



Thursday, September 27, 2001

Essay contest addresses Latino enrollment

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

Oakland University students have the opportunity to address minority enrollment issues in the Hispanic Celebration 2001 essay contest.

The contest, sponsored by the **Office of Equity**, is part of OU's **Hispanic Celebration 2001** series, which runs through Oct. 5. For the essay, students are asked to consider the fact that historically, minority students have lower undergraduate enrollment rates than the general population. In 500 words, essayists are asked to explain how they would recruit and retain Latino students at OU and explain why it is important to do so. Any relevant experience may be incorporated.

Lisa Dillon, CAS '99, advising assistant for the Office of Equity and chair of the Hispanic Celebration Committee, said this is the first time an essay contest has been incorporated into Hispanic celebrations at OU.

"We really want to get students thinking about the issue of low Latino enrollment and want their participation," Dillon said. "The theme of the celebrations is 'building on the strength of our past,' and while we want to have fun we also want to tie in some social and educational issues. We have 224 registered Latino students at OU this fall. In the last academic year, Latinos represented 1 percent of the total student population. With President Russi's 2010 vision, I know he very much wants to include students of color. The essay contest puts this issue on the table for discussion."

Students must turn in their essays to the **Office of Equity**, 121 North Foundation Hall, by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 2. Dillon said the Hispanic Celebration Committee will judge the essays based on content, clarity and creativity. Two winners will be announced at the Hispanic Celebration Closing Ceremonies on Friday, Oct. 5, at noon in the Oakland Center's Fireside Lounge. The prize for first place is \$500, while the writer of the second-place essay will receive a \$100 gift certificate to the **OU Bookstore**.

For more information, contact Rakhi Roy at the **Center for Student Activities** at (248) 370-2400 or roy@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

Oakland University students have the opportunity to address minority enrollment issues in the Hispanic Celebration 2001 essay contest.

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