

VLAB would like to thank all the people who graciously agreed to present their expertise to make information and resources available to those who provide services in the Latino community throughout the Commonwealth. Please find below professional profiles of the presenters and the VLAB members. An asterisk preceding the name denotes VLAB member. Two asterisks denote the staff of the Governor.

**\*Ms. Beatriz Amberman**, Chair Virginia Latino Advisory Board



Beatriz Amberman has devoted more than 25 years of her professional career to serving as a cultural and civic ambassador. Beatriz founded the Hispanic Community Dialogue Organization in Hampton Roads, to inspire and promote civic participation, open communication and deliberation about important issues impacting the community. Mrs. Amberman has been a radio broadcaster in Hampton Roads for the past 19 years, including several bilingual programs for National Public Radio. She is the Financial Manager of her family's Medical Practice in Virginia Beach. She has been trained as a Court Certified Mediator by the Virginia Beach Social Services Department and as a moderator and facilitator by The Kettering Foundation, in Dayton, Ohio, and The Virginia National Public Policy Institute. Her appointments

include two appointments by Governor Timothy Kaine: Chair Virginia Latino Advisory Board and Commonwealth of Virginia Governor's Transition Committee in 2006. She serves as Advisor, Institute of Mexicans Abroad, Mexican Consulate, Washington, D.C. Mexican Ministry of Foreign Relations; Co-chair, Government Affairs, League of United Latin American Citizens National Commission for Immigrant Affairs; Chairperson, Dominion Virginia Power Energy Share Committee, Eastern Region; Vice Chair, Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations; Secretary, Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission; Sandler Center Performing Arts Theater Advisory Board Member; Advisory Board member, Virginian Pilot Newspaper, Tidewater Region; Mayor's Commission on Aging; Executive Board member, Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. Virginia Beach Citizen's Review Panel, appointed by Virginia Beach City Manager, James Spore; Founding Member and Hampton Roads Co Chair, Democratic Latino Organization of Virginia; Founding Member, American Mexican Anti Discrimination Alliance; Past Vice-Chair, and member for 9 years of the VA Beach Human Rights Commission; Past Vice Chair 2003-2007, Commonwealth of Virginia Latino Advisory Commission. She was appointed Vice-Chair of the Board for 2 consecutive years by Governor Mark Warner. Beatriz Amberman has been honored with numerous recognitions, including The YWCA Woman of Distinction 2000 Award. The 2003 and 2004 Recognition for the Advancement of Human Rights, was presented to her by the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission. The Mexican Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Relations, honored Mrs. Amberman with the highest recognition given to people of Mexican origin: The 2004 OHTLI Award and Medal given to the altruistic labor of persons of Mexican descent, who contribute to opening "The Way" and making the road less difficult for future generations. In 2005, the City of Virginia Beach and the Convention and Visitors Bureau presented Beatriz Amberman with the Ambassador Extraordinaire Award, for Unselfish Dedication to the City's Economic Enhancement. On 2005, Beatriz was recognized with the 2005 L.D. Britt, M.D. award and Medal, for Untiring Service to Mankind. In 2007, The Virginia Conference for Community and Justice, an organization dedicated to eliminate prejudice and bias in all its forms presented Mrs. Amberman with the 2007 Humanitarian Award and Medal recognition.

**\*\*Dr. Rene Cabral-Daniels**, VP of Grants for the Williamsburg Community Health Foundation



Ms. Cabral-Daniels' career in health has been vast and varied. She practiced law for the law firm Stradley, Ronon, Stevens and Young and was formerly a lead attorney for the federal Department of Health and Human Services. While at the Virginia Department of Health she served as the Executive Advisor to the Commissioner and then the Director of the Office of Health Policy and Planning. She is currently on the board of the Patient Advocate Foundation. She is the wife of Taumi Daniels and proud mother of Arrienne, Allanna, and Amarra Daniels.

