

## **HECFAA IN THE COMMUNITY – EN LA COMUNIDAD**

**HECFAA hosted members of the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives**

On Tuesday, May 5, HECFAA hosted over 20 members of the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives for a Cinco de Mayo event focused on professional development and networking. Ambassador Lino Gutierrez, Executive Director of the Una Chapman Cox Foundation, spoke on the importance of mentoring in promoting Latinos into leadership positions.



*NAHFE President Al Gallegos discusses the objectives of the NAHFE.*

Captain Catalina Rosales from the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff offered insight into how we can best prepare and respond to global challenges as Latinos as well as a DOD perspective on current events. This event met HECFAA's Action Plan goals of

collaborating with other affinity groups and promoting awareness and relations within the Hispanic community, and sharing HECFAA's mission and objectives with other federal agency affinity groups.



*HECFAA and NAHFE partnered to host a Cinco de Mayo event at the State Department*



*HECFAA President Paco Palmieri welcomes everyone to the State Department*

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### Director General Chacon visits with the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association



On Friday, May 29, Director General Arnold Chacon spoke to members of the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association about his career in the Foreign Service, the ever changing dynamics and demands of global politics, and the importance of a diverse and representative workforce. Several HECFAA members came out to support the event, networking with participants in advance of and after the presentation. Terry Davidson, the Diplomat in Residence, Michelle Arias Deputy Director of REE, and Fernando Matus of DS were also on hand to field

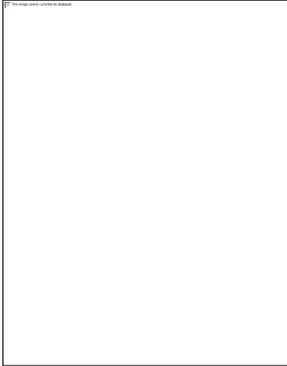


questions from the audience. Many participants expressed interest in communicating with HECFAA membership directly for further insight into our daily work.



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## HECFAA Speaker Series features Ricardo Zuniga

