

Center for Cultural Competence,
a program of Luz Academy and
Luz Social Services, Inc.

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Luz de Cultura

New Bill Would Create a National Cultural Competence Commission

Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee of Texas introduced the bill H.R. 90 titled, “Good Medicine Cultural Competence Act of 2003” on January 7, 2003. The House referred it to the subcommittee on Health on 2/3/2003.

SUMMARY AS OF: 1/7/2003--Introduced. Good Medicine Cultural Competence Act of 2003 - Establishes the Cultural Competence Commission to study and report on establishing standards in cultural competence education for medical and health professionals. H.R. 90 addresses issues of training, clinical guidelines and protocols, access, vulnerable populations, policy forums and think tanks, incentives, collaboration, and enforcement mechanisms.

Within the text of the bill, in a section named findings, one statistic stood out – “The annual AIDS case rate is 4 times higher for Latinos than for whites.”

The duties of the commission include, “(2) Mandating minimum professional training requirements for the delivery of high-quality knowledge-based patient care, and mandating annual hearings on the status of patient care for minority and low-income patients.” Substitute student for patient, and education for care, and that is an admirable recommendation for charter school policy makers and charter school administrators. Another duty for the commission called for establishing a national cultural competence “think tank” comprised of expert advisers known in the areas of research, advocacy, education, public health policy, and human services.

This idea would benefit not just health providers, but educators, too. The rest of the text outlines how the membership of the commission would work, and what the powers of the commission would be. For more information, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and research H.R. 90.

Arizona Parents Rate Charter Schools A or A+

Arizona is tops in the nation for its nurturing and objective charter school law, according to a national nonprofit charter school advocacy group.

The result is more than 450 charter schools in the state in which a majority of parents say they’d give their schools grades of A or A-plus.

Legislation that contributed positively to the charter movement’s growth earned states a grade of A in the National Center for Education Reform’s study, which examined state charter school laws and their effect. States earning this grade along with Washington, D.C.—Arizona and Minnesota—allowed more than one board to authorize the opening of charter schools and provided charters with legal and fiscal independence. *Excerpts from Arizona Daily Star article, 4/8/2003 by Jennifer Sterba* <http://www.azstarnet.com/star/ue/30408AZCHARTERS.html>

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Getting Current with Adalberto Guerrero Middle School's Success

Oscar Gonzalez, Principal of AGMS sat down with Media Specialist, Robin Southern, to discuss the AGMS impressive record:

Tell me about the school

The **Adalberto Guerrero Middle School** (AGMS) is a unique school where the students here are committed to learning curriculum and preparing for college starting in the 6th grade. The parents are also committed. During the interview process we need that commitment from the parents and the students in order for the students to be successful. And success has reached our students! We can see it with this semester's quarterly grades where from 45 – 55% of our student body made the honor roll. We can see success in the failure grades that we've issued as well. The first quarter we experienced about a 12% failure rate, and this last quarter we cut it down to 7.5 %. Of course we're trying to make it zero.

This year we have 97 students at the school, and we will be promoting 38 students to be Luz Academy 9th graders. We have plans to continue improving and offering more to our students. For example, next year we plan to have a computer lab on campus, along with a counselor and a reading program that will be implemented to all students - 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

Besides what you mentioned, what are the successes?

Another way that we measure success is our attendance rate. Our absence rate has maintained throughout the year at 2%, so that means that the students are committed. The school continues to be successful as is evident by our waiting list; we have approximately 80 students waiting to enroll next year, and this is without advertising.

Tell me the importance of honoring Latino culture at the school.

For the first time we've included a Spanish program this year, where the students are not only involved in learning or expanding on the language, but they are also learning cultures. We have started a club, called *club juntos*, that's open to all the student body including the 19% Anglo student population. The club has been involved in various activities, such as a cultural fair that took place in December. They were also involved in a bilingual assembly presentation called 'Hands' in which we provided assistance to a student that needed our help for a double lung transplant. Students sold paper hands for a dollar on which people could write a message to the student. The student is a senior at Pueblo High School. We provided the student with a check of close to \$500.00 along with the hands and their messages of hope.

Currently, we are in the process of planning a joint celebration with the Luz Academy high school for Mother's Day. A whole bunch of things are happening on a continuous basis, it's a very active student body.

Activities and Online Resources

Summer Institute:

Peru for **Spanish**

Teachers: A unique immersion experience for Spanish teachers seeking to refresh their language skills and develop thematic units based on the Peruvian experience, including homestays with Peruvian families.

June 17 – July 15

For more information contact:
muirhear@mtmary.edu

**University of Denver
International Studies Schools
Association**

www.du.edu/issa

Mission: As international studies becomes an essential and integral part of the social studies curricula nation-wide, it is our aim to support educators in their efforts to develop quality international studies initiatives.

Cinco de Mayo lesson plans for K – 8th grade.

<http://www.umkc.edu/imc/cincomay.htm>

Internationalizing Your School:
Online Checklist

http://www.unc.edu/world/global_updates_May02_2.htm

April 30, Día de los Niños is the celebration of childhood, with games, song and books. Bilingual literacy is promoted nation wide, along with a love and respect for all children of all nations.