**\*\*Mr. Doug García**, Assistant Secretary of Education, Commonwealth of Virginia



Mr. García graduated from T.C. Williams High School with an Advanced Studies Diploma in 1997 and continued his education at Northern Virginia Community College. In 2002 he received a BA from James Madison University in Political Science and International Affairs with a concentration in Latin America. Upon graduation he began working as Executive Assistant to Lieutenant Governor Tim Kaine, where his primary roles included analyzing policy initiatives as well as legislative tracking during the General Assembly session. He facilitated the Lieutenant Governor's mission to visit a school in every city and county in the Commonwealth to view firsthand how the state can be a better partner with the K-12 system of education. When Lieutenant

Governor Kaine was elected Governor in 2005, Mr. García was appointed to his current position. His duties include working closely with the Start Strong Council to develop the best methods to expand pre-kindergarten for all four year olds in the Commonwealth. He oversees regulations that affect state agencies under the Education Secretariat. During the General Assembly session, he also closely monitors education legislation that will affect our K-12 system as well as our institutions of higher education. Mr. García's heritage is Salvadoran and he is fluent in Spanish.

**\*Ms. Leni Gonzalez**, Northern Virginia Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Motor Vehicles



Appointed to her present position, by Governor Timothy M. Kaine in 2006, Ms. Leni Gonzalez was previously appointed to serve in various capacities by Governor Mark R. Warner. She is member of the Board of Directors of The Shirlington Employment and Education Center Inc., the Board of Trustees of the Arlington Community Foundation, and the Board of the Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations. She is a member of the Arlington Diversity Dialogue Task Force and the Leadership Team of the Arlington Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence. She also serves as the President of LULAC COUNCIL 4609 in Arlington and was elected as the LULAC of Virginia State Director for 2006-2008. She is a member of the

Latino-Jewish Working Group of the Latino and Latin American Institute of the American Jewish Committee. She is a founding member of the Democratic Latino Organization of Virginia and the American Mexican Anti Discrimination Alliance. She was the chair of the Virginia Latino Advisory Board in 2005-2007. She was a member of the Virginia Council on the Status of Women 2004-2006. Ms. Gonzalez served in the 2003-2005 Advisory Council of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad. She has been very active in her community, working as a volunteer in several non-profits. In 1997, Ms. Gonzalez was recognized by the Mexican Government for her community contributions and was awarded the prestigious Ohtli medal. In 2005, Ms. Gonzalez was recognized by the Hispanic Committee of Virginia as the Community Leader of the Year. Ms. Gonzalez came to the U.S. as a Fulbright Scholar and received her Master's in Education at Catholic University of America. She is an alumna of Leadership Arlington, Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at University of Virginia, the National Hispania Leadership Institute, and LEAD VA. Ms. Gonzalez is married to Lee Mark Niederman.

**\*Dr. Teresa Gonzalez**, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Professor of Graduate Psychology



Dr. Teresa A. Gonzalez has been a member of the James Madison University community with appointments in the academic and student affairs divisions since 1975. Her primary responsibilities include oversight of curriculum development/approval, academic policy, academic review process as well as being liaison from the Provost to major university and state higher education groups. Dr. Gonzalez is a member of the SCHEV State Committee on Transfer, the Virginia Network Executive Board and is an appointed member of the Governor's Latino Advisory Board. She was a founding member and holds emerita status with National Network Executive Board/ACE. She is past editor of the Virginia Association of Student Personnel Administrators Journal and has

published in the areas of supervision, female athletes and sexual assault. Dr. Gonzalez holds a Ph.D. (Counseling), M.Ed. (Counseling/Student Personnel) from the Ohio University and a B.A. (Communication Arts/Theatre) from Molloy College.

**Dr. Craig Herndon**, Director of Career and Educational Resources, Virginia Community College System

**\*\*Ms. Aryana Khalid, Assistant Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources (HHR), Commonwealth of Virginia**



As Assistant Deputy Secretary, Ms. Khalid's primary responsibility is to assist the Secretary in directing three of the HHR agencies; the Department of Health, the Department of Medical Assistance Services and the Tobacco Settlement Foundation. Her additional job responsibilities include managing the Health Reform Commission; working to address Virginia's healthcare workforce shortage by participating in the restructuring of the workforce system; representing the Secretariat on all Health IT projects; and coordinating the legislative and budget process. Prior to her appointment in State Government, Aryana worked for the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA). She was in the Chief Operating Officer Development Program at HCA and spent the majority of her time working in hospital operations, outpatient services, and strategic

planning. Aryana received her B.S. in Systems Engineering from the University of Virginia and her Master of Health Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. Aryana is an alumnus of the Virginia Executive Institute and is currently enrolled in the Sorenson Political Leaders Program. She is a member of the Madison Alumni Council and on the admissions committee for the VCU MHA program.

