and vice versa they will have to work with young adults, so at the same time you have a blended customer base, and you have to learn to deal with both people," he said.

So how does a young person who is seeking summer employment compete against a mature adult who has also applied for the same job? McQueen's advice for teens seeking employing is simple. When you go to fill out an application or for a job interview, dress conservative.

"How they dress becomes extremely important. You have to dress more conservative when

you are looking for a job because you may be competing against someone who has had a job for ten or twelve years and understands the importance of how you dress," said McQueen.

Purchase a nice conservative dress or slacks and a shirt that you will use for the job interview or if you get the job, you can wear the outfit for work. "An employer looks at you as someone who is going to represent their organization to the public. Don't dress like you do around your friends, go to Target or Wal-Mart and purchase a nice outfit."

Other bits of advice; Take all the jewelry off before going to an interview. Have a resume and good references for an employer. Be flexible about the work schedule.

During the 1990's cities offered summer youth job programs that employed teenagers across the city. The program was eliminated in 1998 but this year, stimulus money has resurrected the Summer Youth Work Program creating jobs for youths aged 16 to 24.

"We have resources for a summer job program for the five county areas. In Eastern Jackson County, which is Lee Summit, Independence and areas in Jackson County, we will have 400 summer jobs there. In Kansas City, Platte and Ray counties we will have 1200 summer opportunities there. The average wage is \$8 an hour, they will work 30 hours a week and the job program will last for eight weeks. This is the first time we have had a major summer program established to try and work with our youth who are out of school," said McQueen.

For more information contact the FEC offices at 816-4712550 or go to the website at www.fecck.org.

jóvenes y ellos están mirando al presente con trabajadores experimentados", dijo McQueen.

Los pertenecientes a la generación de la explosión de bebés (Baby Boomers) que una vez pensaron jubilarse temprano y poner sus dineros en la bolsa de valores y en portafolios para el retiro, fuero golpeados violentamente con la caída económica. Hoy en día, muchos de estos baby boomers enfrentan un futuro trabajando durante su edad de jubilar.

"Se pensó que la generación de los baby boomers se jubilarían y los jóvenes se moverían a esas posiciones, pero eso no está ocurriendo. Muchas de estas personas fueron golpeadas violentamente y perdieron grandes cantidades de dinero forzándolos a trabajar por más tiempo y algunos de ellos disfrutaban trabajar y dicen que el trabajar durante sus años dorados los mantiene saludables", dijo McQueen.

Las personas que ha perdido sus trabajos están desesperadamente buscando a otros que los ayuden a pagar sus cuentas, les ofrezcan a ellos y a sus familias cobertura médica y les ayuden a reconstruir los recursos financieros de sus jubilaciones. Cuando la comunidad comience a emerger de la recesión, los sitios laborales emergerán con una mezcla sociedad laboral de jóvenes y mayores trabajando lado a lado.

"En la medida en que comencemos a emerger de la caída económica, vamos a ver a una mezcla de jóvenes y mayores en los sitios de trabajo. Es tanto para el beneficio de ambos que los adultos jóvenes tengan que trabajar con personas maduras y, viceversa ellos tendrán que trabajar con adultos jóvenes, de esa manera, uno tendrá al mismo tiempo una mezcla de clientes y uno tendrá que aprender a negociar con ambos grupos de personas", dijo él.

Entonces ¿Cómo puede una persona joven que busca empleo de verano competir en contra de un adulto maduro que también ha postulado al mismo trabajo? El consejo de McQueen para los adolescentes que buscan empleo es simple. Cuando ustedes vayan a llenar una solicitud de empleo o vayan a una entrevista de trabajo, vistan de manera conservadora.

"De la manera en que ellos visten se convierte en algo extre-

madamente importante. Tienes que vestir de manera más conservadora cuando busques trabajo, ya que pudieras tener que competir en contra de alguien que ha tenido un trabajo por diez o doce años y entiende la importancia de cómo vestir", dijo McQueen.

