

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Sept. 15 to Oct. 15

The National Hispanic Heritage Month observance started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded to a month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402. September 15th is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16th, and Chile did so on September 18th. Also, Columbus Day, or Día de la Raza, falls within this 30-day period, on October 12th.

2013 Theme: Hispanics Serving and Leading our Nation with Pride and Honor



HISPANIC PROFILE: Dr. Inés Cifuentes - Seismologist



The daughter of one of Ecuador's first economists, Dr. Inés Cifuentes lived in several Latin American countries before moving with her family to Washington, DC at age 12. She majored in physics at Swarthmore College, received her M.S. in geophysics at Stanford University, and became the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in seismology from Columbia University. With colleagues at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Dr. Cifuentes created CASE (Carnegie Academy for Science Education), a program to improve the teaching of science and mathematics in DC Public Schools. During the ten years she directed CASE, more than 1,000 teachers were trained in science, mathematics, and technology and a group of 50 talented CASE mentor teachers were nurtured. In 2001, she became the vice president of the Jaime Escalante Public Charter School Board, started by teachers and parents in Montgomery County, Maryland to highlight the academic achievement gap between Latino/African American students and White/Asian students. In 2002 Dr. Cifuentes joined the board of CASA of Maryland, an organization working with

Dr. Ines Cifuentes. Photo from www.hispanicphysicists.org

the low-income Latino community, and served as its president from 2004-2005.

In 2007, Dr. Cifuentes received the first Math Science award from the Hispanic Heritage Foundation. Dr. Cifuentes is currently with the American Geophysical Union.

Taken From: <http://www.rit.edu/cos/InesCifuentes.php>

More biographical information can be found in the SACNAS Biography Project:
<http://www.sacnas.org/biography/listsubject.asp>, referenced 4 November 2007