**\*Mr. Peter Loach**, Treasurer, Virginia Latino Advisory Board, Deputy Director of Operations, Piedmont Housing Alliance (PHA)



Mr. Loach has over 17 years experience in affordable housing and community development, including more than a dozen years in Latin America. He has managed numerous housing projects and programs, and been an expert advisor to foreign governments on housing policy and housing finance. At the PHA in Charlottesville, Virginia, Mr. Loach is overseeing all facets of PHA's \$35 million affordable housing development portfolio. He is also a co-founder and the current Chair of *Creciendo Juntos*--Growing Together, a network of over 100 organizations in the Charlottesville area working to support and strengthen the regional community through the integration and development of its Latino/Hispanic members. Prior to joining PHA in 2004, he was Country Director

in El Salvador and Nicaragua for the Cooperative Housing Foundation, where he oversaw the implementation of an affordable housing and infrastructure program involving over 6,000 housing units. Before spending nearly six years based in Central America, Mr. Loach worked in Washington, DC, for the World Bank's Urban Division for Latin America & the Caribbean, where he helped manage over \$70 million in loan portfolios for urban development and housing programs. He has a Master of Arts in Latin American Studies from the University of Florida and is fluent in Spanish.

**Dr. Susan Minushkin**, Deputy Director of the Pew Hispanic Center

Dr. Susan Minushkin fosters the mission of the Pew Hispanic Center, which is to improve understanding of the U.S. Hispanic population and to chronicle Latinos' growing impact on the entire nation. The Center, a project of the Pew Research Center, is a nonpartisan research organization supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts. It does not advocate for or take positions on policy issues. Prior to joining the Pew Hispanic Center, she was a professor of international studies at the Centro de Investigaciones y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) in Mexico City and director of the first, ongoing public and elite survey in Mexico on foreign policy and Mexican attitudes toward international issues. Her research expertise includes Mexican public opinion and foreign policy, Latin American politics and economic globalization in developing

countries. She has published academic articles on these topics in a variety of peer-reviewed journals, including *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, and *Latin American Politics and Society*. She has a PhD in political science from Columbia University, a Master's in International Affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, and a Bachelor's in political science from the University of Pittsburgh.

**\*Dr. Maricel Quintana-Baker**, Associate Director for Academic Affairs and Planning at the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)



Dr. Quintana-Baker is responsible for coordinating Virginia's Outstanding Faculty Awards and the Virginia Doctoral Nursing Loan Repayment Program, and coordinates the Agency's Statewide Strategic Plan. She is a member of the National Advisory Board for the Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities' Higher Education Research Collective (H<sup>3</sup>ERC). Dr. Quintana-Baker was recently appointed by Governor Timothy Kaine to serve on the Council on the Status of Women, having also been appointed by Governor Mark Warner to serve on the Virginia Latino Advisory Board. Currently, she leads the effort to create the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network (VALHEN), a higher education organization composed of faculty, staff, and community partners dedicated to working with Virginia's growing numbers of Latino students. She is a founding member of the Central Virginia Chapter of LULAC (League of Latin American Citizens). She is frequently invited to speak on issues related to Latinos and higher education. Dr. Quintana-Baker has been a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Society since 1979. Other professional memberships include the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) and the Women Executives in Virginia Higher Education (WEVHE). She serves on the Executive Board of The Women's Network, the state affiliate of the American Council on Education's Office of Women in Higher Education. Dr. Quintana-Baker held an Oakridge Institute for Science and Education Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the National Science Foundation's Division of Education and Human Resource Development. She earned her Doctorate in Higher Education from American University in Washington, DC, and is a graduate of the Management Development Program at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. Dr. Quintana-Baker is originally from Santiago, Cuba and is fluent in Spanish.