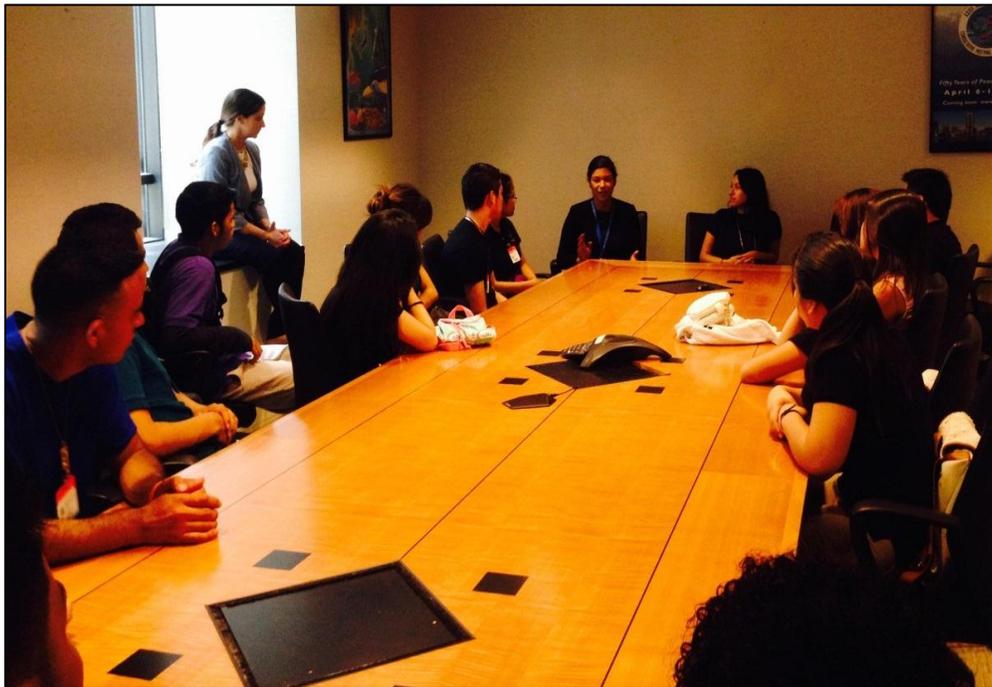


Ricardo Zuniga, former NSC Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs, shared his advice and professional experiences with HECFAA members on Friday, June 4, during a HECFAA Speaker Series event. Mr. Zuniga was introduced by WHA DAS Paco Palmieri, HECFAA president and longtime friend. Mr. Zuniga talked about his career at State Department, the unique experiences, and challenges faced as his career progressed, and how he came to specialize in Cuban affairs. He discussed his time at the White House, sharing several humorous anecdotes. During the Q&A session, Mr. Zuniga responded that people-to-people linkages is an important pillar to support the opening of diplomatic relations with Cuba. Ricardo's presence was inspirational and reminded the group that every single person in the room was creating history in his or her own capacity. Attendees enjoyed lunch and beverages provided by HECFAA and the Una Chapman Cox Foundation.

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## HECFAA hosts Latino Student Fund Group

On May 28, HECFAA hosted 25 high school students from the Cardozo Education



Campus in Columbia Heights, Washington, D.C. The students are participants in the Latino Student Fund's LISTO College Prep Program. Dr. Frances Colón, Acting Science and Technology Advisor to the Secretary and HECFAA board member, opened the program with motivational words

for the students. Panelists Michael Flores, Roxana Vigil, Heather Wild, and Sandy Perez then spoke about their experiences as Latino diplomats. HECFAA panelists were successful in exposing the students to a new setting and giving them an opportunity to witness the diversity within the State Department. The students deeply enjoyed the program and expressed excitement to begin exploring careers in public service. LSF is a nonprofit organization that works to promote access to higher education for underserved, under-resourced youth in the DC metropolitan area. LISTO is a free, after-school intensive program designed to support high school students in their journey towards college and a career.

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### HECFAA member profiled in Politico

*The Man Stopping Vladimir Putin From Taking Over the Internet*, an article from Politico Magazine by Nancy Scola, highlights the role of HECFAA member and Ambassador Daniel Sepulveda in securing the global integrity and openness of the Internet. Be sure to read the article:

<http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/06/daniel-sepulveda-internet-ambassador-118564.html#.VW8aeCEXR2Q>.

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### HECFAA recognized as an “ERG ALL Star”

On Tuesday, May 19th, 2015 OPM’s Offices of the Director and Diversity & Inclusion hosted an Employee Resource Group (ERG) Summit to assist ERG leaders in developing the skills needed to foster an inclusive, diverse workplace aligned with your organizational mission, values, and goals.



HECFAA was selected by the Office of Civil Rights to represent the State Department on a panel of “ERG All Stars.” HECFAA Treasurer Francisco Trigo offered ideas and best practices for other affinity groups to incorporate at their respective agencies and fielded questions from an audience of over 200 ERG leaders across the government.

OPM Director Archuleta, who spoke on the [Recruitment, Engagement, Diversity, and](#)

[Inclusion Roadmap \(REDI Roadmap\)](#), recognizes the utility of ERGs as a way to identify new ways to develop future leaders and increase employee engagement.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING? • QUÉ HAY?

### Discounted Tickets for the Buena Vista Social Club Concert



Only six tickets remain for this concert at the Wolf Trap (Virginia) on Saturday, August 29, 2015! Each ticket (lawn only) is \$25.00 and there is a maximum of two tickets per person. Pay through PayPal or arrange payment with Lymari Torres Reyes at [TorresRL@state.gov](mailto:TorresRL@state.gov)



Check out our [Events Calendar](#) to find out about upcoming HECFAA or other cool events related to Hispanics and/or professional development. You may also check out the [HECFAA Calendar](#) on [www.hecfaa.org](http://www.hecfaa.org).

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