



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

KEVIN DEHMER
Interim Commissioner

October 9, 2020

Dear Friends:

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the New Jersey Department of Education Hispanic Heritage Month virtual celebration! Beginning today and continuing through the end of October, we invite you to learn more about the people, places and cultural celebrations that make recognizing people of Hispanic descent an important part of our work in New Jersey.

I want to extend a special thank you to Senator Robert Menendez, who will welcome you to our virtual celebration and recognition. Throughout the month you can visit us online on our social media pages and on our website to experience Hispanic history, heritage and culture.

As part of the virtual celebration, you will also hear from United Nations Ambassador Carlos Garcia from El Salvador who will speak about the importance of juvenile leadership in creating an equal society for all and hear more about Hispanics in sports from Red Bulls coach Denis Hamlett.

Education is integral to us at the DOE. You will hear from educators who through their work and commitment have impacted the lives of others. You will hear from Professor Leonor Lega of St. Peter's University who will speak to the importance of being bilingual, and watch a Spanish-language video from Maria Romero of the New Jersey Department of Education who will tell you more about the Seal of Biliteracy and its importance. Finally, you will hear a first-hand account of life as a DREAMER and you will meet the 2021 New Jersey Teacher of the Year Angel Santiago.

In addition to hearing important messages from Hispanic leaders, we also invite you to join us as we journey through our culture. Tune in as we share with you the Argentine Tango, folklore dancing from El Salvador, Peru and Nicaragua, Latin American student artist exhibits, and so much more.

This is a wonderful time for us as Hispanic Americans to share our past, our present and our future. Join us as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage! To learn more, visit us online at nj.gov/education/.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerlyn Espinal".

Kerlyn Espinal, Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Cultural and Historic Commissions