

"Out Of Many... One" Transcript



June 22, 2006 - ABC 7 Chicago's "Ñ Beat," hosted by General Assignment Reporter, Theresa Gutierrez, is a series of locally produced Emmy nominated half-hour specials featuring prominent Latinos who are making a difference. There are 21 ethnic groups that comprise the mosaic of the Latino people and in this special edition of "Ñ Beat: Out of Many&ONE," airing Saturday, June 24th, at 6 p.m., we focus on the five most prominent... Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Guatemalans and Salvadorans. While in total, 27% of Chicago's population is Latino, 77% of that total is Mexican, 11% Puerto Rican, 3% Cuban, and Guatemalans and Salvadorans together account for another nearly 5%.

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Theresa Gutierrez

HELLO AND WELCOME TO "Ñ BEAT"&OUT OF MANY&ONE." I'M THERESA GUTIERREZ. AT MORE THAN ONE POINT SIX MILLION, LATINOS HAVE EMERGED AS THE LARGEST ETHNIC OR RACIAL MINORITY GROUP IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO. BUT JUST WHO ARE THEY? WELL THEY'RE MEXICAN, PUERTO RICAN, CUBAN, SALVADORAN, GUATEMALAN AND MANY, MANY MORE. THERE ARE 21 ETHNICITIES IN ALL, BUT ON THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF "Ñ BEAT," WE'RE FOCUSING ON THE 5 MOST PROMINENT. WE BEGIN WITH THE MEXICANS WHO COMPRISE 27% OF THE LATINO POPULATION IN OUR GREAT CITY.

Carlos M. Sada

Consulado General de Mexico Chicago has been always a point of attraction to the Mexican community. When they come here they settle here, they start a family, they start a business. It is the second largest Mexican community in the United States. The fifth largest Mexican city in the world right after Mexico City, Monterey, Guadalajara, L.A .and then Chicago. The growth of the city of Chicago regarding population in the last ten years has been because of the process of Mexican immigrants.

Theresa Gutierrez

SEÑOR SADA HAS BEEN CONSULADO GENERAL DE MEXICO HERE IN CHICAGO FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS. HIS OFFICE IS THE SECOND LARGEST MEXICAN CONSULATE, ONLY TO L.A.

Carlos M. Sada

Consulado General de Mexico

It is the first or second most important consulate of Mexico in the world. Everyday we have approximately 500-800 people coming to the consulate in order to ask for documents like a passport, like the Matricula (sp.), that is an I.D. that we issue to Mexican people. We issue here birth certificates, we issue powers of attorney that could be effective in Mexico, we promote

businesses, we promote trade, we promote tourists. So our job is very extensive and very interesting and very exciting.

Theresa Gutierrez

IN PROVIDING THESE NECESSARY SERVICES, CONSULADO SADA FEELS THAT WHILE THE MEXICAN COMMUNITY HAS MANY SIMILARITIES TO OTHER LATIN ETHNIC GROUPS, IT MAY NOT BE POLITICALLY CORRECT TO LUMP THEM ALL IN THE SAME CATEGORY.

Carlos M. Sada

Consulado General de Mexico

You cannot put everybody in the same group. It is not good that we are all put together as Latinos or Hispanics when we are Columbians when we are Peruvians when we are Mexicans when we are Salvadorians. In most of other countries it is not Europeans it is Spaniards, it is Portuguese, it is Germans it is English people and the same in Asia it is Koreans, it is Chinese or so. We have coincidences we speak the same language but we have some very important cultural differences.

Abe Tomas Hughes II

Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement

Here at HACE we've actually done a recent poll and definitely more people prefer to be called Hispanic still than Latino. And to be honest I think most people like to identify with what exactly specific ethnic group that they are. I typically say I'm Mexican&then I might describe myself as Hispanic and then possibly Latino. Hispanic is actually a term that was invented by the U.S. government for census purposes. Latino is a little bit of more one of our own words.

Theresa Gutierrez

ABE GREW UP ON THE MEXICAN BORDER IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA. HE IS NOW PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE HISPANIC ALLIANCE FOR CAREER ENHANCEMENT.

Abe Tomas Hughes II

Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement

HACE is all about trying to channel more and more Latinos in a methodical and systematic way into really becoming successful and becoming professional and getting economic independence going for themselves. We work with various high school programs, and we have our own initiatives trying to convert those high schoolers to go to college. And then in college, we have seven or eight programs that we implement to build leaders&people with great communication skills, they have a great sense of their career. Typically they've done an internship and then these are people that are also academic achievers. So our goal is to create about 25 Latino superstars that we can plug into the fast track management programs at some of the leading companies in America. At the professional level, we have open houses at leading companies. So, we're really making a difference I believe in the Latino community.