**Ms. Judy Radford**, ESL Coordinator, Virginia Department of Education

**\*Ms. Maribel Ramos**, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Jim Webb, Washington, DC,

In her current position, Maribel Ramos works on issues concerning education, health, immigration, women, and children. Ms. Ramos, who is originally from Lima, Peru, grew up in New York. She moved to Virginia, where she attended Virginia Commonwealth University, receiving a Bachelor's degree with majors in Political Science, Latin American Studies, French, and Women Studies. Upon graduation, she went to work for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), Public Policy office in Washington, D.C. Her work involved raising awareness of these issues in the Latino community as well as working with organizations in addressing the needs of this community. Ms. Ramos moved back to Richmond, Virginia and began working with the Democratic National Committee on Mark R. Warner's campaign on their Get Out The Vote initiative, specifically working with the Latino Community in the Richmond Metropolitan area. She worked diligently trying to educate the Latino Community on the importance of voting and civic involvement. In March 2002, she went to work for the Governor's Office of Constituent Services and was appointed by Governor Mark R. Warner to serve as the first Latino Liaison in Virginia, providing a link between the Governor's office and the Latino community throughout Virginia. She was involved with coordinating the Governor's involvement in the first ever Latino Summit in the Commonwealth, recognizing Latino/Hispanic Heritage month for the first time in the Commonwealth, as well as helping to organize the first Latino Advisory Commission in Virginia. She worked with various Latino organizations throughout the Commonwealth, and helped to educate both the administration and constituents on issues affecting the Latino Community. Ms. Ramos worked in Governor Kaine's

administration as a Policy Assistant, focusing on administration, natural resources and immigration issues for the Governor.

### **Dr. Karen Remley, State Health Commissioner**

Dr. Karen Remley directs the Virginia Department of Health, which is celebrating 100 years of service this year. She manages the state's public health system, which includes 35 local health districts that protect and promote the wellbeing of the Commonwealth's residents. Throughout her career, Dr. Remley has been involved in many aspects of health care. Her recent positions include service as Vice President of Medical Affairs at Sentara Leigh Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia; Medical Director of External Quality at Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Virginia; and CEO of Physicians for Peace, an international medical education organization. She also was Chief Medical Officer for Operation Smile, Inc., a worldwide children's medical charity which supports international and local, in-country medical missions to 26 countries. Her professional interests include adopting performance improvement techniques in the public health setting. Dr. Remley, an assistant professor in the Division of Health Professions at the Eastern Virginia School of Medicine, received her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Missouri, Kansas City and completed her Pediatrics Residency at St. Louis Children's Hospital. She holds a Master of Business Administration (Health Services Management) from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. She has professional certifications from the American Board of Medical Examiners and the American Board of Pediatrics and Pediatric Emergency Medicine, and is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Throughout her career, she has continued to practice as a pediatric emergency physician.

### **\*Ms. Gaby Rengifo, Vice-Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board; Founder and CEO, One of a Kind Landscapes and Home Remodeling**



Gaby Rengifo is one of the founders of the Hampton Roads Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and a Board member and Vice-Chair of the Virginia Latino Advisory Board. She was born in Lima, Peru, where she attended a prestigious university, obtaining a degree in Architecture. In Lima, Gaby gained many years of experience in the construction industry by working as an Urban Planning and Development Director for the city until 1989. With the experience acquired in her previous profession, Gaby began her own business, One of a Kind Landscapes and Home Remodeling in 1993, only a couple of years after moving with her family to the USA. After her own successful experience with the company, Gaby sensed the necessity to help other Hispanic businesses as well. In 2003 her determination to develop new opportunities for the Hispanic community motivated her and a group of other women to found the Peninsula Tidewater Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, now known as the Hampton Roads Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (HRHCC). Through this organization, Gaby develops ideas and programs to assist business' needs, such as professional guides, information for starting a business, validation of professional degrees, etc. As founder of the HRHCC, she is also highly involved with different entities, willing to offer advice, education, and guidance to Hispanic students and businesses. One example is her participation with Regent University, where she collaborates with the Hispanic Leadership Institute. In addition to the company and her involvement in the HRHCC and VLAB, Gaby Rengifo is deeply engaged in other organizations such as The Peninsula Home Builders Association and The Virginia Nursery Landscape Association. She also obtained accreditations in Architecture, earning a BA in the USA, as well as a Class "A" Contractor License and a Virginia Horticulturist certification. Her participation in all these events has earned her awards and recognitions, such as, The VPCC Women in Business Advocate Award in 2004, Women in Business Achievement Award in 2006, to name only a few.

