

Latinos featured on PBS

Viridiana Villa
Tejano Tribune

Leaders of El Paso and members of Latin American community joined a panel discussion that followed the premiere screening of the PBS documentary *Latino Americans*.

According to the PBS website, *Latino Americans* is the first major documentary series for television to chronicle the rich and varied history experiences of Latinos who have helped shaped the United States.

The screening and panel discussion took place Sept. 5 at the EPCC Administrative Services Center auditorium.

"The community needs to be aware of the heavily prevalent latino population and understand where we've been and where we need to go," said EPCC President, William Serrata. "It is vastly important for the college community, the nearly 30,000 students that we serve, to understand their role in not only in the city but it the county, state and ultimately, the nation."

The episode, titled Prejudice and Pride, narrated the rise of organized labor and the activism of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, as well as the identity and self-worth struggles of the Latinos and the emergence of the Chicano culture.

The panel discussion was hosted by EPCC President William Serrata, Board of trustees member and former LULAC President Belen Robles, UTEP Asst. Professor of Social Studies Dr. Julio Noboa, Executive Director of El Paso Pro-Musica Felipa Solis, El Paso County Judge Veronica Escobar, District Director Corinne Chacon and Journalist Roy Ortega as moderator.

"It is so important, not just in a cultural level to be connected with the identity," said Escobar. "But also to make the next lead which is, I know who I am and I know who my people are."

One of the most emphasized topics of the night was the activism for "La Causa" and the equality of Latinos in the media and political decisions.

"We have to be active, activism is not over yet, we have so many battles to fight," said Noboa.

The six-hour documentary featuring interviews with nearly 100 Latinos and covering more than 500 years of history, premieres on PBS Sept. 17 at 8 p.m. E.T.

"These are Latinos that made a difference to inspire us...So the future generations understand that our blood keeps flowing, our culture keeps us going, but our fight continues in order to keep our future generations understanding that we will continue and we will thrive as Latinos and Americans," said Solis.



Viridiana Villa / Tejano Tribune

Discussion Pannel after the screening of the PBS landmark documentary *Latino Americans*. [From left to right] District Director Corinne Chacon, Social Studies professor Julio Noboa, County judge Veronica Escobar, Journalist Roy Ortega, EPCC President William Serrata, El Paso Pro-Musica Ex. Director Felipa Solis, and EPCC Board of Trustees member Belen Robles.