Theresa Gutierrez

SYLVIA RAMOS, PRESIDENT OF DALEY CITY COLLEGE, MAY NOT HAVE USED THE SERVICES OF HACE, BUT SHE CERTAINLY HAS HER OWN SUCCESS STORY.

Sylvia Ramos

Daley City College

I think it started in fourth grade. I knew I wanted to be a leader. I wasn't sure what I would lead, but I knew I was going to be a leader, so I just did all the things that I knew I needed to do. What I have figured out in the last thirty six months, that you really have to prove yourself in terms of your profession. Your work ethic is going to define how you are accepted and embraced

into the Chicago family, and it really doesn't matter that I am of Mexican descent. That is not an issue at all.

Theresa Gutierrez

IT MAY NOT BE AN ISSUE, BUT IT IS A FACT THAT SYLVIA IS THE FIRST LATINO PRESIDENT OF ANY OF THE CHICAGO CITY COLLEGES.

Sylvia Ramos

Daley City College

I am the person responsible for everything within this college. There are twenty one thousand students that matriculate yearly into Daley College. A lot of my role is in relationship building, leading, working with administration, with the instructional teams, and the support teams, and coordinating all activities on a day-to-day basis.

Theresa Gutierrez

I MUST SAY THAT NOW IS A VERY EXCITING TIME TO BE LATINO, MEXICAN IN PARTICULAR, IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO. THE STRIDES WE HAVE MADE OVER THE PAST YEARS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING HAVE BEEN PHENOMENAL. WHILE YOU CAN SEE OUR INFLUENCES ALL OVER THE CITY, CONSUL SADA HAS SOME RECOMMENDATIONS OF HIS OWN.

Carlos M. Sada

Consulado General de Mexico

I highly recommend to take a tour of Little Village&to go on 26th Street to go on Pilsen to the 18th Street and then you will see the (?) of the Mexican community. There is a special museum there, the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum which is on 19th Street in Pilsen. And right now for instance it has a very important exhibit about the African presence in Mexico. Very few people know that we have roots also of African origin. In order to know Mexico you have to mingle around with different communities, that's why we keep inviting our friends from Illinois from Chicago to visit Mexico and to learn a little bit more about the plurality about the vast cultures that Mexico has.

Theresa Gutierrez

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO ME. AND YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA&I THINK YOU SHOULD STAY WITH US WHEN WE RETURN WITH MORE INSIGHT INTO THE LATINO COMMUNITIES HERE IN CHICAGO.

Theresa Gutierrez

THE NEXT TWO COMMUNITIES ON WHICH WE WILL FOCUS ARE UNIQUE IN THAT ONE'S PEOPLE ORIGINATE FROM A COMMONWEALTH OF THE U.S., AUTOMATICALLY DESIGNATING THEM AS U. S. CITIZENS, AND THE OTHERS COME FROM A COUNTRY WE DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE. MY COLLEAGUES JOHN GARCIA AND STACEY BACA BRING US THEIR STORIES.

John Garcia

SECOND ONLY TO MEXICANS, PUERTO RICANS REPRESENT 15% OF CHICAGO'S LATINO POPULATION. IN THE LATE 1940'S THESE EARLY MIGRANTS SETTLED IN NEIGHBORHOODS SUCH AS THE NEAR NORTH SIDE, LAKE VIEW, AND LINCOLN PARK. TODAY, NO MATTER WHERE THEY REST THEIR HEADS, DIVISION STREET REMAINS A PRIMARY PORT OF ENTRY FOR THESE NEW ARRIVALS IN CHICAGO.

Zenaida Lopez

Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration

We came from a nineteenth century environment, and on a plane ride, we went into the twentieth century, did not understand the history, the culture, or the language of this country, but came here and struggled, as every Puerto Rican did at the time, facing a lot of racism, and a lot of hatred.

John Garcia

THAT WAS THEN AND THIS IS NOW. WHILE THE 2000 CENSUS ESTIMATES THERE ARE ABOUT 157 THOUSAND PUERTO RICANS IN THE CHICAGOLAND AREA, ZENAIDA SAYS THE NUMBER IS CLOSER TO 300 THOUSAND.

