

# IMAGEN OF Boulder County

Issue #11

November 2006

## Jackie M. Wells Wins LARASA 15th Annual Bernie Valdez Award

Researched by Kim Montoya and Becky Rios



Left to Right: Joe Davalos, Region VIII Image Director; Kim Montoya, Treasurer, Image de Denver; Jackie Martinez Wells, Award Recipient; Roger Molinar, President of Image de Denver; Norbert Montañó, HUD EEO.

Ms. Jacqueline Martinez Wells, Image de Denver member and Program and Policy Analyst for Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation received the 2006 Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA) Volunteer of the Year Award. The LARASA Volunteer of the Year Award is an award established by the staff of LARASA to express their gratitude for the wonderful volunteers without whom LARASA could not accomplish its multifaceted mission in addressing the challenges that confront the Latino community, especially in education.

Jackie represents the best of what it means to be a volunteer for a non-profit agency. In addition, serving as a volunteer member of LARASA's Board of Directors from 1997

through 2005, she also accepted the responsibility to serve as a Committee Chair in 2003, Board Chair in 2004 and Chair Emeritus in 2005. Throughout her tenure as a member of LARASA's Board of Directors and since leaving the Board, Jackie continued to volunteer at LARASA Booth at the 100,000 strong "Somos America" Rally and March which took place on May 1, 2006. She has volunteered over the past few years at the LARASA Fiesta de Mayo and Pure Passion with a Purpose Car Show and Competition. She has also volunteered over the past decade at almost every single Bernie Valdez luncheon held by LARASA.

The program brochure for the Celebrate Lifelong Learning!, ¡Celebremos una vida llena de aprendizaje! states: Bernard "Bernie" Valdez was a founder and the first Chairman of LARASA's Board of Directors. During his lifetime, Mr. Valdez opened many doors and received numerous accolades for his work on behalf of the Latino community. Denver Mayor Thomas G. Currigan recognized Mr. Valdez' outstanding qualities and in 1963 appointed him the first Hispanic to serve in a Denver Mayor's Cabinet. He was also the first Hispanic to serve as a member of the Denver Board of Education, 1972-1978, and was elected President of the Board, a position he held from 1975-1977.

The program attracted many dignitaries such as The Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop of Denver, Senator Ken Salazar, Federico Peña, former Denver Mayor and U.S. Secretary of Energy and Transportation, and Polly Baca, LARASA President and CEO.

Senator Salazar introduced the keynote speaker and emphasized the need to continue to open the doors to every American. Everyone should have access to higher education. The Senator stated that the greatest challenge is immigration. He said that he sees lots of division, which means we are not a united country. He said we should all celebrate diversity and inclusion of all people. We should create a system of legality, which would truly be a United States that treats immigrants with dignity. He encouraged everyone to stand up to negative forces and political quests for power.

Federico Peña, the keynote speaker, said hard work and dreams become reality. He recognized Ken Salazar and Polly Baca as Latino contributors. His talk was on two topics: Immigration and Education. He stressed that Hispanics are dreamers who make their dreams reality.

On Education, he talked about the serious battle for global education. Students placed 16th and 17th in math and science. Denver public schools are 57 percent Latino, and only 34 percent are proficient in reading and 35 percent in math. Kids don't have adequate education. We need to educate people about education and recognize the urgency. We need to find ways to contribute to the schools systems in our communities. One way is to ask businesses to adopt schools, and ask people to get involved. We need to make education a priority, a dream to make reality.

On Immigration, Federico said that there is no balance in the debate. Fences and walls are wrong ideas. We need to stand up and tell the truth, because immigrants are working. By immigrants working, they contribute to the national trust fund and get nothing back. He sees new immigrants accelerating by learning English. We should not allow immigrants to be mistreated because to mistreat them is mistreating all of us. We need to find ways to bring humanity to immigrants, because they will contribute to our great country.

In closing, Federico said that we have dreams and much more to do on immigration and education. He urged the audience to be strong and stand tall to deal with these issues.



Jackie Martinez Wells, LARASA Volunteer of the Year; Federico Peña, Keynote speaker; Polly Baca, LARASA President and CEO.