Lesson Plans Dedicated to Teaching Culture Available Now!

The **Peace Corps Paul D. Coverdell World Wise Schools Program** maintains a web site with many publications and lesson plans on teaching about culture. Teachers can have lesson plans and books to teach from in minutes by downloading from their web site: www.peacecorps.gov/wws.

For example, a downloadable workbook titled, "Building Bridges: A Peace Corps Classroom Guide to Cross-Cultural Understanding" includes two units. Unit 1, titled "Culture in US" includes a section on defining culture, and unit 2, titled "Culture Beyond the U.S." has a section on resolving a cross-cultural misunderstanding. Go now to: www.peacecorps.gov/wws.

When you get to the web site select the educators link and then select again from five options including, "Teaching About Culture" and "Lesson Plans & Service-Learning". The lessons are adapted from the Peace Corps' cross-cultural training workbook "Culture Matters," designed for Peace Corps Volunteers; and from "Insights from the Field," "Looking at Ourselves and Others," and "Voices from the Field," all of which are World Wise Schools curriculum resources designed for classroom use.

Within the "Building Bridges" workbook, certain chapters are appropriate for high school and others for middle school. Go to www.peacecorps.gov/wws to find out more!

The CCC Goes Multimedia with a Access Tucson Cable Show

Anna Burke, CCC Director, and **Robin Southern**, Media Specialist, taped a show for the Access Tucson cable series, **TucsonVision**, which airs on channel 74 on Cox Communications and Comcast cable systems.

TucsonVision is an 8 to 10 week television series designed especially for nonprofit groups and organizations. Luz Social Services, Inc. tapes a show every two weeks to promote services and share information with the community. This particular show is part of the Center for Cultural Competence's ongoing publicity campaign. The hope is the information will get to the Access Tucson viewers, over 100,000 households on the Cox Communications system. We are excited about the opportunity and hope you all get a chance to view the show!

Update on the CCC Reference Library

The Center for Cultural Competence continues to build a Chicano reference section within the Luz Academy library. After contracting with **Frank de la Cruz** from El Pueblo library we have a list of books we have ordered to populate the library. Mr. de la Cruz has 25 years library experience, and he has amassed nearly 300 reference materials, including videotapes.

The library will be open to students, parents, teachers and community members. The CCC has ambitious plans for the library opening near the end of May; we will keep you posted! Check the CCC website for a list of library books soon.

www.luzsocialservices.org/ccc

Dr. Rodolfo Acuña Keynote at CCC Policy Symposium

The Center for Cultural Competence Policy Symposium, scheduled for October 9 - 10, 2003, will take place at the downtown Tucson Marriot Hotel. Anna Burke, Director of the CCC, is already organizing the workshops, speakers and logistics to make the symposium as efficient as possible. Please mark your calendars now!

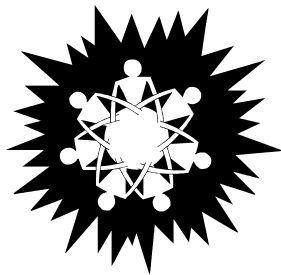
Just announced is the keynote speaker, **Dr. Rodolfo Acuña**. In the words of **Dr. Manuel Medina**, CCC Advisory Group Member, Dr. Acuña was selected, "because he is a well-known scholar and author and one of the pioneers in Chicano scholarly research." Dr. Acuña has authored hundreds of articles and books on the Chicano experience. Don't miss the opportunity to make policy. If you would like to participate, please contact Anna Burke, 882-6216.

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We're on the Web!
www.luzsocialservices.org/ccc



Conference Information

Who: National Association for Multicultural Education, 13th Annual International Conference
Where: Sheraton Seattle Hotel and Towers, Seattle, WA
When: November 5—9, 2003
Theme: From Rhetoric to Reality: Student Achievement in Multicultural Societies
Web site: www.nameorg.org
Contact email: name@nameorg.org

Lecture at U of A - Cultural Property in Mexico

Spring Brown Bag Colloquium Series, Center for Latin American Studies, U of A. All talks will be held in the Douglass Building, Rm 102 from 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm unless otherwise noted.

On Apr. 22 **Bob Vint**, Architect: "Conserving Cultural Property: Mexico and Cuba"

Bob Vint started the exterior restoration of San Xavier Mission in 1989.

CCC Submits Paper for NAME Conference on Curriculum Training

John Zhang, Director of Evaluation & Research, and **Robin Southern** worked with **Anna Burke** to submit a paper for the upcoming National Association for Multicultural Education – NAME annual international conference in November, 2003.

The paper outlined a conference presentation proposing to share with participating classroom teachers the findings of research studies on “cultural knowledge and skills in instruction to help student learning.” We hope to get word on the results of our submission by July. We will report to the newsletter whether we were selected. Wish us luck!

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not reflect those of the Luz Academy of Tucson, the Center for Cultural Competence or Luz Social Services, Inc.