



**Chicano Latino  
Affairs Council**  
State of Minnesota

### **CLAC Position Statement: Workforce Development (2011)**

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council recognizes that the State of Minnesota needs to compete in the global economy. The State's economic competitiveness will depend on having a healthy labor force with a solid educational background and up-to date technical skills.

The Council also recognizes the Latino workforce is estimated to increase steadily over the next two decades. According to the 2010 Census, there are 250,258 Latinos in Minnesota. The median age for Latinos in Minnesota is 24 while the median age of the majority population is 40. Furthermore, Latino workforce participation rate is the highest in the state at 80.5%. On the other hand, economic analysts, civil rights organizers, academics, and unemployed Minnesotans cite a combination of factors leading to the large gap, including limited networks for minorities for finding jobs, a lack of employment programs targeted at Latinos, and one of the worst educational achievement gaps in the country.

In order for Minnesota to have the best prepared workforce in the future, the Council recommends to the Legislature and the Governor of Minnesota to:

- Re-invest in the Workforce Center Model throughout the State of Minnesota
  - Use the workforce centers to increase the knowledge of and participation in training and educational opportunities among Latinos
  - Maintain a trained staff who are bilingual and can specifically provide resources to Latinos throughout the State of Minnesota
  - Create a Mentor Protégé Program to educate and train companies on how to participate in State and Federal contracts
  - Assist with job placement opportunities for trained workers
- Support programs geared towards retraining laid-off workers
- Identify state contracts resulting from bonds and monitor how minorities participate in these contracted work
- Champion the Bill Recommendation for a Collaborative Program to Reduce Unemployment legislation – CLAC Sponsor

*For more information, please contact Hector Garcia, Executive Director, at (651) 296-9587.*