**\*Captain Eddie Reyes, Alexandria, VA Police Department**



Captain Reyes serves as Patrol Sector Commander for the VA Police Department. He was previously assigned to the CommTech Program (formerly the AGILE Program), a program of the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. When interoperability was barely recognized at the national level as a critical public safety concern, AGILE laid a critical foundation for policy development, standards, and technology research that is universally recognized and praised. He also managed and oversaw public safety radio interoperability operations for the City of Alexandria, Virginia and is a key player in the National Capital Region. Before being assigned to AGILE / CommTech, Captain Reyes commanded the Emergency Communications Section of the Alexandria Police Department (APD) for three years. Locally, Captain Reyes chaired the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Police Technology Subcommittee. Together with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) this committee focuses on regional technology issues impacting law enforcement and it reports to the regions' police chiefs. During his tenure, this subcommittee focused on a regional law enforcement data sharing system that is a collaboration of the regions' municipalities and the NCIS. At the state level, he chaired the VA State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC). This committee coordinates interoperability issues statewide through end user collaboration and reports to the Governor through the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness. Focusing on training and standards for public safety communications has been his priority while serving on this committee, including a statewide-standardized radio protocol, also known as common language protocol. He has been instrumental in assisting public safety agencies transition from coded radio protocol to a common language protocol. At the national level, he is currently the chair of the Law Enforcement Information Management (LEIM) Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and a member of the US Department of Homeland Security's SAFECOM Advisory Working Group. Captain Reyes is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. Governor Tim Kaine appointed him to the Virginia Latino Advisory Board and the Commission on Immigration. Captain Reyes is also an active participant and voting member of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) and the SAFECOM Executive Committee, representing the International Association of Chiefs of Police on each. He is also an active participant in the IACP's Law Enforcement Information Technology Standards Council (LEITSC). With almost twenty years of law enforcement experience, Captain Reyes has achieved subject matter expert status around the country in public safety communications and information technology: E-911 telephony, CAD, RMS, Mobile data, land mobile radio and interoperability. He is a native of New Mexico. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from New Mexico State University and is presently working on his Master's Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Administration of Justice at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA.

**Dr. Michael O. Royster, Director of the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy**

Dr. Royster was hired by the State Health Commissioner in May 2007 after the General Assembly passed HB3034, which was introduced at the request of Governor Timothy Kaine requiring a physician to oversee minority health efforts for VDH. OMHPHP's mission is to advance health equity by identifying health inequities, assessing their root causes, and addressing them by promoting social justice, influencing policy, establishing partnerships, providing resources, and educating the public. OMHPHP serves as Virginia's state office of minority health, rural health, and primary care. The Office focuses on advancing health equity by designating medically underserved areas, by improving access to quality health care, by supporting the development of comprehensive models of health care, by addressing barriers to rural health, by focusing on health promotion, and by facilitating strategies to target the social determinants of health and advance social justice. Prior to this position, Dr. Royster was the Director of the Crater Health District headquartered in Petersburg, Virginia. Much of his work focused on developing and sustaining diverse community partnerships in order to maintain and improve the health of the community and eliminate health inequities. Among other initiatives, he implemented outcome-based program evaluations for all health department programs and led the expansion of efforts to promote cardiovascular health, eliminate childhood lead poisoning, and reduce teen pregnancy. In addition, he worked with local

university faculty to develop community-based participatory research partnerships. He was a member of the National Association of County and City Health Officials, Chronic Disease and Tobacco Workgroup. Dr. Royster completed his undergraduate training at the University of Virginia with a degree in Biology. He obtained his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine and completed a residency in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Immediately following his residency, he worked as an environmental epidemiologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, he completed the W.K. Kellogg Community Health Scholars Program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Public Health. While a Community Health Scholar, Dr. Royster conducted community-based participatory research that focused on the health of African American men. He is board certified in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine and he is a fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine.

