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Special Edition of La Prensa for Lazo Cultural

Genetic study shows diversity, ancestry of Latino populations

ITHACA, NY, May 17, 2010: Being Latino in the Americas can mean very different things – depending upon where your ancestors called home, a new study led by a Cornell researcher shows.

The new study shows that populations geographically close to former slave trade routes and ports have more African ancestry than more inland Latin Americans, who show more Native American heritage.

The terms Hispanic and Latino “encompasses a huge amount of genetic diversity,” says Katarzyna Bryc, a graduate student in biological statistics and computational biology and co-lead author of the study with New York University medical student Christopher Vélez. “The study reveals unique patterns of ancestry across these populations.”

“These Latino populations tell us about the complexity of migration events involved in the histories of Hispanics/Latinos,” Bryc says.

The study includes genetic samples from 112 people from México plus 100 individuals from Ecuador, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. The analysis shows that individuals from the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Colombia have more African ancestry, reflecting migrations along the historical slave-trade routes. In contrast, Mexicans and Ecuadorians have more Native American ancestry.

Researchers also found that the Native American segments of genomes of North American Latinos – those from México, Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic – are genetically more similar to those of the *Nahua* people indigenous of México and Central America, while the Native American segments of genomes of South American populations – those from Colombia and Ecuador – were most similar to those of the *Quechua* people.

The findings also have implications for medicine, where knowledge of ancestries may reveal tendencies toward chronic inherited diseases. For example, previous studies have shown that Latinos with greater European ancestry have a higher risk of breast cancer.

The genetics study by researchers from Cornell, the New York University School of Medicine, the University of Arizona, and Stanford University, appears online in the May 5, 2010 edition of the peer-reviewed Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and can be found online at www.pnas.org.

Senior authors include: *Carlos Bustamante*, a former Cornell computational biologist and geneticist now at Stanford’s School of Medicine; and *Harry Ostrer*, director of the Human Genetics Program at New York University. *Andres Moreno-Estrada*, postdoctoral associate in Bustamante’s lab, was also a co-author.

The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Facundo Saravia in concert, Celebrating Argentina's Bicentennial, Friday, May 28, 7PM

Facundo Saravia, interpreter and songwriter of Argentina’s musical folklore, is performing in the Metropolitan Detroit area as part of his USA tour.

After forming the folk group *Los Zorzales* at 14, he joined the famous Argentinean group *Los Chalchaleros* in the 1980s. Since the late 1990s, Facundo has been performing as a soloist and has six CDs to his credit. His songs evidence concern for many of the issues that afflict contemporary society, such as drug use, elderly rights and organ donation. He has received several music awards, and toured throughout Argentina and in several cities of the United States.

Facundo Saravia, who plays guitar, will be accompanied by first-class musicians *Nestor Acuña* (vocals, piano and accordion) and *Santiago Saravia* (percussion).

The event takes place at: Smith Theatre – Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus 27055 Orchard Lake Rd - Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (SW corner of Orchard Lake Rd and I-696). Sponsored by Asociación Argentina de Detroit – Michigan. Tickets are \$ 15 in advance, at the door \$20, youth \$15 \$10 - Payment online (www.neptix.com/events/2391) or call Rubén Cazala at 248-855-4948.

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Arizona Republican governor forms task force on immigration law

By PAUL DAVENPORT, Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX, May 13, 2010 (AP): Republican Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer on Thursday formed a task force of tourism officials and business leaders to help the state's struggling tourism industry in the face of what she called "mistruths" about the state's controversial new law targeting undocumented immigration.

Brewer met privately with tourism industry leaders and later told reporters that she was forming a group of industry representatives and state officials to prepare a marketing strategy to deal with public criticism of the law.

The law, which is set to take effect late July, requires police to ask a person about his or her immigration status if there's "reasonable suspicion" that the person is in the country without documentation. Being in the country without documentation would be a state crime under the law.

Critics have said the law could lead to racial profiling, and some groups and city governments have called for boycotts of Arizona and its businesses.

Brewer said those charges that the law will produce racial profiling are unfounded, and she said the law specifically prohibits racial profiling.

She also said people mistakenly believe that just anybody walking on a street could be asked to produce identification.

"The bottom line is there are a lot of mistruths about the bill," she said. "You're not going to walk down the street and get questioned unless you've committed a crime."

Tourism industry representatives didn't request changes in the law, said Brewer and Debbie Johnson, head of a statewide hotel association and of a statewide tourism industry coalition.

"There was no discussion of it," Johnson said.

The state will provide startup funding of \$250,000 for the marketing campaign, which will start by reviving a past effort to urge Arizonans to vacation in their own state, Johnson added.

