

# Latino Roots Timeline

1513: The Spanish explorer Balboa Vasquéz de Nuñez solidifies Spain's claim to the west coast of North America by claiming the Pacific Ocean and all of the lands it touches.

1700s: Spanish adventurers such as Juan Pérez (1774), move beyond exploration and settlement in California and begin to explore the Northwest Coast, including what is now Oregon.

1819: The Transcontinental Treaty is established in which the United States assumes all Spanish claims north of the 42nd parallel (now marking the California/Oregon Border).

1819-1846: Oregon Country borders with Mexico and British Canada.

1821: Mexico becomes independent of Spain in 1821; the Oregon Country southern border becomes the U.S. territorial border with Mexico.

1848: The U.S. and Mexico sign the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo which calls for Mexico to give up more than half of its territory. This includes the current states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and parts of Colorado, Nevada, and Utah for which the U.S. pays \$15 million in compensation for war-related damage to Mexican land. The Oregon Territory (which still includes the present-day states of Washington and Idaho) goes from being the U.S. border territory with Mexico to sharing a border with the soon to be state of California (given statehood in 1850).

1850s: Mexican mule packers supply the Second Regiment Oregon Mounted Volunteers during the Rogue River War who fight against Oregon's native peoples defending their territory.

1869: Mexican vaqueros bring large herds of cattle driven up from California to eastern Oregon.

1910: By this year Oregon ranks seventh among states outside the Southwest with Mexican-born residents who come to work in farm production and on railroads.

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 are employed on railroads. Lane County hosts bracero workers.

1950s: Mexican and Mexican-American families settle in several areas of the state.

1967: High School Equivalency Program (HEP) established at University of Oregon. HEP is a federally funded program providing assistance to individuals from migrant and/or seasonal farm worker backgrounds to obtain their high school degree.

1969: Committee on Ethnic Studies formed at University of Oregon, including Latino participation. Ethnic Studies becomes a program in 1972. The same year Ethnic Studies is established at LCC.

1970s: University of Oregon branch of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Atzlán (MEChA) established. El Sombrero, restaurant owned by Victoria and Walter Wallace was in operation.

1971: The Commission for Chicano Affairs is established. In 1983, the group is renamed the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

1978: Chicano Affairs is established in Eugene to deal with local issues for Chicanos, Mexican-Americans, and other Latinos.

Late 1970s: La Tiendita, now known as Taco Loco founded by Oscar Hernández on Blair St.

1981: First Spanish Mass at St. Thomas More Newman Catholic Center, University of Oregon.

1986: San Pablo Mission is established to aid families in the process of legalization through 1986 IRCA law.

1991: First Fiesta Latina.

1996: Susan Castillo becomes first Latina woman in the Oregon State Senate.

1996: CAUSA forms in Oregon with Lane County office established. CAUSA is Oregon's statewide, grassroots immigrant rights coalition. CAUSA works to defend and advance immigrant rights through coordination with local, state, and national coalitions and allies.

2002: Susan Castillo elected as State Superintendent of Schools.

2004: Charles Martínez elected to Eugene School Board. In 2007 he becomes chair of the 4-J School Board.

2004: Cesar Chavez Elementary School created in Eugene, Oregon.