Compren un bonito y conservador vestido o pantalones y una camisa que usarán para la entrevista de trabajo o si ustedes se consiguen el trabajo, pueden usar esas vestimentas para el trabajo. "Un empleador lo mira a uno como alguien que va a representar a su organización ante el público. No vistan como lo hacen cuando están entre sus amigos, vayan a Target o a Wal-Mart y compren unas bonitas vestimentas".

Otros consejos; sáquense todas las joyas antes de ir a una entrevista. Lleven un resumen de trabajo y buenas referencias de parte de un empleador. Sean flexibles respecto al horario de trabajo.

Durante los años noventa, las ciudades ofrecían a los jóvenes programas de trabajos de verano que empleaban a adolescentes de toda la ciudad, el programa fue eliminado en 1998, pero este año, el dinero del estímulo ha resucitado el Programa de Trabajo de Verano para Jóvenes creando trabajos para jóvenes de entre las edades de 16 a 24.

"Nosotros tenemos los recursos para programas de trabajo de verano para las áreas de cinco condados. En la parte Este del Condado de Jackson, la cual está compuesta por Lee Summit, Independence y áreas en el Condado de Jackson, tendremos 400 trabajos de verano allí. En Kansas City, en los condados de Platte y Ray, tendremos 1.200 oportunidades para trabajos de verano. El promedio de salario es de \$8 la hora, ellos trabajarán 30 horas a la semana y el programa de trabajo durará ocho semanas. Esta es la primera vez que hemos contado con el establecimiento de un programa de verano de consideración para tratar y para trabajar con nuestra juventud que está fuera de la escuela", dijo McQueen.

kchispanicnews.com

KC WELCOMES LINDA MARTINEZ

CONT./PAGE 1



Linda Martínez said she will not be a stranger to Kansas City and wants to build a good relationship with its leaders so area businesses can grow.

Linda Martínez dice que no es ajena a Kansas City y quiere construir una buena relación con sus líderes para que los negocios del área puedan crecer.

ception honoring her new appointment, that she hopes to spend more time in Kansas City working with city and community leaders.

"I think what we need to do is to make sure that we are building on all the elements and the building blocks that we have and the tools that we have. We have great people, we have leadership in Kansas and we have leadership at the Consulate. We want to make sure that we are taking advantage of all the elements of the state and make sure that we maximize and are moving forward," she said.

Throughout her 26-year career as an advisor to businesses and organizations, Martínez worked extensively on transactions involving project finance and issues relating to tax credits, tax exempt, financing, bonds and other economic development tools. She has represented businesses in

their expansion activities, housing developments, health care and non-profit institutions, arenas, hotels, airports and retail.

"There are many reasons why we come and must honor Linda Martínez. Besides being an active advisor for the business community, housing development, health care and non-profit institutions, as a lawyer she has worked tirelessly to defend the rights of the immigrant community," said Jacob Fowler.

"When I was appointed to the head of Economic Development, I came to understand what the meaning of community was," said a very emotional Martínez. She was overwhelmed with the support and the emails she received from family, friends, the business community and members of the Latino community sending her encouraging words on her new job.

KC Le da la Bienvenida a Linda Martínez

CONT./PÁGINA 1

el capital humano y en la infraestructura y en la fuerza laboral y crecientes aptitudes para los trabajadores en el Siglo XXI", dijo el Alcalde Funkhouser.

Martínez, quien es de St. Louis, trabajará de forma cercana con el Gobernador Nixon para implementar su plan bipartidista conocido como Show Me JOBS, el cual se enfocará en crear nuevos trabajos, respaldar el crecimiento de pequeños negocios y entrenamiento en Missouri para los trabajos del futuro.

Durante su reciente visita a Kansas City, ella le dijo a quienes se habían reunido en una recepción para celebrar su nuevo nombramiento, que ella esperaba pasar más tiempo en Kansas City trabajando con la ciudad y con líderes comunitarios.