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**In Unity there is strength,  
communication and progress**

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## *Publisher's Notes from Colorado, National Image and Around the Country*

- ◆ **The Denver *Noticiero* is a roundup of vacancy information. If you would like to submit vacancy announcements for publication, fax to Becky Rios at 303.497.7283, or e-mail to [Becky.Rios@noaa.gov](mailto:Becky.Rios@noaa.gov) or mail to NOAA/OAR EEO Office, R/OMx3, 325 Broadway, Bldg 22, Boulder, CO 80305. Becky's phone number is 303.497.6439. The Denver *Noticiero* can be seen online at the OAR EEO web page at: <http://eeo.boulder.noaa.gov>. Click on Employment. Also, back issues of *Imagen* can be found by clicking Community Organizations.**

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- ◆ November 2-4—AISES 28th Annual National Conference. "Generations of Innovation." Marriott Detroit at the Renaissance Center, Detroit, MI. Visit at [www.aises.org](http://www.aises.org).
- ◆ November 7—The 2006 Denver Federal Executive Board/American Indian Program Council will sponsor a training seminar, *Indian Voices, Past and Present*, at the Sheraton Hotel, 360 Union Blvd. from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Lakewood, CO. For more information please contact Georgia Madrid at 303.497.6732.
- ◆ Congratulations to Dr. Rodolfo Rocha on being appointed Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs for Metropolitan State College of Denver. He was introduced to the Latino community on October 11th at the American GI Forum by United States Senator Ken Salazar. Joe Davalos, Region VIII Image Director, represented Image members.
- ◆ **PLEASE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 7!**

### MORE LARASA AWARDS

- ◆ Mr. Federico Peña—Herrick S. Roth Community Service Award
- ◆ Honorable Fran Natividad Coleman, Colorado State Representative—Roger Cisneros Public Service Award
- ◆ Mr. David Archuleta, Lead Mentor, LARASA Learning Centers—Lena L. Archuleta Education Service Award
- ◆ Mr. Van Lucero, Urban Scouting Department, Denver Area Council, Boy Scouts of America—Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales Civil Rights Award
- ◆ Lazarus Foundation, whose mission is to support alternative education opportunities for students from at-risk communities—LARASA Corporate Award

15th Annual  
**Bernie Valdez  
Awards Luncheon**

**Celebrate Lifelong Learning!**

**CELEBRATE LIFELONG LEARNING!**  
*Celebremos una vida llena de aprendizaje!*

Friday, October 6, 2006  
Denver Merchandise Mart | Plaza at the Mart Room

## NUESTRO TALENTO

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### Me basta así

Si yo fuese Dios  
y tuviese el secreto,  
haría  
un ser exacto a ti;  
Lo probaría  
(a la manera de los panaderos  
Cuando prueban el pan, es decir:  
con la boca),  
y si ese sabor fuese  
igual al tuyo, o sea  
tu mismo olor, y tu manera  
de sonreír,  
y de guardar silencio,  
y de estrechar mi mano  
estrictamente,  
y de besarnos sin hacernos daño  
- de esto sí estoy seguro: pongo  
tanta atención cuando te beso—;  
entonces,  
si yo fuese Dios,  
podría repetirte y repetirte,  
siempre la misma y siempre  
diferente,  
sin cansarme jamás del juego  
idéntico,  
sin desdeñar tampoco la que fuiste  
por la que ibas a ser dentro de  
nada;  
ya no sé si me explico, pero quiero  
aclarar que si yo fuese  
Dios, haría

lo posible por ser Ángel González  
para quererte tal como te quiero,  
para aguardar con calma  
a que te crees tú misma cada día,  
a que sorprendas todas las  
mañanas  
la luz recién nacida con tu propia  
luz, y corras  
la cortina impalpable que separa  
el sueño de la vida,  
resucitándome con tu palabra,  
Lázaro alegre,  
yo,  
mojado todavía  
de sombras y pereza,  
sorprendido y absorto  
en la contemplación de todo  
aquello  
que, en unión de mí mismo,  
recuperas y salvas, mueves, dejas  
abandonado cuando—luego—callas  
  
...  
(Escucho tu silencio.  
Oigo  
Constelaciones: existes.  
Creo en ti.  
Eres.  
Me basta.)

Ángel González, Spain, 1925



## *The Goals and Objectives of Boulder County Image*

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- A. To seek a broad development and expansion of employment opportunities for the aspirants among the Latino population.
- B. To assist and encourage the government services in providing the best possible circumstances for the recruitment, training, employment and advancement of Latinos.
- C. To encourage and actively support the promotion and advancement of Latinos already employed.
- D. To counter employment issues based on social, ethnic, religious, age and gender discrimination, direct or indirect.
- E. To analyze and determine the educational and professional needs of Latinos seeking entry and advancement in employment; and, whenever possible, provide appropriate training and counseling services to meet these needs – particularly among the youth.
- F. To establish and continually upgrade a broad basis of communications with Latino employees across the nation.
- G. To respond to the reasonable requests of non-members and groups whose problems, goals, and objectives are supportable within the By Laws of Boulder County Image.
- H. To enhance the promotion of ethnic pride, culture, and camaraderie through the organized and regular social gatherings which will serve to bind members together.
- I. To provide a non-partisan platform on major issues of local and national significance so that members may be better informed and may express their views.
- J. To expand the concept and objectives of National Image, Inc., to communities throughout the United States to provide maximum impact on the benefits derived from the pursuit of these goals and objectives as stated above.

