

May 2006

Dear Compadres and Comadres of the Raul H. Castro Institute:

Given the future of our great state and our responsibility to address the education and social conditions of Latinos in Arizona, we seek your financial and corporate support for the Raul H. Castro Institute (RCI), named after the first Hispanic Governor in the State of Arizona. We invite you to join an elite group of community leaders who demonstrate their passion for educating our future Latino community leaders and influencing policy decisions.

The Raul H. Castro Institute will be a “do tank” that will educate and strengthen partners who serve the Latino community by fostering connections with research institutions, by promoting best practice dissemination and by impacting policy decisions in education, health and human services, leadership and civic participation. The RCI was formed at the request of Governor Janet Napolitano in partnership with Chancellor Rufus Glasper of the Maricopa Community Colleges. Key leadership for the RCI is being provided by Dr. Anna Solley, President of Phoenix College, and Professor Raul Yzaguirre, of the Arizona State University Center for Community Development and Civil Rights. During the next six to eight months, we will conduct a national search to hire an Executive Director, develop a documentary concerning the life of the Honorable Raul H. Castro in partnership with the University of Arizona, launch an Advisory Committee comprised of statewide community leaders, and conduct a research study concerning governmental hiring practices.

We value your leadership and commitment to our Latino community. We encourage you to consider making an individual or corporate donation to help support the mission of this emerging organization. We thank you in advance for your continued leadership and support. Si se puede! Viva the Raul H. Castro Institute!

Muchisimas gracias,



Anna Solley, Ed.D
President
Phoenix College



Raul Yzaguirre
Professor of Practice
ASU Center for Community Development and Civil Rights



Introduction

Recognizing the growing need for educational and health related services in the Arizona Latino community, Governor Janet Napolitano supported the idea of a Latino policy institute through which these issues could be capably addressed. Under the direction of Dr. Rufus Glasper, Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) Chancellor, Dr. Jose Leyba managed the development of the mission, vision, and framework of the proposed institute, which would serve as a “Do Tank” for Latino issues. A design team comprised of representatives from MCCCD, Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, Pima Community College, Raza Development Fund, Chicanos Por La Causa, and the Governor’s Office worked collaboratively for over one year to develop a vision, mission, priorities and also recommended naming the institute after former Governor Raul H. Castro, the first Hispanic Governor in the State of Arizona. The RCI is a response to the well-documented demographic growth of Latinos and the need to take positive action to address issues impacting Latinos in Arizona.

RCI Mission

The mission of the Raul H. Castro Institute (RCI) is to educate and strengthen partners who serve the Latino community by fostering connections with research institutions, by promoting best practice dissemination and by impacting policy decisions in education, health and human services, leadership and civic participation. The Institute will stress real world analysis and a concern for the growing need for educational and health related services in the Arizona Latino community and will make its findings accessible to the general public, media, and policy makers.

RCI Activities

The RCI will be a non-profit, clearinghouse and sponsor of Arizona-based policy research on leading issues relating to Arizona’s Latino population. Housed at Maricopa County Community College District, specifically Phoenix College, RCI will also provide technical assistance to state policymakers, academics, other national and local organizations, and the media.

The RCI’s principal activities will be:

- Sponsoring independent, nonpartisan research through collaborations at Arizona State University, University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University. Providing technical assistance to policymakers through briefings and commissioned projects.
- Disseminating research findings to policy audiences through RCI publications and educational forums.
- Create a database of best practices related to areas impacting Latinos in Arizona.



Leadership

The institute has been in an incubation stage, solidifying its objectives and leadership with support and guidance provided by MCCCDC. Dr. Anna Solley, President of Phoenix College, has taken the leadership role in the RCI development and has created an alliance with Professor Raul Yzaguirre, Executive Director, ASU Center for Community Development & Civil Rights, to strengthen the programmatic work of the institute and fundraising efforts. University of Arizona's College of Social and Behavioral Science, Center for Latin American Studies has also agreed to join the collaborative effort and will partner in the creation of a documentary of Governor Castro's lifetime achievements. The Raul H. Castro Institute intends to maintain an active Advisory Council, comprised of individuals from important sectors of the state: academia, business, prominent community representatives, leaders from rural communities, elected officials, members of the media, and representatives from national research and policy institutes. The purpose of the Advisory Council will be to provide subject matter expertise with respect to Institute undertakings. A national search for an Executive Director will be conducted in the near future.

RCI Support

The Raul H. Castro Institute is an emerging organization. Like any public nonprofit organization, ongoing efforts are intended to be sustained through successfully financed grants, individual giving, corporate and community participation, and eventually through an endowment. Development of self-sustainable resources will be cultivated and acquired and deposited into the Raul H. Castro Institute Development Fund of the Maricopa Foundation.

