

Latine Futures Initiative: Community Convening June 2022
Headlines & Stories Group Activity

Headline: SB2032 - Oregonians say we all get to thrive

In Oregon, we have seen an increase in houselessness, a decline in degree attainment, and a rise in healthcare disparities. Through mass demonstrations, racialized identity coalition meetings, and push from students across the state, Oregonians have decided that enough is enough, and we all have a birthright to thrive. Under SB2032, Oregon is not only allocating funds but intentionally building a task force of Latine, Black, and Indigenous eager to increase culturally responsive healthcare and partnering with educators and students to reimagine education. This bill will make Education and Healthcare for all Oregonians regardless of citizenship. “In Oregon, we believe que el pueblo unido jamás será vencido,” says Luis Valdez, Oregon Latino Coalition Leader.

Headline: Oregon reallocates funding to provide stipends to every household to switch to solar energy, build rain gardens and start victory gardens to localize our food systems.

Extreme heat and extreme weather events continue to increase. We will need to focus on community resiliency - localized food systems, and creating more rain gardens. Due to the mild climate in PNW compound to other places in the US, many will be moving here, so we need to prepare for that - housing accessibility, transportation (electric rail, accessible public transit), an influx of students in public schools - high schools developmental programs. Portland State has become the Latine choice university. Free preschool ensures we have a strong foundation for the future.

Headline: The First Latina Governor In Oregon

In the last 10 years, the Latino community has seen an increase in the number of members of their community who can vote. This was bolstered by the fact that DACA recipients were given the right to vote in the last legislative session. A strong presence of Latino businesses in partnership with community-based and youth-led organizations united to support the governor’s race.

PHOTO

In this photo, you can see the new governor next to the PSU president, thanking the community. Other Latinas surround her from the community celebrating a first for Oregon: A zero percent dropout rate coinciding with Latinos gaining the top seat with the highest GPA/graduation rates at the university.

Headline: AOC (Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez) becomes the first female president.

AOC ran a campaign that honored and recognized the diversity of the Latine experience and understands that political views vary based on geography. On the campaign trail, she pushed for a re-examination of the current state of border enforcement. She was clear about her aggressive climate agenda. She outlined the ways in which the government can fundamentally improve people's lives through free healthcare, expanding access to a college education through tuition waivers, increasing the

annual allocations to minority-serving institutions (MSI), and securing the electoral process through expanding mail-in ballots, and dismantling the Electoral College.

AOC was successful in recruiting a vast grassroots movement. Fatima, a volunteer and PSU student, shares, “Democracy has to exist for us to have faith in it. Por ejemplo, where is democracy when the Supreme Court rules that police/ICE can come into your house with no warrant? We have to have faith that our elected officials will defend our rights to be here and our right to pursue happiness.”

Fatima is a senior at PSU, a federally recognized Hispanic Serving Institution that stands to benefit from AOC’s increased funding to MSIs. She is enrolled in a senior capstone course working to create an unhackable voting system.

She shares, “I believe in AOC because she goes beyond false representation, like when politicians are up for election soon, THEN decide to visit BIPOC or rural communities. AOC develops authentic, long-term relationships with community members.”

Headline: First Net Zero Collective Sustainability Model

The first Latina Governor released the inaugural Oregon collective sustainability model. The comprehensive model has sparked international interest.

This comprehensive module includes repurposed consumer products, sustainable agriculture (farm to school), equitable transportation, solar-powered trains connecting all corners of the state, community gardens, sustainable housing recycling, own nature, generating their own electricity, natural tree canopy, diversity of views to build trust, carbon neutral, net zero (reusable diesel, reduce pollution 80%).

Headline: Portland Celebrates Digital Access for All!

Along with equitable access, Portlanders will receive digital devices. At home, Portlanders have support from technology ambassadors. These ambassadors support communities in multiple languages to increase digital literacy to ensure that all users can enter the digital world with skills and confidence. This foundational building block accelerates innovation and community connectivity. Funds/resources are a basic need; for connectivity access, devices, and technology ambassadors. There will be training for communities of color in technology fields such as engineering and coding. Neutrality has to be addressed to break down digital gatekeepers to secure free access.

Headline: Portland is one of the nation’s most sought-after cities for American climate refugees; the population remains at or above 50% Latine.

To prepare the city for an influx of climate refugees, the city develops community-informed policies that promote community resilience in the face of climate emergencies. At the center of the policies are

K-12 and higher education completion initiatives with a special focus on serving Latiné male students. This population has experienced a dramatic enrollment decline in the last ten years. Schools will now remain open year-round. On-site support services will be augmented.

For the general population, there is a mandate to increase affordable housing and housing security programs for those who already live here. Additionally, subsidized energy alternatives, access to solar panels, and increased food access will provide robust support for vulnerable community members. Latiné leaders hope that these policies will create a region where Latiné community members can lead and THRIVE in place as opposed to the continued pattern of push out by climate refugees who have the ability/privilege to MOVE

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