Zenaida Lopez

Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration

We are the most organized, the most, and the only defined Puerto Rican community in the United States. It took the riots of 1966, the Puerto Rican riots, catapulted the Puerto Rican community into a level of consciousness to start creating a community. Out of that we got bilingual education, we got better housing, better healthcare. Puerto Rican people really stood up and said you know, we want to be counted.

John Garcia

AND COUNTED THEY ARE. WITH THEIR NUMBERS GROWING AND SKILLS AND CREDENTIALS BECOMING MORE SOLID, ONE PUERTO RICAN ENTREPRENEUR SENSED A NICHE AND STARTED IHISpano.COM. HIS NAME, RUDY MARTINEZ, AND HE'S THE CEO.

Rudy S. Martinez

ihispano.com

Corporations were looking for Hispanic talent and were having difficulty finding them so we built ihispano to have an avenue for corporations to really find candidates so we were trying to connect up Hispanic candidates with basically the Fortune 1000. Some of the users that come to our site will find 20-30,000 jobs on the site. Corporations will find tens of thousands of resumes. We have content that's focused on Hispanic talent&how to write resumes, how to interview for a job, where to look for a job.

John Garcia

WHILE RUDY IS PROUD OF THE CONNECTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BETWEEN THOSE SEEKING JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND THOSE THAT HAVE THEM TO OFFER, HE KNOWS THAT THE CREDIT DOES NOT BELONG TO HIM ALONE.

Rudy S. Martinez

ihispano.com

We have a strong sales staff that reaches out. We send out newsletters, we send out surveys, as we constantly are improving our sight. Our growth has just been phenomenal 300 per cent a year is how we're growing

John Garcia

RUDY SOUNDS LIKE HE'S ONTO SOMETHING AND WE WISH HIM THE BEST. WHILE SOME ENTREPRENEURS HAVE FOUND THEIR SECRET TO SUCCESS BY IDENTIFYING A NEED AND FILLING IT, OTHERS, LIKE SANDRA BAST, PRESIDENT OF BAST SERVICES, INC., DISCOVER THEIR CALLING FROM MORE PERSONAL INCENTIVES.

Sandra Bast

Bast Services, Inc.

I saw how much my parents struggled and I thought if I'm waiting for other people to do things it's not going to happen. I should be the one that's doing it. Bast Services has two different sides to it. It's got an IT division which does network services and provides those services to schools, and our school services, aside from the IT, is also doing educational outreach programs

John Garcia

SOUNDS FASCINATING, BUT JUST WHAT ARE THESE PROGRAMS AND WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THEM?

Sandra Bast

Bast Services, Inc.

The Aerospace Initiative is an internet provided program that a classroom can participate on a NASA mission. The Chicagoland Memory Bridge Initiative pairs students with those folks that are afflicted with Alzheimers in facilities throughout the Chicagoland area. Right now we have about fifteen high schools and five middle schools that are running the program as a service learning program after school.

John Garcia

WHILE THE FOCUS OF BAST SERVICES, INC. MAY BE ON THE GENERAL PUBLIC, SANDRA IS ALWAYS AWARE OF HER ROOTS.

Sandra Bast

Bast Services, Inc.

I've always been proud to be a Puerto Rican. I feel that it contributes a lot to the other beautiful parts of my life that I like to enjoy like music and dance. So, it sets me apart and makes me who I am more so than just being Latina.

Stacey Baca

THEY CERTAINLY ARE A PROUD PEOPLE. WE'D NOW LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME INDIVIDUALS WHO ARRIVED ON OUR SHORES FROM CUBA. WHILE MOST OTHER LATINO IMMIGRANTS HAVE FLED TO THE U.S. FOR ECONOMIC REASONS, CUBANS HAVE A VERY DIFFERENT STORY.

Hugo Chaviano

Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP

One of things that has differentiated the Cuban community, in some measure, is the fact that they largely have come here because of political circumstance in their own country as opposed to a lot of the other Hispanic groups that migrated purely because of economic opportunity in the United States. I came to the United States when I was thirteen years old. I left Cuba by myself at that age. The Cuba that I left behind was the Cuba under very emotional, totalitarian type of system. Everything was lacking as far as material goods and people lived under great fear of what they said if it was in any way interpreted to mean dissent or to be speaking against the government.

Stacey Baca

NOW A PARTNER WITH SANCHEZ DANIELS & HOFFMAN, HUGO DOESN'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THOSE THINGS EVER AGAIN. PRACTICING CORPORATE LAW, HIS CLIENTS INCLUDE GENERAL MOTORS, FORD MOTOR COMPANY, LORDS OF LONDON, AND MCDONALD'S, JUST TO NAME A FEW.

