UNC News Release

For immediate use: Friday, March 26, 2010

**Note:** For Spanish version, see end of release.

**Carolina Latina/o Collaborative to facilitate Latina/o events**

CHAPEL HILL – The new Carolina Latina/o Collaborative (CLC) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will explore how the University can become more inclusive of Latina/o communities and cultures.

Composed of administrators, faculty, students and community members, the CLC will seek out ways for UNC to interact more with Latina/o experiences and affairs. It also will facilitate events that bring awareness of Latina/o issues to the University campus. It will seek to foster initiatives in scholarship, education and community engagement.

Members of the University and local communities are invited to celebrate the CLC’s launch in a free public ceremony at 1 p.m. April 10 in Craige North Residence Hall off Manning Drive. Chancellor Holden Thorp and others will speak about the CLC’s purpose; music and dance also will be part of the program. Light fare will be served and art will be on display.

Former Provost Bernadette Gray-Little commissioned the CLC last spring after it was recommended by an Emerging Campus Communities Task Force, which was led by Associate Executive Provost Ron Strauss.

Already, the CLC has exhibited artwork and brought artists, photographers, writers, playwrights and poets to campus, said John Ribó, a graduate assistant in UNC’s program in Latina/o studies.

“The CLC will facilitate collaborative efforts among campus and community initiatives and provide a space for programming without duplicating, altering or subsuming existing services,” he said.

Archie Ervin, Ph.D., Carolina’s associate provost for diversity and multicultural affairs, and Christopher Payne, Ph.D., associate vice chancellor for student affairs, will chair the CLC’s executive committee.

Also helping to steer the CLC will be Josmell J. Pérez, multicultural programs coordinator for the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, and Salvador Mena, an assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs, who will chair its working group. The group is charged with reporting at the end of this semester to Provost Bruce Carney, documenting progress on making the collaborative a focal point for Latina/o activities.

For more information, visit <http://clc.unc.edu> or email unc-clc@unc.edu.

**Note:** Ribó can be reached at jdribo@email.unc.edu.

A condensed version of the news release in Spanish follows:

[Can you all add to what’s below “the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill” in Spanish? Thanks! LJ]

**Lanzamiento y celebración del Carolina Latina/o Collaborative**

CHAPEL HILL – El Rector Holden Thorp invita a la comunidad universitaria al lanzamiento y celebración del Carolina Latina/o Collaborative, el sábado, 10 de abril a la una (1 p.m.) de la tarde en Craige-North Residence Hall.

EL Carolina Latina/o Collaborative (CLC) establece relaciones colaborativas entre diversos grupos que se enfocan en asuntos Latinos en el campus y la comunidad para fomentar innovaciones interdisciplinarias a la vanguardia de la investigación académica, la educación, la cultura, y las relaciones con la comunidad.

Para obtener más información, visite: <http://clc.unc.edu/> o escribe a unc-clc@unc.edu.

**Diversity and Mulicultural Affairs contact:** Miki Kersgard, (919) 843-6085, Kersgard@unc.edu.

**News Services contact:** LJ Toler, (919) 962-8589