"Creo que lo que tenemos que hacer es asegurarnos que estamos construyendo sobre todos los elementos y bases y herramientas. Tenemos a Grandes personas, tenemos liderazgo en Kansas City y tenemos liderazgo en el Consulado. Queremos asegurarnos de que le estamos sacando ventaja a todos los elementos del estado y que los aprovechemos al máximo y que estemos avanzando", dijo ella.

A lo largo de su carrera de 26 años como consejera para negocios y organizaciones, Martínez ha trabajado en forma extensiva en transacciones involucrando financiamiento de proyectos y asuntos

relacionados con créditos de impuestos, excepciones de impuestos, financiamiento, bonos y otras herramientas para el desarrollo económico. Ella ha representado a negocios en sus actividades de expansión, desarrollos de viviendas, instituciones sin fines de lucro e instituciones del cuidado de la salud, arenas, hoteles, aeropuertos y comercio detallista.

"Existen muchas razones del porqué venimos y tenemos que honrar a Linda Martínez. Aparte de ser una consejera activa para la comunidad de negocios, desarrollo de viviendas, instituciones sin fines de lucro e instituciones del cuidado de la salud, como abogada, ella ha trabajado incansablemente para defender los derechos de la comunidad de inmigrantes", dijo Jacob Fowler.

"Cuando fui nombrada titular de Desarrollo Económico, llegue a entender cuál era el significado de una comunidad" dijo una muy emocionada Martínez. Ella quedó abrumada por el apoyo y los correos electrónicos recibidos de parte de familiares, de amigos, de la comunidad de negocios y de miembros de la comunidad latina que le enviaban palabras de aliento para su nuevo trabajo.

Martínez le dijo a Fowler que como directora de Desarrollo Económico, ella está ansiosa de trabajar con el Consulado y con México. "Quiero asegurarme de que continuemos con nuestra amistad entre nuestro estado y México. Quiero continuar con nuestra larga y vibrante y

Martínez told Fowler that as director of Economic Development, she looks forward to working with the Consulate and with Mexico. "I want to make sure that we continue the friendship between our state and Mexico. I want to continue our long standing and vibrant and valued relationship and I am committed to growing that relationship," she said.

The daughter of a Mexican doctor and a St. Louis nurse, Martínez took premed courses at the University of Missouri-Columbia. But instead of medical school she chose law school at Washington University. She clerked for Bryan Cave while in school and accepted a job there when she graduated.

"I am a person of Mexican heritage and I have always been proud of my Mexican roots and my father's roots. While he initially received his training in Mexico, he came to the United States and was welcomed. He enjoyed the benefits of the United States and he enjoyed the spirit of cooperation that was so important to his training. I want us to experience that same spirit of cooperation and we should understand that it is valuable and it will move our state and Mexico forward together," she said.

As she begins to implement the duties of her new office, Martínez hopes to bring the Kansas City, Jefferson City, and St. Louis communities together to have a voice about how to develop and grow businesses within their cities.

"I want to make sure that everybody is involved," said Martínez.

valiosa relación y estoy comprometida a hacer crecer esa relación", dijo ella.

Hija de un médico mexicano y de una enfermera de St. Louis, Martínez tomó cursos de pre-medicina en la Universidad de Missouri-Columbia. Pero en lugar de la escuela de medicina, ella escogió la escuela de leyes en la Universidad Washington. Ella se desempeñó como secretaria de Bryan Cave mientras estaba en la escuela y aceptó un trabajo allí cuando se graduó.

"Soy una persona de herencia mexicana y siempre he estado orgullosa de mis raíces mexicanas y de las raíces de mi padre. Aunque él recibió su entrenamiento inicialmente en México, él se vino a EE.UU. y fue bienvenido. Él disfrutó los beneficios de EE.UU. y disfrutó del espíritu de cooperación que fue tan importante para su preparación. Quiero que nosotros experimentemos el mismo espíritu de cooperación y nosotros deberíamos entender que es valioso y hará avanzar a nuestro estado y a México juntos", dijo ella.

Mientras ella comienza a implementar los deberes de su nuevo cargo, Martínez espera hacer que las comunidades de Kansas City, Jefferson City y St. Louis se junten para tener una voz en lo que va a cómo desarrollar y hacer crecer los negocios dentro de sus ciudades.