Other details, including what messages to aim to non-Arizonans, haven't been decided, Johnson said.

Brewer said she was concerned about the boycott calls, saying lost trade would harm the state, its tourism industry and "a lot of innocent people."

"We want everyone to continue to come here," she said.

Johnson, president of the Arizona Lodging Association and president of the Arizona Tourism Alliance, said boycotts intended to pressure the state's policymakers are misguided because they mainly hurt people working in the state's tourism-related businesses.

"The concern is about the 200,000 families that are trying to make a living," she said.

Brewer said the "truth-telling" task force would try to develop ways to "rebrand or reposition Arizona's brand."

STATEMENT ON LA PRENSA READERSHIP

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GOP Gobernadora de Arizona forma panel para combatir "falsedades"

Por PAUL DAVENPORT

PHOENIX, el 13 de mayo del 2010 (AP): La gobernadora de Arizona, *Jan Brewer*, está formando una fuerza especializada conformada por funcionarios de turismo y líderes empresariales, a fin de combatir lo que calificó de "falsedades" sobre la nueva y controversial ley del estado contra la inmigración ilegal.

Brewer se reunió el jueves en privado con los líderes del sector turístico y posteriormente dijo a la prensa que está integrando un grupo que delineará una estrategia para enfrentar las críticas públicas a la ley.

La legislación requiere que la policía, cuando vigile el cumplimiento de otras normas, pregunte a una persona sobre su estatus migratorio, si existe una "sospecha razonable" de que la persona está ilegalmente en el país. Bajo la ley, el estar ilegalmente en el país sería un delito estatal.

Los críticos han dicho que la legislación podría derivar en discriminación racial, y algunos grupos y gobiernos municipales han exhortado a boicotear a Arizona y a sus empresas.

Brewer dijo que las acusaciones de que la ley derivaría en discriminación racial son infundadas, y enfatizó que la legislación prohíbe específicamente el detener a una persona únicamente con base en su raza. También indicó que la gente considera erróneamente que cualquier persona que camine por las calles podrá ser abordada por las autoridades para pedirle que muestre sus documentos.

"El punto decisivo es que hay un montón de falsedades en torno a la propuesta de ley", señaló. "Uno no va a ser interrogado al caminar por una calle a menos de que haya cometido un delito".

Representantes del sector turístico no solicitaron cambios en la ley, dijeron Brewer y Debbie Johnson, directora de una asociación de hoteles en el estado y de una coalición turística estatal.

(Continua en la Página 3)

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Crist: Immigration reform can help Social Security

By BRENDAN FARRINGTON, AP Political Writer

TALLAHASSEE, May 13, 2010 (AP): Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, who's running for U.S. Senate as an independent, said Friday that providing a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants will help keep Social Security solvent—an idea he favors over his opponent's suggestion to raise the eligibility age for benefits.

Crist told The Associated Press there are as many as 14 million undocumented immigrants in the country as part of an underground economy. If they paid into the Social Security system, it would help increase the worker-to-retiree ratio.

"It's certainly worth a very good debate and research," Crist said. "If there are people here that aren't paying into the system, which everyone agrees there are, that's in essence a form of fraud on the system."

The idea would be to provide a path to citizenship similar to the failed immigration overhaul proposed by President George W. Bush, former Sen. Mel Martinez, R-Florida, and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

Crist said he doesn't support amnesty, but rather an "earned path to citizenship." Undocumented immigrants would have to apply for citizenship and be placed in line behind people already seeking it.

Crist was running as a Republican until deciding last month to run on his own after falling badly behind tea party favorite Marco Rubio in primary polls. The governor switched his voter registration to no party affiliation this week.

Rubio has proposed raising the age of eligibility for Social Security benefits for people now under 55, as well as restructuring the formula for increasing benefits to account for inflation.

"I couldn't support either of those, and I think we have to be more innovative," Crist said. "I don't want to punish anyone in order to fix it."

Democratic front-runner Kendrick Meek also opposes raising the age of eligibility.

Crist made his comments after Rubio said he supports a controversial new Arizona immigration law that requires state and local law officers to question people about their immigration status if there's reason to suspect they're in the country without documentation. Rubio previously opposed the law, but changed his position after the Legislature tweaked the language to ban racial profiling.

Republicans lost support among some Latino voters during the immigration debate, so Crist may be trying to appeal to Florida's large block of them.

