UnidosUS, previously known as NCLR (National Council of La Raza), is the nation’s largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Through its unique combination of expert research, advocacy, programs, and an Affiliate Network of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico, UnidosUS simultaneously challenges the social, economic, and political barriers that affect Latinos at the national and local levels. For almost 50 years, UnidosUS has united communities and different groups seeking common ground through collaboration, and that share a desire to make our country stronger. For more information on UnidosUS, visit www.unidosus.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

UnidosUS
Raul Yzaguirre Building
1126 16th Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036-4845
(202) 785-1670
unidosus.org

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UnidosUS Workforce Development Forum Highlights Opportunities to Increase Investment in Opportunity Youth

Workforce development professionals from community-based organizations, state and federal agencies, corporations, and fellow intermediaries came together at the 2017 UnidosUS Workforce Development Forum in Las Vegas, September 13-15, to discuss issues affecting the immigrant workforce. One of the prominent themes was addressing the needs of America's future workforce: young adults—especially disconnected and opportunity youth. Speakers shared ideas and best practices on a variety of topics, including creating work-based opportunities for youth, strategies to make the most of data, support for DACA youth, and employability in the changing job market, among many others.

The Forum provided an opportunity for thought leaders from across the country to network with and learn from each other, so that we can continue to strengthen our education and workforce systems, and ensure that opportunities exist for all to fulfill their American Dream.
“The UnidosUS Workforce Development Forum is a great platform for us to bring national stakeholders, government agencies, and community-based organizations together to discuss, brainstorm, and devise strategies to strengthen the immigrant workforce.

This year, we were proud to bring together organizations to discuss challenges—and offer solutions—pertaining to our 5.5 million opportunity youth. The success of this population is crucial for the prosperity of our nation. We must design programs that engage them meaningfully and prepare them to succeed in the workforce.

Professional development sessions, workshops, plenaries, and networking sessions provided participants with multiple avenues to engage in timely and important discussion on strengthening the Latino workforce and empowering opportunity youth.”

— Peggy McLeod, Deputy Vice President Education and Workforce Development UnidosUS
Participant Reflections

“I like that the workshops were engaging and the topics were related to the type of work I am doing. Also, the presenters were very knowledgeable in the topic they were speaking about.”

“Thank you for hosting this incredible event. It was an amazing experience and I will treasure every moment and the lessons learned.”

“Was [a] great experience and [I’m] looking forward to [the] next one.”

“The lessons were specific and provided clear examples of what organizations are doing to improve workforce development and careers for people of color.”

“Timely and relative content to populations we currently serve.”
“The workshops were well organized and presented great information that I can use at work and share it with my coworkers.”

“It was very nice to meet and network [with] other Latinos in the Workforce field, I had never shared as much with others in other trainings as I had the opportunity to do so at UnidosUS Workforce [Development] Forum.”

“I was able to connect with other youth workforce providers and talk about best practices for service implementation and program coordination.”
UnidosUS Workforce Development Forum Recap Report

Attendance

Tropicana Las Vegas

230 Registered Attendees

113 Total Organizations Represented

51 Affiliates Represented

7 Sponsors

Activities

4 Professional Development Sessions

21 Workshops

13 Gallery Walk Exhibits

17 Best Practice Café Presenters

2 Sponsor Roundtables

3 Meal Events

“What sets this conference apart is the willingness of participants to share best (and worst!) practices and truly connect.”
Congressman Rubén J. Kihuen (D-NV)

“It was really great. I appreciate the opportunity to connect with other likeminded individuals, learn, and brainstorm with others. Thank you for all the work put into the Forum!”
Gallery