



Monday, September 17, 2001

Hispanic Celebration kick-off set for Sept. 17

The opening ceremony for OU's Hispanic Celebration 2001 is being held Monday, Sept. 17, from noon to 1 p.m. in the **Oakland Center** Fireside Lounge. State Rep. Belda Garza, 8th District, is the keynote speaker. There also will be refreshments, giveaways and entertainment by "Folklorico."

Hispanic Celebration 2001, which runs Sept. 15 through Oct. 5, is being held in conjunction with National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 to Oct. 15).

Many events are scheduled to celebrate and inform students, as well as the general public, about Hispanic culture. Activities include a tastefest featuring a variety of ethnic dishes; a craft night where you can design your own set of maracas; discussions on Latinos in high education and Latin politics; a presentation on children who grow up in bilingual homes; and a panel discussion on what the term "Hispanic" means to students.

New to the celebration is the Latin Rhythms Night, where traditional dance performances, a dance floor and live Latin music will be featured. A student essay contest with a first prize of \$500 also has been added.

In the last few years, Hispanic Celebration has become a tradition at OU. The event has brought Oakland students, faculty and staff together to celebrate the influence of Hispanic culture in our communities, to recognize the achievements of Hispanics and to deepen our appreciation for diversity.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, September 15

- 7-11 p.m. in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms – Latin Rhythms Night with special guest DJ Luis Mendoza. The event will feature music, refreshments and salsa dance classes.

Monday, September 17

- Noon-1 p.m. in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge – Hispanic Celebration 2001 Opening Ceremonies with keynote speaker State Rep. Belda Garza, 8th House District. There will be refreshments, giveaways and entertainment by "Folklorico."
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Gold Room C of the Oakland Center – A Discussion on "Latinos in Higher Education" with guest speaker State Rep. Belda Garza.

Wednesday, September 19

- Noon-1 p.m. in Gold Room C of the Oakland Center – Cultural Showcase – Learn about various aspects of Latino culture from la Quinceañera to Café Cubano. Latino Studies instructor, Ricardo Nuñez, is the guest speaker.

Thursday, September 20

- Noon-1 p.m. In the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge – A Panel Discussion on "Are Hispanics from Hispania?" Listen as Latino students share what the term "Hispanic" means to them and their experiences identifying as a Hispanic at OU. The discussion will be facilitated by Juan Pablo Spicer-Escalante, assistant professor of Spanish.

Monday, September 24

- Noon-1 p.m. in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms – Lunch-Latin Style with free lunch samples from local Mexican restaurants. You can enjoy a variety of ethnic dishes and learn about their origins.

Wednesday, September 26

- Noon-1 p.m. in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge – A Discussion on Latin Politics: "Expanding 'Trade' and Shrinking 'Democracy' in the Americas" facilitated by Alan Epstein, special lecturer of Political Science.

Tuesday, October 2

- Deadline for essay contest. All entries due in 121 North Foundation Hall by 5 p.m.

Thursday, October 4

- Noon-1 p.m. in Gold Room C of the Oakland Center – Heritage Speakers: Children Who Grow Up in Bilingual Homes, with guest speaker Maria Spicer-Escalante.
- 8-9 p.m. in Vandenberg Dining Center, Vandenberg Residence Halls – Latin Craft Night.

Friday, October 5

- Noon-1 p.m. in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge – Hispanic Celebration 2001 Closing Ceremonies with keynote speaker OU President Gary Russi. Essay contest winners will be announced, refreshments served and there will be music.

SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Monday, September 17, 2001
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