"Quiero asegurarme de que todos participen", dijo Martínez.

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KC REDS

5TH ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY MEN'S FAST PITCH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

June 20th & 21st Penn Valley Park

Wizards SuperLiga schedule set



JOHN SILVA
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

The month of June will be a long one for the Wizards. After the first two months of the season brought five matches each, this and next month have a combined five MLS matches. Perhaps July will remain light, but the Superliga tournament's Group B will keep KC busy in June.

After playing Columbus and New England in back-to-back Saturday night home games, the Wizards will play three

matches in a seven day span against the Revolution and two top Mexican teams.

Thanks to a scheduling conflict at Community America Ballpark the first Liga match will be against Atlas across the Show Me State in St. Louis. The virtual neutral site will be on St. Louis University's home pitch at 3:30 p.m..

After taking on the team's partner club they'll meet New England in Foxboro, Mass., on Wednesday. Playing for the second time in 14 days, the clubs will have a decidedly different look. With just two days rest expect both clubs to give reserves a chance to shine and

Royals fans shouldn't discount draft

It seems that the past couple of years Royals fans became baseball draftniks. Out of the race by the middle of May meant a closer look at a distant future for fans. Under Dayton Moore's leadership fans have gotten to know some of the best high school baseball players in the country.

The GM is a man who looks to build for the future with the high side potential of high school players. Two years ago Mike Moustakas was selected to be the shortstop of the future. Now learning to be a third baseman Moustakas continues to make fans dream of a hitting machine as he learns in single A Wilmington.

His teammate is last year's top pick Eric Hosmer. The projected first baseman shows the potential for pop even if his glove is not nearly advanced as his bat.

Both players are on their way to AA ball soon, but unlike the past Royals regime don't expect these youngsters to go from Arkansas straight to KC. They will be spending time in Northwest Arkansas and then some time in Omaha before coming to Kauffman Stadium.

Does that mean it's only a matter of time before the Royals will be on their way to winning and to not sweat next week's proceedings?

The past month should prove to Royals fans that just because KC isn't in the top five on June 9th it is still extremely important to find and sign great talent.

The only question remains will Moore continue with his high school strategy or will available talent cause him to change course this year?

In the majority of mock drafts published the Royals are projected to take a college star that can make it to the big leagues to support the talent on hand more quickly than a supremely talented teen.

Areas of need are many. Outside of the infield corners a player anywhere would be helpful. Those mentioned in the mocks would fill needs at shortstop, catcher or in the starting rotation.

One name many locals would love is Aaron Crow. The former ace of the Missouri pitching staff was selected in last year's top ten but didn't sign on the dotted

line when Washington wouldn't meet his contract demands. The right hander might make it to the Royals if he is truly seeking \$4 million in a signing bonus. Playing sparingly for an independent team in Fort Worth puts him in a strangely similar situation as Luke Hochevar. That could be a bad thing for Moore who has had to deal with the venom of fans unhappy with the production of a first overall pick he didn't draft.

Early in May the Sporting News tabbed right hander Zach Wheeler as the Royals choice. The 6-foot-4 high school starter has been linked in more recent drafts to the Braves who own the seventh selection. Should he slip he seems to fit the profile and the Royals are never shy to draft another big arm.

Whomever the Royals select in the early rounds the team will still need to be as aggressive as last year when they were the biggest spenders on draft signing bonuses in order to stock a minor league system once depleted of talent in order to make a major league roster full of depth some day.

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2009 SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES HONORED



Past Hall-of Famers joined the new inductees at the recent induction ceremony. Left to right: Jason and Victor Jr. Hernandez accepting for their father Victor Hernandez, Gilbert Castro, George Ontiveros, Ernie Fernandez and Michael "Boo" Hernandez.

