

Iowa LULAC to co-host Aug. 29 presidential forum on immigration, Latino issues

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STORM LAKE, IOWA – The League of United Latin American Citizens along with several other organizations will sponsor a forum on immigration issues that is designed to draw presidential candidates from both parties.

The #UniteIowa on Immigration forum will be Aug. 29 at Bueno Vista University's Schaller Memorial Chapel in Storm Lake. The event is free and will be simulcast online. Presidential candidates have been invited to attend to both speak and ask questions, while they also listen to Iowans who represent a broad spectrum of immigration views.

"We want this event to create an open and thoughtful dialogue about immigration issues," said Joe Enriquez Henry, state director of Iowa LULAC. "The Caucus campaign season is the appropriate time to bring together members of both parties to meet with Iowa's Latinos to discuss this important topic and other concerns that affect our community."

Presidential candidates have been invited, the event is not just about them, Enriquez Henry said.

"It's about Iowans from a wide range of backgrounds coming together to discuss this divisive issue in a respectful manner," he said.

Kyle Munson, the Iowa columnist for the Des Moines Register, will moderate the forum as part of his #UniteIowa campaign, which he launched earlier this year to inspire sensible, substantive discussions about some of the most polarizing issues.

Storm Lake was picked to host the event because its school district is among seven in Iowa, where Hispanic students make up at least half of the enrollment. Bueno Vista County's population is 25 percent Latino. Statewide there are more than 160,000 Latinos, who represent 6 percent of Iowa's overall population. That number is expected to double by 2040.

The event is free, there is limited space. Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Register at IowaImmigration.org.

Founded in 1929, the League of United Latin American Citizens is the oldest U.S. Latino civil rights organization. There are more than 1,000 local LULAC councils, which hold voter registration

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drives, provide awareness to residents about language and immigration issues, sponsor programs and advocate for

Latinos.