



Thursday, June 17, 2004

Hispanic Outreach Program to hold graduation

Oakland University's innovative **Hispanic Outreach Program** will celebrate its fifth annual reception for program graduates at 6 p.m. Friday, June 18, at the Whitmer Center in Pontiac. The event is co-sponsored by Oakland University's Linguistics Department, OU's College of Arts and Sciences and Catholic Social Services of Oakland County.

The Hispanic Outreach Program's mission is to provide English language skills to Spanish-speaking residents in the Pontiac area. The program also provides free child care, transportation, books and supplies to all participants.

"The **Hispanic Outreach Program** fills a vital need in Pontiac, where 13 percent of the city's population is Hispanic," said Peter J. Binkert, chair of the Oakland University Linguistic Department and director of its Center for American English. "This year, 478 different individuals came to at least one of our English classes and 247 attended classes on a regular basis."

The program was supported by a \$25,000 gift from the General Motors Corporation and a \$25,000 grant from the Michigan Works program. During the reception, Pam Reese and Doris Powers Toney from General Motors will be presented with a Business Leadership Award for their continued support of the program.

For more information on the program, visit the **Hispanic Outreach Program** Web site.

SUMMARY

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