Hugo Chaviano

Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP

Life is good. I've worked very hard but I have enjoyed a successful career as a lawyer, also have been able to give back to my community by serving in various leadership roles including as President of the Hispanic National Bar Association, and the Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement. I have three children, I have a beautiful home and love Chicago and love this country.

Stacey Baca

WHAT A SUCCESS STORY. I'M NOW GOING TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MARIA TORRES, DIRECTOR OF LATIN AMERICAN LATINA STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS IN CHICAGO. MARIA IS CUBAN BORN AND CAME TO THIS COUNTRY IN THE SAME WAY AS HUGO&ALONE.

Maria de los Angeles Torres

University of Illinois in Chicago

I was born in Cuba and I came to the United States with other Cuban children under what was tagged operation 'bolero bang' (?), which was a way of bringing children whose parents initially were fighting in the underground against Castro to safety. I think Chicago was always a very interesting place because it was a community that had a mixture of Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, South Americans, Central Americans and very open in terms of the Latino community and immigrant experience.

Stacey Baca

IN 1996, CONGRESS PASSED THE CUBAN ADJUSTMENT ACT WHICH ALLOWS FOR CUBAN NATIVES AND CITIZENS ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN TO BECOME LAWFUL RESIDENTS OF THE U.S. MARIA FEELS THAT THIS HAS GIVEN CUBANS A LEG UP OVER OTHER LATINO IMMIGRANTS.

Maria de los Angeles Torres

University of Illinois in Chicago

I think that we've been very privileged in the way that we've been brought into the United States and so therefore I think that we've had an easier time even though our exile tends to make us dwell on our suffering and what we've lost. We've actually had an easier time becoming part of the United States and that I think is something that would distinguish us.

Stacey Baca

NOW FOR A REAL TASTE OF CUBA. I'TS RIGHT IN BUCKTOWN ON ARMITAGE AND IT'S CALLED CAFÉ LAGUARDIA.

Carlos Laguardia

Laguardia Café

My dad had a restaurant in Cuba, for about ten years and when Castro took over he always dreamed about coming to the U.S.

Stacey Baca

AND THAT THEY DID. UNFORTUNATELY CARLOS' FATHER RECENTLY PASSED AWAY, BUT HE AND HIS BROTHER ARE FULFILLING HIS DREAM.

Carlos Laguardia

Laguardia Café

We're rich in spices, but not spicy hot. We eat a lot of pork and a lot of seafood and we have an array of dishes&the rice and beans and we have sweet plantains which everybody loves. We have a dish that we created ourselves which are Cuban nachos. And if you've never had Cuban food,

we do have a platter it's called "A Taste Of Cuba." It comes with the rice and the beans, the sweet plantains, your pork medallions, ground beef you know shredded beef which is another great staple of ours.

Stacey Baca

AND WHAT SETS CAFÉ LAGUARDIA APART FROM OTHER CUBAN RESTAURANTS?

Carlos Laguardia

Laguardia Café

We prepare every dish with a kiss of love.

Theresa Gutierrez

NOW THAT WE'VE GIVEN YOU A TASTE OF CUBA AND PUERTO RICO HOW ABOUT STAYING WITH US FOR A BIT OF EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA. I PROMISE, YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT.

Theresa Gutierrez

WHILE THE SALVADORAN AND GUATEMALAN COMMUNITIES ONLY ACCOUNT FOR 5% OF THE LATINO POPULATION IN THE CHICAGOLAND AREA, THEY HAVE ADDED MUCH TO THE FAVORABLE IMPACT LATINOS IN GENERAL HAVE HAD ON CHICAGO. MY COLLEAGUE DAN PONCE FILLS US IN ON THE SALVADORAN COMMUNITY.

Dan Ponce

LARGELY DUE TO THE WAR THAT TOOK PLACE IN EL SALVADOR DURING THE 80'S AND 90'S, ONE IN EVERY FOUR SALVADORANS FLED THEIR COUNTRY AND ARE NOW LIVING OVERSEAS. CHICAGO IS HOME TO ONE OF THE FEW CONSULATES IN THE U.S. AND I'D NOW LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ITS CONSUL GENERAL, PATRICIA PITTSFORD.