#### **Dr. Marshall W. Smith, President of John Tyler Community College**

Dr. Marshall W. Smith is the sixth president of John Tyler Community College, and its longest serving chief executive officer, having assumed the position in September of 1990. His career began with student affairs positions in Alabama and Georgia, culminating in his service as Dean of Students at South Georgia College in the mid-1970s. He then moved to academic administration, serving as Dean of Instruction and Dean of the College at Calhoun Community College in Decatur, Alabama. Dr. Smith came to Virginia in 1985 as president of Germanna Community College. He was Vice Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System for four years just prior to his appointment at John Tyler. He is now in the eighteenth year of his presidency. He is currently in his fortieth year of higher education administration. His professional interests have centered on accreditation matters. He was chair of the Virginia delegation to the Commission on Colleges for three years, served on the Executive Council of the Commission for three years, and has chaired over twenty-five reaffirmation and special committees of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He is presently an adjunct member of the Graduate Faculty of Old Dominion University, occasionally teaching a doctoral course entitled *The Modern Community College*. Dr. Smith is the current president of the Crater Regional Partnership in Petersburg and served twelve years as Secretary / Treasurer of the Southern Association of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges, with a one-year stint as president of the organization. He is married with two adult children. He and his wife, Sheila, reside in Midlothian.

#### **\*\*Ms. Alexis Thornton-Crump, Assistant Division Administrator, Virginia Department of Transportation**



Ms. Thornton-Crump has an extensive background as an Equal Opportunity professional. She has worked in this capacity for several state agencies, McDermott International, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, and the U.S. Army. In her current position, Ms. Thornton-Crump directs the agency's statewide civil rights programs to ensure nondiscrimination in employment, as well as equal access to programs and services for persons with disabilities. She has a Master's degree in Human Resource Management and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Ms. Thornton-Crump is a graduate of the Department of Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute and the Commonwealth Management Institute of Virginia Commonwealth University. She has received certification by the

Supreme Court of Virginia as a Mediator and she is certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources. Ms. Thornton-Crump also serves on the Implementation Team that supports Governor Kaine's Community Integration of Virginians with Disabilities Advisory Commission. She is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management, the Virginia Mediation Network and the American Association for Affirmative Action. Ms. Thornton-Crump has worked as a volunteer in Guatemala and traveled to several countries in Latin America and Spain. She is functional in Spanish. She is married to Stephen Crump and has one daughter and one step-son.

**\*Dr. Gresilda A. Tilley-Lubbs**, Secretary, Virginia Latino Advisory Board; Assistant Professor of Second Language Education/ESL (SLED), Virginia Tech



Dr. Tilley-Lubbs' career has spanned all levels of education from kindergarten through higher education. She began her career as a music and Spanish teacher in Illinois, where she also taught ESL in a migrant program. She later taught ESL in a migrant farm laborers' camp in California. She now teaches graduate-level multicultural education, research, and second language education courses for K-12 pre- and in-service teachers. She is Director of the SLED program, which provides education for pre-service teachers for state licensure certification. She is a Multicultural Fellow at Virginia Tech, and is a past member of the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity. She is the recent recipient of the Diversity Award for the School of Education at Virginia Tech. She has won numerous awards for her teaching and service at all levels. She is author of book chapters and articles focusing on the impact of placing university students in service-learning experiences in the Mexican and Honduran communities. Her current research examines the construction of Being as a Mexican through the lens of transnational ethnography. In addition, her scholarship includes autoethnography represented through performance and performativity informed by post-structural, feminist, and critical theory, and presented through writing as inquiry. In addition to these research topics, her numerous international and national presentations include the demographics and effects of immigration and the sociocultural impact on society on both sides of the border. She served as a member on the board of directors of the Foreign Language Association of Virginia, including terms as vice-president and president. She has been a lead program reviewer for TESOL/NCATE programs. She gives workshops for educators on developing best practices for instruction in English as a Second Language and on implementing service-learning in university language programs. She is currently an affiliated faculty member in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Dr. Tilley-Lubbs earned her doctorate at Virginia Tech, and her MA in Spanish Literature and a BS with a major in Spanish and minors in Education and Music at the University of Illinois. She is bilingual in Spanish and English. She is married to Daniel Lubbs. They live in Roanoke.

