



## Legislation Text

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To recognize September as Hispanic Heritage month and honor the Latin American Space for Enrichment and Research at The Ohio State University for their work to build an inclusive community.

**WHEREAS**, the roots of Hispanic Heritage Month began in 1968, when President Johnson established a week to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans to our community; and

**WHEREAS**, soon after it was decided to celebrate the entire month and each year was given a theme; and

**WHEREAS**, this year theme, 'Hispanics: A legacy of history, a present of action and a future of success,' is certainly embodied in the work of the Latin America Space for Enrichment and Research(L.A.S.E.R.) located within the Department of Diversity and Inclusion at The Ohio State University; and

**WHEREAS**, under the direction of Dr. Frederick Luis Aldama, LASER came to life to build a space that encourages students to move beyond their circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, LASER is a groundbreaking initiative that creates a network of mentorship between graduate students and Latino undergraduates as well as between OSU undergraduates and Latino high school students from the Columbus area; and

**WHEREAS**, LASER prepares our growing population of Latino students for successful entry into college and then graduate and professional schools as wells as actively building bridges with the Columbus community; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition LASER also hosts creative and scholarly events that explore the social, cultural, and historical realities facing Latinos/as residing in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, students that participate in this initiative not only learn the importance of education and civic duty but also the need for a culturally inclusive workforce capable of competing in the global economy; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the US Census, Latino's represent 17% of the population and will be 20% of the college age population by 2020- making the work of LASER critically important; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:**

That this Council does hereby recognize September as Hispanic Heritage month and honor LASER for expanding opportunities for students and professionals in our community.