

White House Initiative Latino Economic Summit

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[White House Initiative Latino Economic Summit at Georgia Gwinnett College Director Melody Gonzales addresses attendees - Photo By Curt Yeomans](#)

Anzules Gomez

On Tuesday, August 23rd, Georgia Gwinnett College's E-LVIS was the venue for the White House Initiative Latino Economic Summit in Atlanta. This event celebrated the increasing opportunities within the U.S. Government, and increasing resources for Latino and Hispanic minorities' small businesses. "We are here to help," said Melody Gonzales, Executive Director of White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics, in Spanish. "We have many Latinos working in different agencies to help the community in different ways." Several prominent federal, state, and local leaders mobilized to express their support for advancing educational and economic equity for the Latino community. Among them were U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn Bordeaux, representative for district seven featuring Gwinnett, and Dekalb County commissioner Larry Johnson.

The leaders focused on the importance of partnerships around infrastructure, early education, "the things that connect our families" Johnson said. "Latinos will not be left behind".

About 400 people gathered at the U.S. Department of Education-sponsored event organized by The Aspen Institute, a non-profit focused on advancing equity in society for all Americans.

Centered on Atlanta, the event is fifth in a series of events held across the nation—El Paso, San Antonio, Chicago, Denver— focused on the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to advancing

economic equity for Latino and Hispanic minorities.

Ms. Gonzalez noted people don't see the day-to-day of leaders participating in the community, not just in Washington D.C. but local leaders like here in Georgia. She wants Latinos not to feel alone "because we are here to stabilize and fortify our community."

"The bi-partisan infrastructure laws offer 8,000 jobs across the country available now," said Dr. Khalilah Harris, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Personnel and Management.

Additionally, the federal government is extending job opportunities to skilled people with 'non-traditional credentials instead of this blanket Bachelor's degree requirement.' The Globe confirms some job postings at usajobs.gov currently offer evaluation of relevant experience and skills as a substitute for college education.

Readers who wish to learn more about opportunities available may visit usajobs.gov and they may also visit the Hispanic Initiative's website sites.ed.gov/hispanic-initiative/.