**\*Mr. Andrés Tobar**, Chair, Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO)

Andres Tobar is a civic and political activist in Arlington. Since February 2004, he has been Executive



Director of the Shirlinton Employment and Education Center (SEEC), an organization that oversees the hiring of day laborers at the SEEC Office and Pavilion. He also oversees ESL and vocational classes, clothing drives, and referral services that are offered to the day laborers on a crisis basis. Before taking this post, Mr. Tobar served 5 ½ years as Executive Director and CEO of the National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP), a Washington-based nonprofit organization. NAHP represented over 150 Latino publications throughout the U.S. with a combined circulation of over 10 million. For 23 years, Mr. Tobar was a federal employee in the U.S. Department of Education, administering several programs in the Office of Postsecondary Education in Washington, DC, until his retirement in 1996. During his tenure, Mr. Tobar was an Administrator for the TRIO Programs that included Upward Bound, Talent Search and Special Services, serving minority and low-income youth to prepare for, enter and graduate from college and for ten years in the Division of Institutional Development. Mr. Tobar is a member of the following Boards and community activities: Fellow, LEAD Virginia; Chair, Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations; President, South Arlington Kiwanis; Board member, Arlington Food Assistance Center; Arlington County Democratic Committee (ACDC) Steering Committee; Virginia League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) State Director, Deputy State Director and LULAC Council President. Co-Chair: Immigrant Educational Rights Coalition; Fellow, Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership, University of Virginia; Fellow, Leadership Arlington; and from Co-Chairman of the African American-Hispanic Coalition.

**\*Mr. Michel Salvador Zajur, President and CEO of the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**



Mr. Zajur was born in Mexico City, Mexico, and attended Virginia Commonwealth University. He is a restaurateur. His family's business, La Siesta Mexican Restaurant, has been a staple in the Richmond community for over 30 years. In 1992, Michel and Lisa, his wife of twenty-four years, began offering cultural programs to the community, in an effort to teach and motivate children about the Hispanic culture and Spanish language. The effort was named Siesta Town. The program has served more than 100,000 school children. Siesta Town has evolved into the Spanish Academy and Cultural Institute, which provides industry specific Spanish language and Hispanic cultural training to businesses. In 2000, Michel identified another need in the Hispanic community and established the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (VAHCC). His mission involves promoting business opportunities by successfully connecting business and resource links to and within the Virginia Hispanic community. In addition to the VAHCC, Michel Zajur remains actively involved in community service, providing guidance as a board member for many non-profit organizations and commissions. He serves on many boards throughout Virginia: Lead Virginia, Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership, Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Retail Merchants Association, Performing Arts Foundation, Bon Secours Richmond Health Systems, Inc., Richmond Memorial Health Foundation, Richmond Visitor and Convention Center, American Red Cross, United Way, Catholic Charities. He has been the recipient of various awards and appointments: National Conference of Community Justices Humanitarian Award (October 2002), The Small Business Administration 2006 Virginia Minority Small Business Champion Award. He was appointed by Governor Mark Warner (2002) to the Commission on National and Community Service. He was appointed by Governor Timothy M. Kaine to the Governor's Economic Development Steering Committee (2006). He was appointed by Attorney General Bob McDonald (2007) to the Government and Regulatory Reform Task Force and by Congressman Eric Cantor to the Congressional Safety and Security Council (2001). Other appointments include the Virginia Crime Commission (2007) and the Chesterfield County Blue Ribbon Committee for Economic Development (2003).