

The 10th Annual NHEC Conference and Career Fair

November 5–8, 2005
Seattle, WA

The NHEC Conference is the **only national** event of its kind, designed to educate the Latino community in general about environmental issues, and specifically, to inform Latino environmental and natural resource students **and** professionals about the many environmental career, educational, and policy opportunities with the federal government, Corporate America, Academia, state and local governments, and with the mainstream environmental organizations.

Each year, the Conference offers four days of networking and an array of substantive workshops, general sessions, site visits to nearby environmental facilities, and a major Exhibit Area/Career Fair. Site visits include tours of Seattle area, parks, forests, and laboratories.

The Conference is sponsored by the National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) and a variety of federal environmental agencies, especially the National Park Service, U.S. EPA, the U.S. Forest Service, USDA NRCS, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

NHEC is deeply grateful for their support.

The Conference draws a range of Latino environmental leaders and professionals, including environmental engineers; forest and park service staff; environmental educators; natural resource and conservation managers; health and safety experts; environmental justice and community activists; and more. In 2004, over 350 people attended the Conference. Particularly for environmental recruiters seeking top Latino and other minority environmental job applicants, **the Conference and Career**

Fair are unparalleled opportunities to find—in one setting—top quality diversity candidates from hard-to-find disciplines.

Fundamentally, however, the Conference is designed to engage our community—to show that **“it’s our environment too”**, and to provide a national forum to explore the many environmental issues affecting Latinos, such as environmental justice, sustainable development, natural resource protection and more.

Like last year, NHEC once again provided **“travel scholarships”** for Latino/minority environmental college students—from every related discipline—to attend the Conference. These college students—the next generation of environmentalists—come from across the nation and include PhD’s, masters and undergraduate students. NHEC underwrites all their costs, including airfare, four nights hotel, meals, and other incidentals. Through the Conference, these top students have the opportunity to network with other Latino/minority environmental professionals, and to learn first hand about careers, environmental stewardship and responsibility, and other vital issues.

In 2004, NHEC provided full “travel scholarships” to over 200 students. Unfortunately, due to federal and other budget cuts, we were only able to fund 130 students this year.

As the **only national** event for Latinos on environmental issues, the Conference is a powerful tool for empowering our community, and helping to unify our voice. We’re glad you joined us in Seattle, and in our mission.



NHEC President Roger Rivera with two members of the NHEC Board of Directors, from California. Richard Chavez, from San Diego (left), and Edward Navarro, from Los Angeles (right). NHEC's board members help NHEC fulfill its mission.



Vidal Martinez, Superintendent, George Washington Birthplace, with the National Park Service, conducts a general session for students on environmental career opportunities with the federal government. NPS has been a "Major Conference Sponsor" for the last 8 years.



David Gomez, Hispanic Liaison Coordinator, U.S. EPA, talks with students about career, internship, scholarship opportunities, and more with EPA. EPA has also been a Major Conference Sponsor for the last 8 years.



Each year, NHEC holds over 30 workshops and general sessions at the Conference, featuring top panelists, on a wide variety of environmental, natural resource, energy, and agricultural issues. Here, a workshop on wilderness issues, with panelists (from left) Oscar Gonzales, NHEC CA State Director, Neri Holguin, New Mexico Asst. Regional Director, The Wilderness Society, and Greg Kroll, wilderness consultant, Tucson, AZ.



Conference General Sessions allow all attendees to hear speakers on a topic of general interest.



Dr. Eddie Laboy Nieves, a professor of environmental science, and an NHEC board member, speaks at one of the workshops. Also shown is Rafael deLeon, Director, Office of Cooperative Environmental Management, with U.S. EPA. Rafael was one of two awardees of NHEC's "Leadership Award" at the 2005 Conference.



At each Conference, NHEC offers from 5–8 "environmental site visits" to students to choose from and attend. Students travel by bus, with trained staff as escorts, for an all-day tour. These sites visits give students an in-depth look at the operation of various environmental facilities, including forests, parks, and laboratories. Here, students at Mt. Rainier National Park.



Mt. Rainier in the background. On this tour, NPS staff gave students a solid overview of the ecological, operational, environmental and career issues involved in running one of America's premier national parks.



Each year, the NHEC Conference and Career Fair is supported by a number of federal environmental and natural resource agencies. Their funding allows NHEC to offer “travel scholarships” to top college students to attend the Conference. Here, a meeting of federal sponsor representatives. Shown are reps from NPS, EPA, U.S. Forest Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Vidal Martinez, NPS, chairs the meeting.



The NHEC Awards Banquet. Attendees hear from several keynote speakers, as well as the Awardees. Here, Bill Gwaltney, Associate Regional Director, National Park Service, concludes his speech at the Conference.



Here, Assemblyman Nava receives his Leadership Award, from NHEC Chairman Manuel Hernandez (left) and NHEC President, Roger Rivera.



Pedro Nava, CA State Assemblyman, and recipient of NHEC’s “Leadership Award” speaks at the Banquet. Assemblyman Nava has a distinguished record as a champion of both Latino and environmental issues. Also shown is Bill Gwaltney, Keynote Speaker.



The Career Fair is open. Here, top college students from every environmental and natural resource discipline meet recruiters from the public, private, and non-profit environmental sectors. Here, students at the NPS exhibit, with the USDA Forest Service, another conference sponsor, in the background.



Here, students, resumes in hand, eager to talk with recruiters at the EPA exhibit, one of the Conference’s Major Sponsors.



Students at the USDA NRCS exhibit, another of the Conference's sponsors.



Students are interviewed on-site at the conference, and on-the-spot job offers are often made.



A number of major green groups also attend. Here, students at the NRDC exhibit.



Neri Holguin, with the Wilderness Society, talks with students and others.



A group shot—many of the students who received “travel scholarships” from NHEC to attend the 2005 Conference and Career Fair.