

150 Years of Latino Contributions in Oregon: A Chronology¹

- 1850s:** Mexican mule packers supplied the Second Regiment Oregon Mounted Volunteers during the Rogue River War who fought against Oregon's native peoples who were defending their territory.
- 1869:** Mexican vaqueros brought up large herds of cattle driven from California to eastern Oregon.
- 1910-1925:** Mexican workers are contracted to work in sugar beets, and on railroads in Portland, eastern Oregon and in other parts of the state. The first Mexican families settle permanently in the state.
- 1942-1947:** More than 15,000 *bracero* workers come to the state to work in agriculture. Additional workers were employed on railroads.
- 1950s:** *Mexicano* and Mexican-American *Tejano* families settled in a several areas of the state
- 1955:** Portland Catholic Archdiocese establishes a Migrant Ministry to serve the Mexican migrant population. In 1964 the name changes to Oregon Friends of Migrants
- 1964:** First Fiesta Mexicana held by the Mexican committee Pro Fiestas Mexicanas in Woodburn, Oregon
- 1964:** The Valley Migrant is formed. It is later known as Oregon Rural Opportunities (ORO) and ends in 1979
- 1971:** The Commission for Chicano Affairs is established. In 1983, the group was renamed the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs.
- 1973:** Colegio César Chávez, the first Latino four-year college in the U.S. is created on the former campus of Mt. Angel College in Silverton, Oregon. It closes in 1983.
- 1977:** Willamette Valley Immigration Project opens in Portland then moves to Woodburn to protect and represent undocumented workers.
- 1979:** Salud de la Familia Medical Clinic established in Woodburn, Oregon
- 1981:** El Hispanic News begins publication
- 1985:** Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN, Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United) forms as Oregon's only farmworker union.
- 1995:** The Chicano/Latino Studies Program is established at Portland State University.
- 1996:** CAUSA, Oregon Immigrant Rights Coalition is formed
- 2005:** Latinos are registered by the U.S. Census as 9.9 percent of the state's population and Paul J. De Muniz is the first Latino Chief of Justice in the Oregon Supreme

¹ Source: Stephen, Lynn and Marcela Mendoza. 2008. Oregon. In Mark Overmyer-Velazquez (ed.) *Latino America, A State-by-State Encyclopedia*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, page 667-668.