N.C. Hispanics contribute billions to economy, according to new study

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

CHAPEL HILL - North Carolina's rapidly growing Hispanic population tributes more than \$9 billion to the state's economy through its purchases, taxes and labor, while costing the state budget a net \$102 per Hispanic resident in health care, education correctional services. according to a new study by researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel

If recent migration trends continue, the total economic impact of Hispanic spending in the state could increase to \$18 billion by 2009.

These were among the key findings and conclusions of the first major comprehensive study of the state's Hispanic population and its economic impact conducted by the Frank Hawkins Institute of Private Enterprise at UNC for the N.C. Bankers Association (NCBA), in cooperation with the Mexican Consulate of Raleigh. The study assessed the economic



impact of the state's growing Hispanic population and identified potential business opportunities provided by this fast-growing market.

"This study quantifies for the first 'time the enormous economic contributions made by our state's Hispanic population, as well as pointing to a wide range of public policy issues and business opportunities to be explored," said Thad Woodard, NCBA president

Among the study's findings:

North Carolina's Hispanic population totaled 600,913, or 7 percent of the state's total population, in 2004. The average Hispanic household contains 3.7 people (compared with 2.4 people in the average non-Hispanic household) and earns about \$32,000 annually (compared with \$45,700 for non-Hispanics).

· Hispanies filled one in three new jobs created in North Carolina between 1995 and 2005, with significant concentrations in the construction industry (29 percent of the labor force).

· Hispanics annually contribute about \$756 million in taxes (direct and indirect) while costing the state budget about \$817 million annually for K-12 education (\$467 million), health care (\$299 million) and corrections (\$51 million) - for a net cost to the state of about \$61 million, or \$102 per Hispanic resident.

Throughout his career, Martinez Martinez has conducted research and published extensively, focusing on diverse educational issues. Much of Martinez spent 19 years at Chicago State University as a professor and administrator. where he established

national reputation for ana-

demic leadership in diversity

and multilingual education

issues. He also devel-

oped and taught edu-

cation courses at the

Chicago Urban Skills

Center of Malcolm X

College, Governor State University in

College Park, Ill.,

Illinois University in

helping Chancellor

"I look forward to

Chicago.

Northeastern

Martin and the WSSU leader-

ship team advance the univer-

sity's clear strategic plan to

become a nationally recog-

nized center of excellence in

health services, teacher edu-

cation, science and technoló-

Martinez said. "Our faculty

and staff will inspire academ-

ic innovation and attain lead-

ership by listening to all voic-

es, considering all ideas, and

working together with the

common goal of creating the

highest quality learning expe-

gy, and financial services.

this work has been funded through grants awarded by the National Institutes of Health, public school districts, the National Association of Foreign Student Advisors and the fed-

eral government's Teacher Training Project, among other organiza-tions and programs.

Martinez has earned wide pubrecognition. including participation in several highly selective

fellowship programs: the American Association of Colleges State Universities Millennia Program, the Defense Fund, and the Kellogg Foundation. He was also named Teacher of the Year by the Latin American Student Association in 1982.

Martinez is married to Mayra Alvarez, an elementary education school teacher and certified school psychologist. They have two Karissa, 13, and Adriel, 9.

Exhibit

wounds through art and spirituality. This is the first time that all four art galleries have come together on an artistic project at

"The curators, Vicki Kopf, Dianne Caesar,

Belinda Tate and Kim Vernadoe, envisioned a citywide exhibition that celebrates the true racial and cultural diversity of our com-munity," McNabb stated, "a diversity so rich and so broad that no one institution could capture it alone

Artists' participat-ing come from all over the Triad area. Artwork will include paintings, sculptures, installations, and other mediums. The event is sponsored by Crossing 52, an organization formed to enhance racail relations by eliminating racial barriers throughout the area. Through the Winston-Salem

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Foundation, an ECHO grant was given in the amount of \$16,000 to help fund the project.

The Diggs Gallery will fea-ture the works of 41 artists, including artwork by the late Earnestine Rainey Huff. Other artists include Raul Montero,

Mona Wu and Ann

Referring to herself as a newcomer, Bonner feels that the event is an opportunity for local artists to come together of one accord about such an important topic. She believes that the artwork alone will generate conversations among the different

races that will view the exhibit "Visual art evokes thought. It evokes conversation," Bonner said. "Visual art is there. It's in your face, and you have to choose

to communicate with it, by look-

ing upon it. You have to choose to

embrace the thought or you could

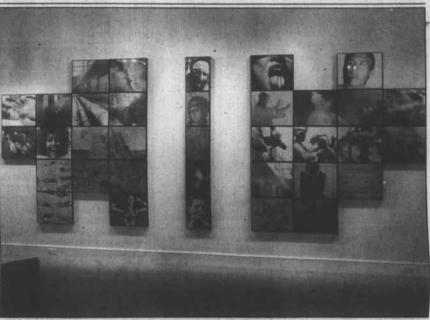
just walk away and ignore it, but it's hard to ignore something that's visually present."

Her artwork featured at Diggs 'Consolidation." It's a piecebased on her interpretation of the history of the Christian faith.

There will be other activities, such as games, that will be used as devices to get individuals to converse with one another. In fact, the exhibit will eventually coincide with SECCA's Community Day Celebration in

Although the exhibit is centered around racial topics, Kopf explained that doesn't mean the topics discussed have to be ones

of heated debate and controversy.
"I think the biggest thing is just getting everybody in the room together, where they can get to meet one another and shake hands, talk, and enjoy looking at artwork together. I surely think that's a beginning of developing a real relationship with one anoth-



Anne Kesler Shields' Towers 9/11 Abu Ghraib will be part of the show.

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