

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

Organizers in Seattle who would have hosted LLEGÓ's Encuentro conference this month plan to host "Sigamos Adelante: The LGBT Latina/o National Forum" from Oct. 8 to 10.

The event will provide workshops and training on issues relevant to the Latino queer community locally and nationally. The goal is to analyze what the loss of LLEGÓ means to the Latino queer community and to discuss organizing strategies.

A similar event was held Sept. 28 in New York, and another will be held Oct. 5 in Miami.

LLEGÓ closed in September after 17 years of service. It followed May's resignation of executive director Martin Ornelas-Quintero, who was with the organization for eight years.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY EVENTS

The Multicultural Center at Linn-Benton Community College in Albany is holding several activities in celebration of National Coming Out Day, which is Oct. 11. All events are free and will be held at the center.

- A workshop, "10 Ways to Fight Hate on Campus," will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 5. Tafeni English will lead the workshop, which is sponsored by the Southern Poverty Law Center and Community Alliance for Diversity. RSVP to the center, 541-917-4461, or pick up a free resource book if you cannot attend.

- A roundtable discussion lunch will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Oct. 11 about the impact of disabilities in the queer community, led by Adero Allison, director of disability services at the college.

- A National Coming Out Day Rally, co-sponsored by the college's Gay Straight Alliance, will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 11. Refreshments will be served.

For more information contact Jason Miller at 541-917-4461 or jason.miller@linnbenton.edu.

Central Oregon Community College is also holding several events this month in Bend.

- David Tseng, executive director of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, will speak at "Freedom, Equality, Safety: A Coming Out Rally." The gathering will begin 5 p.m. Oct. 8 at Rademacher Square, followed by the rally at 5:30.

- Scholar Will Roscoe will present a slide lecture, "Changing Ones: Third and Fourth Genders in Native North America," from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 15 at Hitchcock Auditorium. He will cover his research on the Native American berdache or two-spirit tradition.

- A discussion, "The Many Faces of Gender: Biological and Socio-Cultural Perspectives," will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 25 at the Brooks Resources Room at the Bend Public Library. The talk will be presented by faculty Amy Harper and Rebecca Walker-Sands.

Oregon State University's Pride Center will hold the grand opening of its new location Oct. 11 at 1553 S.W. A Ave. in Corvallis. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided.

For more information call 541-737-9161 or visit oregonstate.edu.qrc.

The Multnomah County Employee Network Group PRISM (Pride, Respect, Integrity for Sexual Minorities) is also holding a National Coming Out Day celebration from noon to 1 p.m. Oct. 11 in the second-floor auditorium at the Portland Building, 1120 S.W. Fifth Ave.

Speakers will include entertainer Poison Waters, aka Kevin Cook; Roey Thorpe of Basic Rights Oregon; Linda Traeger of Equity Foundation; Jay Harter of the Human Rights Campaign; Ric King of Elder Resource Alliance; Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo

de Steffey; and Portland City Commissioners Dan Saltzman and Randy Leonard.

For more information contact dbsncodteam@co.multnomah.or.us

DAVID MARTINEZ TAKES NEW POSITION

David Martinez, community liaison for Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey, has taken a new position at Linfield College's Portland campus, in the Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing.

Martinez, 36, said his new position will focus on recruitment and retention of students in underrepresented communities, and specifically the Latino community. The school recently received a grant to look at the shortage of bilingual, bicultural nurses, he said.

"Working with education, and working with the community—that's where my heart is," he said.

Martinez, who identifies as gay, was the first in his family to finish high school and then college. He said he'd particularly like to look at issues of access to higher education.

"I'm looking at access to education, and the barriers that exist when you are from an underrepresented community," he said. "I know firsthand what that means."

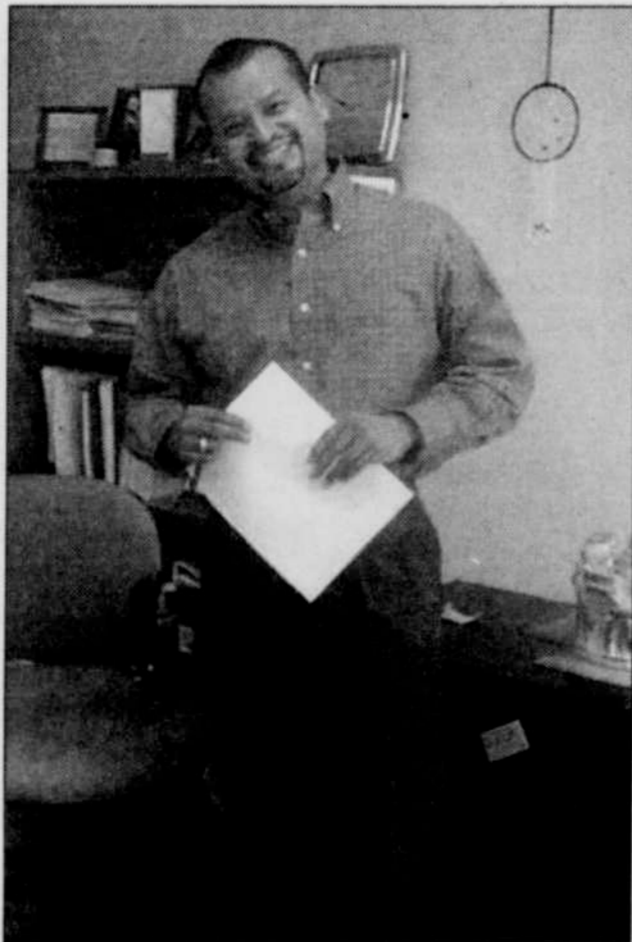
Martinez's background is in higher education. He worked at Portland State University, Western Oregon University and Willamette University prior to joining Rojo's staff in July 2001.

"She is such a role model for me," he said of Rojo. "She really was supportive and looking out for me, and what I wanted to do."

Martinez keeps busy outside of work as well. He's on the board of directors at Cascade AIDS Project, Hispanics in Unity for Oregon and the Portland Guadalajara Sister City Association.

He is also the co-chairman of the LGBTQ Community Center Fund, on the advisory board of the Chicano Latino Studies Program at PSU, a planning committee member of the annual Cesar E. Chavez Leadership Conference and a player and manager of the Rose City Softball Association's Bella Boys team. **jm**

Compiled by M.L. MADISON



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