Patricia Maza-Pittsford

Consul General, El Salvador

I'm an attorney I went to law school in El Salvador and when the war was over I worked in New York as a coffee trader and I was the Director for a non-profit agency that promotes investment in El Salvador, and with a new government and with my background they offered me the consulate in New York. I was Consul General there for six years and now I'm on my fifth year in Chicago. Dealing with Salvadorans that have come here in the United States in the conditions that they came it's a very humbling and inspiring experience everyday for me. There's community groups that we work very closely to. There's churches it's like an open conversation they know that this is their home.

Dan Ponce

ONE OF THE CHURCHES THEY WORK WITH CLOSELY IS AMOR DE DIAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. THE PASTOR, REVEREND LANDAVERDE CAME TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1990 AS A POLITICAL REFUGEE AFTER MOST OF HIS FAMILY WAS KILLED DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

Rev. Jose S. Landaverde

Amor de Dios United Methodist Church

El Salvador the poverty is going worse and worse and worse. People want to leave the country. If they know you are in the country and you live in the United States, the first thing they come to ask you is how can you help me to get to the United States.

Dan Ponce

AND IF THEY'RE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO GET HERE, WHERE DO THEY GO?

Rev. Jose S. Landaverde

Amor de Dios United Methodist Church

We have a big community of Salvadorans in Carpentersville. We have big Salvadoran community at the northside by Hollywood and Clark; Rogers Park; the southside by Commercial, by 92nd and Commercial and other suburbs like Calumet City and all those areas. The El Salvadoran community is very spread out. In terms of cultures and food we are very similar to other countries. We are different from other communities in the sense that El Salvadorians are always looking to become better, to improve themselves to be good in economy and do good in their life.

Theresa Gutierrez

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT THAT SOUNDS PRETTY GOOD TO ME. THE NEXT COMMUNITY WE ARE GOING TO FOCUS ON ORIGINATED IN A COUNTRY THAT BORDERS ON FOUR OTHER COUNTRIES...MEXICO, BELIZE, EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS. CAN YOU GUESS WHAT IT IS? THAT'S RIGHT&GUATEMALA

Gustavo A. Lopez-Calderon

Consul General of Guatemala

We estimate between seventy and one-hundred thousand Guatemalans residing in Chicago. Most of them started coming in the eighties. We are very friendly people. We are hard workers in the sense that most of the Chicagoans refer to us as being quiet people, but respectful. I think we are a community that we are very happy to be a part of Chicago.

Theresa Gutierrez

FOR NO SPECIFIC REASON, A LARGE NUMBER OF GUATEMALANS HAVE LOCATED IN THE AREA AROUND LAWRENCE AND WESTERN AND THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND MOST OF THE GUATEMALAN SPECIALTY RESTAURANTS AND OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST. EVER HEARD OF POLLO CAMPERO?

Rafael Carballo

Pollo Campero

What makes Pollo Campero so special is the definitely the chicken and the service. The recipe's been around for 34 years, and there's no comparison, and it brings us back to Central America. We have great sides that will also remember North Americans taken back like if they're being tourists.

Theresa Gutierrez

AND SPEAKING OF BEING A TOURIST, LISTEN TO THIS.

Gustavo A. Lopez-Calderon

Consul General of Guatemala

We have direct flights from our country to Chicago. A four hour flight through our national airline which is called TACA. Chicago O'Hare airport is a hub for our products coming from that region. Therefore a lot of products made in our country come through here and get distributed through Chicago. Chicago is very important to us commercially.

Theresa Gutierrez

AND WE'RE HAPPY TO BE SO. WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

Theresa Gutierrez

I'D LIKE TO THANK MY COLLEAGUES STACEY BACA, JOHN GARCIA, AND DAN PONCE FOR JOINING ME AS WE'VE GIVEN YOU A GLIMPSE INTO THE LATINO COMMUNITY HERE IN

CHICAGO. IN ALL THERE ARE 21 ETHNIC GROUPS THAT COMPRISE THIS BURGEONING POPULATION AND WE HAVE SHARED WITH YOU THE FIVE MOST PROMINENT. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE&ABC7CHICAGO.COM. AND ALONG WITH ALL OF OUR FEATURED GUESTS, I INVITE YOU TO VENTURE OUT AND EXPLORE THE RICH MOSAIC OF CULTURE, DINING, ARTS AND OTHER FESTIVITIES THEY HAVE TO OFFER. FOR THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF "Ñ BEAT," I'M THERESA GUTIERREZ&SEE YOU NEXT TIME.

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