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## Iowa's LULAC councils, Gov. Branstad meet to discuss Caucus outreach efforts; sign Hispanic Month proclamation

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DES MOINES – Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad today signed a proclamation to declare Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month in Iowa from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

National Midwest Vice President Joe Enriquez Henry and Council 306 President Ila Plasencia attended the proclamation signing, along with Council 307 members Jorge Valencia, Mary Campos, Sally Goode and Christian Ucles; Council 306 member Paula Plasencia; and council members from Columbus Junction.

LULAC members also then met with Branstad to discuss the non-partisan, civil rights organization's plans to reach out to Latinos across the state, and educate and recruit them to participate in the Iowa Caucuses. LULAC will concentrate its outreach efforts on the 14 counties in the state with the highest percentage of Latino residents. The goal is to engage 5,000 Latinos to participate on Caucus night.

Branstad was supportive of LULAC's efforts because he said such work is necessary to keep the first-in-the-nation caucus status in Iowa. The more diversity and the better turnout of Iowans will back this effort, he said.

LULAC members and Branstad also discussed efforts to recruit minorities to serve on state boards and commissions.

Founded in 1929, the League of United Latin American Citizens is the oldest Latino civil rights organization in the United States. There are more than 2 million members in more than 1,000 local LULAC councils, which hold voter registration drives, provide awareness to residents about language and immigration issues, sponsor programs and advocate for Latinos.

For more information, contact Joe Enriquez Henry at 515.208.7312; or Melissa Walker at 515.681.7731 or <a href="media@iowalatinos.org">media@iowalatinos.org</a>, or visit www.lulaciowa.org.