



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs  
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"  
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201  
O 503.302.9725

Email: [oaco.mail@state.or.us](mailto:oaco.mail@state.or.us)  
[Ocha.chair@gmail.com](mailto:Ocha.chair@gmail.com)

Website: [www.oregon.gov/Hispanic](http://www.oregon.gov/Hispanic)

**For Immediate Release**  
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## OCHA Preparing New Slate of Internships

**Salem, Oregon (June 26)** - The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs is engaging joint partnerships with universities, state agencies, and legislative representatives for key studies to inform policy work in education and hate crimes, and a report about civic engagement among Hispanics in the northwest region during key election years.

The first is a joint internship between OCHA and the Governor's Office of Education and Workforce Investment to research efforts to improve the performance of students of color in Oregon, review and analyze successful models, and map key elements of strategies across the pre-k to post secondary spectrum. Carlos Perez, OCHA Commissioner, Ben Cannon, Education Policy Adviser to the Governor, Patrick Burk, PhD, Associate Professor PSU Graduate School of Education, and Sens. Chip Shields and Rod Monroe, and Reps. Betty Komp and Lew Frederick, OACO Commissions' Legislative Liaisons. These OACO legislative liaisons will serve as mentors for the intern to consider the policy implications of the data and research for system or administrative responses.

The second is a joint internship between OCHA and the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA), Governor's Offices of Diversity & Inclusion and Public Safety, Oregon Department of Justice, Civil Rights Unit, to assess the Status of Oregon Hate Crime Laws: a review/analysis of statutes and statistics by researching hate crime statutes, reporting and training in Oregon, review and analysis of the statutory language to identify and propose areas for improvement. Wes Garcia of Willamette Law School will work with Professor Gil Carrasco esq., OCHA Commissioner, Isaac Dixon, OCBA Chair, Frank Garcia, Director of the Governor's Office on Diversity and Inclusion, Diane Sykes, Director of DOJ Civil Rights Unit, Sen. Chip Shields, OCHA Legislative Liaison, and Rep. Lew Frederick, OCBA Legislative Liaison, to study the status of Hate Crime Law in Oregon.

This will include a review of civil and criminal remedies, the relationship between hate speech and hate crime, and description of loopholes in existing statutes that have resulted from court decisions. Statistical analysis of reports under the Hate Crime Statistics Act will also be undertaken. The reporting process and police training will be researched and problems identified. Senator Shields and Rep. Frederick will serve as advisors for the intern to consider the policy implications of the data and research for legislative or administrative responses. Professor Carrasco will serve as the Field Supervisor for the Intern

A third project is currently being explored by OCHA with the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs and the Hispanic leaders in Idaho to assess the benefits and barriers faced by Hispanics to civic engagement and the political process, plus perspectives on key social issues related to living in the northwest. Convened by the NW News Network on Regional Public Journalism, the project design

### OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs

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includes internships enabled by the tri-state partnership and local universities. OCHA Chair Andrea Cano joins project director Colin Fogarty, Oregon Public Broadcasting, Uriel Iniguez, Washington Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Dr. Matt Baretto, University of Washington Institute for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Prof. Paul Gronke, Reed College, Paul Apostoledes, Whitman College, and Maria Mabbutt, Idaho Hispanic Caucus and Boise University, among others.

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