# Key Committee Functions

The key functions performed by Boulder County Image officers and members of standing committees include: **Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues; Membership and Outreach;** and **Consultation**. The President of Boulder County Image will assign members on an ad hoc basis as the need arises. The following is a brief description of each function:

## Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues

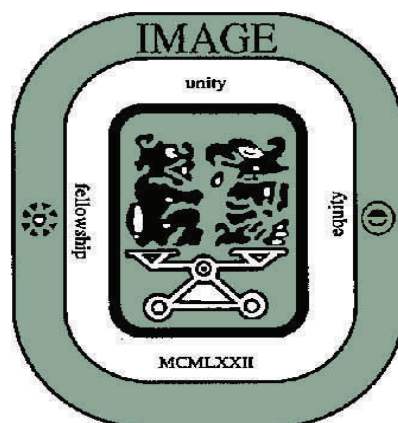
The advocacy function is performed when members take a pro-active role in seeing that a client's issue is addressed by the appropriate community, education or government organization. This function typically involves the following: Mediating an issue at the lowest level before it escalates; Negotiating issues on behalf of clients; Assisting local businesses with employee issues; Assisting students and parents with local school issues, e.g. fighting, drop out, and equal treatment policies; Educating the community on Latino issues; Researching legal information (not advice) on various employment topics; Accompanying clients (employees and applicants) and serving as their representative. Boulder County Image will monitor civil rights issues in the community and provide a community service by organizing Latinos and educating them on issues.

## Membership and Outreach

The membership committee is charged with an ongoing program of recruiting and retaining members. This committee coordinates a yearly membership drive for new members. The outreach function is performed by going out into the community to explain Image programs and communicating the assistance that can be provided. Typically, this function involves attending meetings and briefings, networking with agency representatives, providing orientation briefings to newcomers, attending training sessions and education workshops - both as participants and presenters.

## Consultation

Consultation services are typically provided to clients who are in need of explanations related to documents that need an interpretation and require follow up actions. Consultations are private.



***IMAGEN* is a  
publication of**

Boulder County Image  
#348  
637-B South Broadway  
Boulder, CO 80305  
Phone 303.497.6439

*IMAGEN* seeks to inform  
Latinos on employment,  
education and civil rights  
issues.

Editor: Tony Tafoya

**MISSION**

*National Image, Inc. was established in 1972, to address Latino concerns in employment, education, and civil rights. Boulder County Image is an affiliate of National Image, Inc. and operates in Colorado within Region VIII. Its mission is to work with federal, state, county and local government organizations and community members to improve the status of Latinos in focused mission areas.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BOULDER COUNTY IMAGE**

**OFFICERS:**

The following were elected as interim officers at the first meeting on July 13, 2005. They will serve while the petition to affiliate with National Image, Inc. is being reviewed.

President - Becky Rios

1st Vice President - Richard Shields

2nd Vice President - Katy Stewart

Secretary - Vacant

Treasurer - Michelle Masias

**TASK FORCE CHAIRS/MEMBERS:**

The following have been appointed as chairs of the standing task forces. Members will be contacted to join one of these task forces.

Social/Cultural - Michelle Masias

Education - Richard Shields

Employment - Vacant

Civil Rights - Katy Stewart

**NATIONAL OFFICERS:**

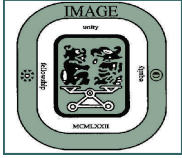
National President - John Griego

Region VIII Director - Joseph Davalos

Colorado State Director - Tony Montoya

Special Assistant Office of the Chairman -  
Ramón Montoya

## Membership Application Form



Boulder County Image  
#348  
637-B South Broadway  
Boulder CO 80305

### Applicant Information (please print or type)

Name	
Home Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Employer Name	
Work Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Telephone (business)	
Telephone (Home)	
Fax	
E-Mail	

### Membership Information #11-06

Type of Membership: New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*(Membership Dues are \$15.00 (\$8.00 for National dues, \$2.00 for State dues and \$5.00 for Chapter dues.)*

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