JOE ARCE AND TONY BALANDRAN
HISPANIC NEWS

Kansas City Angels Men's Fast Pitch Softball Tourney occurred May 23 and 24 at the Paul "Waxie" Hernandez Softball Fields in Penn Valley Park in Kansas City. Spectators from across the metro area and outside Kansas City came to watch the men play a little softball on Memorial Day weekend. For those who came as invited guests and those who were honored at this year's induction ceremony of the KC Mexican/American Softball Hall of Fame, the day was a thrill as they recalled their

fond memories of what they described as "the good ol' days" of softball in Kansas City.

"It feels good, it really does," said Michael "Boo" Hernandez, who was one of the inductees this year. "Looking at the plaque with everybody's name, it's like being a really big dog. I'm happy to be there among the names."

In addition to Hernandez, the 2009 Mexican/American Softball Hall of Fame inductees are Victor Hernandez, Gilbert Castro, George Ontiveros and Ernie Fernandez.

Michael Hernandez played for the Angels during the 1970s.

He recalled the competitive spirit when the teams were on the field and the camaraderie that grew off the field. Even across team boundaries, the players were bound by a love and passion for the sport.

He thanked a former coach, Cris Medina, for urging him to play. "He got me out there when I was really young and I didn't want to play. But being on the team was great," Hernandez told *Hispanic News*.

Ernie Fernandez, the most senior of the inductees, said his enthusiasm for the sport began in the 1960s when he played for the Aztecas. He said the Hall of

Fame induction was an honor. "You're recognized for playing ball for a lot of years. I had a lot of fun playing," he said. But decades ago, when he first walked into the outfield, "I was wondering whether I was good enough to be a Hall-of-Famer."

Medina said the induction is a validation of the hard work of dedicated softball players. "To be among some of those players that you know were very good ... I still get chills when I see the names. I am honored to be on there as well because those people were some good players in their day and to be included in that class is special. There was a lot of passion. People played this game because they loved baseball. And when we couldn't play baseball anymore we went to fast-pitch softball."

The sport continues to thrive in the Latino community, Medina said, and he hopes future generations will keep the sport alive. "I hope that in 30 years out, there are still people carrying out this tradition."

For Hernandez, the ceremony was personally meaningful because the field on which he was inducted is named after his late father, Paul "Waxie" Hernandez.

"I'm glad they made a park with his name, and that we can show what we can do with his name," Michael Hernandez said. "I know he is looking down and is really proud right now because he knows that all of us (his sons) are in the Hall of Fame now."



Left to Right Cris Medina, Michael "Boo" Hernandez and Ernie Fernandez said the game of baseball has been a great experience for them and now that they are a little older they still enjoy a good old fashion softball game.



Michael "Boo" Hernandez was inducted into the KC Mexican/American Softball Hall of Fame during Memorial Day weekend. He believed his late father, Paul "Waxie" Hernandez, was watching from above. The ceremony was in the park named after his father.



Past Hall-of Famers joined the new inductees at the recent induction ceremony. Left to right: Paul "Paulie" Hernandez, Jason Hernandez, Victor Hernandez Jr. accepting for his father Victor Hernandez, Gilbert Castro, George Ontiveros, Ernie Fernandez, Michael "Boo" Hernandez, and Ricky "Legend" Saucedo.

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Congratulations

GRADS

The 2009 Kansas City, Missouri School District (KCMSD) would like to congratulate all the members of its class of 2009. The District's Valedictorians and Salutatorians are:

Central High School

Valedictorian - Jolene Abernathy, Erika Jackson
Salutatorian - Kayla Neal

East High School

Valedictorian - J. Logan Smith
Salutatorian - Karac Lindsey

Lincoln College Preparatory Academy

Valedictorian - Phuong Thi
Salutatorian - Lisa Phan

Northeast High School

Valedictorian - Tammie Nguyen
Salutatorian - Thanh Bui

Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts

Valedictorian - Kalyn Dredde
Salutatorian - Latisha Smith

Southeast High School

Valedictorian - Jeffery Thomas
Salutatorian - Raniesha Nicholson

Westport High School

Valedictorian - Lonna Tran
Salutatorian - Daniel Heredia