Gobernador de Florida: Reforma migratoria sería benéfica

Por BRENDAN FARRINGTON

TALLAHASSEE, el 13 de mayo del 2010 (AP): Una reforma de inmigración que abra el camino para que los indocumentados obtengan la ciudadanía ayudaría a la solvencia del sistema de Seguridad Social, consideró el jueves el gobernador de Florida, Charlie Crist, candidato independiente al Senado federal.

Crist está a favor de apuntalar la Seguridad Social a través de una reforma de inmigración, en vez de la propuesta de su oponente, el cubano-estadounidense Marco Rubio, quien quiere elevar la edad a la que pueden recibir las prestaciones del sistema.

Crist le dijo a The Associated Press que hay hasta 14 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados que forman una economía subterránea. Si aportaran al sistema de Seguridad Social, se podría aumentar la cantidad de trabajadores en relación con la cantidad de retirados que reciben beneficios.

"Es algo que ciertamente vale un muy buen debate e investigación", dijo Crist. "Si hay gente aquí que no está aportando al sistema, algo en lo que todos estamos de acuerdo, esto es básicamente una forma de fraude contra el sistema".

Su idea sería darle a los inmigrantes un camino a la legalización similar al que ofrecía la reforma migratoria fallida que impulsaron el ex presidente George W. Bush, el ex senador Mel Martínez y el senador John McCain.

Crist dijo que no está a favor de una amnistía, sino de un "camino ganado a la ciudadanía", en que los inmigrantes indocumentados tendrían que postularse a ese beneficio y se sumarían a la lista de gente que ya inició su proceso.

El gobernador era precandidato republicano hasta que decidió postularse como independiente el mes pasado, cuando las encuestas lo mostraban perdedor de las internas ante Rubio, preferido por el movimiento conservador Tea Party.

Rubio consideró el jueves que la idea de Crist sobre la inmigración es poco realista. "El plan de Charlie Crist no sólo otorgaría una amnistía, sino que significaría la quiebra de la Seguridad Social para jubilados actuales y futuros", dijo.

Rubio propuso elevar la edad mínima para recibir beneficios sociales para la gente que hoy tiene menos de 55 años. También quiere volver a calcular la fórmula de aumento de los beneficios, para que tenga en cuenta la inflación.

"No podría apoyar ninguna de esas (ideas) y creo que tenemos que ser más innovadores", dijo Crist. "No quiero castigar a nadie para arreglarlo".

El favorito en las internas demócratas Kendrick Meek también se opone a elevar la edad mínima.

Crist hizo sus declaraciones luego que Rubio dijo apoyar la polémica ley migratoria de Arizona que manda a los policías municipales y estatales interrogar a las personas sobre su estatus migratorio si hay razón para sospechar que puedan ser indocumentadas. Rubio se había opuesto a la ley, pero cambió de opinión cuando la Legislatura de Arizona modificó el texto para prohibir que los policías se basen en la raza de las personas al decidir interrogarlas.

Los republicanos han perdido el apoyo de votantes hispanos durante el debate migratorio, por lo que Crist podría estar intentando cautivar a la numerosa población de herencia latina de su estado.



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GOP Gobernadora de Arizona forma panel para combatir "falsedades"

(Continuación de Página LP2)

"No hubo una discusión en torno a ella", afirmó Johnson.

El estado proporcionará un financiamiento inicial de 250.000 dólares para la campaña de mercadotecnia, cuyo primer paso será reanimar un esfuerzo ya hecho en el pasado para exhortar a los habitantes de Arizona a vacacionar en su propio estado, agregó Johnson.

Otros detalles, incluyendo qué mensajes enviar a la gente que no es del estado, aún no han sido decididos, señaló la funcionaria turística.

Brewer dijo estar preocupada por las exhortaciones a boicotear a la entidad, pues considera que las pérdidas comerciales la dañarían, así como a su sector turístico y "a muchas personas inocentes".

"Queremos que todo mundo siga viniendo acá", manifestó.

Johnson, presidente de la Asociación de Alojamiento y Hoteles de Arizona, y presidente de la Alianza Turística estatal, dijo que los boicots que pretenden presionar a las autoridades del estado están mal dirigidos, pues principalmente lastiman a las personas que trabajan en las empresas relacionadas con el turismo.

"La preocupación es por las 200.000 familias que tratan de ganarse la vida", indicó. Brewer dijo que la fuerza especializada que "dirá la verdad" intentará desarrollar formas para "regenerar o reposicionar la marca de Arizona".

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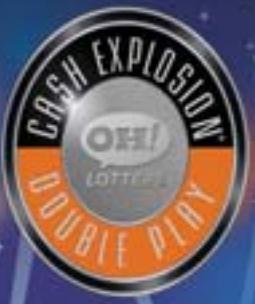
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