

## *In the News . . .*

### **PROGRESS HAS BEEN THE MOTIVATION FOR IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES**

*Sunday, March 12, 2017 - John Rodriguez - Senior Political Analyst, Latin time/the planet*

During the 2016 election, the issue of employment was the most important for the majority of the voters. But many think that the illusion of the American dream is in jeopardy under the new administration of Trump. With the new policies of a Republican government in Congress and the Executive Office what will be the impact on the daily life of the residents of the DMV? I wanted to know what opinion leaders in the field of employment, how they feel about the subject, and what opportunities and services available to the community.

For this survey, I spoke with representatives from the public, private sector and non-profit. Soon I understood that this subject is extensive and I had to divide it into parts to make sure that readers can take advantage of a wide range of opinions and services to cover it well.

During the elections, the rhetoric on unemployment was a constant theme. It was hoped that after the elections the new administration would take actions to create more work since although employment rates have improved, large segments of the population are unemployed.

But what most residents feel here is fear of the recent actions of the Trump administration. The policies that have been highlighted are those on immigration. Daniel, taxi driver at the DMV, said "such White House is crazy." All my family and friends live with fear." Daniel believes that the new mandates are a harm to the trade.

Diana Ramirez, Director of the center of opportunities for restaurants (Restaurant Opportunities Center or ROC), not in accordance with the orders Executive but says that his organization is ready for those political anti-immigrant. ROC has the support of a group of local and national organizations working to protect workers in their industry. After the "day without immigrants," the fruit of the manifestation was the implementation of a new initiative: the "restaurants sanctuaries." These shrines are safe spaces for immigrants. The sanctuaries are approved by the local restaurant owners and employees can receive protection from deportation. "We created a space where everyone has a seat at the table," said Ramirez.

And continue forward. For more information about these actions, please visit [Presente.org](http://Presente.org) .

Gabriela Mossi, Director of the Washington English Center, says that although there is uncertainty at this time, "there are many opportunities for those who want to prepare for better jobs." The Washington metropolitan area continues to grow in the areas of hospitality, tourism, construction and health, explains, and "the immigrants are and will remain an integral component of these industries." The Washington

English Center teaching English to adults since 1993, but in recent years has incorporated a practical and contextualized learning curriculum to train students. In addition, “we are working with other organizations as a group to offer specialized courses in these areas.”

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Washington (Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce) also is focusing on initiatives for growth of its members and collaborates with the DC Work Investment Council. Ángela Franco, President of the Chamber, said that “people feel fear... but there are many opportunities that are not affected by the administration. In DC we have incredible programs in technology, engineering, and incentives for employing residents.”

Odie Donald, II, Director of Department of Employment Services for the District of Columbia, details that have a multitude of programs and initiatives for women and minorities in their eight districts of DC. “Our duty is to serve the residents of the district and that includes protection of policies that could be dangerous for our residents. Have services as a “Workforce on Wheels, and collaborate with the sector private and organizations community to bring these messages to our residents.” But we are going to do more. We are innovating our customer service system to ensure that DC residents have the best.”

I found a big difference between two points of view. One is the fear of the new political rhetoric and that has aroused movements among those who feel hostility and danger. But the influential in the field of employment offer opportunities and a more positive attitude.

To think, I went to Rumba Cafe in Adams Morgan where, they say, make the best mojito of the DMV. The owner, Gustavo, knows me well and I can always count on an inspiring environment. I wonder for what this difference?

I think that the answer is the lack of information and investment in effective communication to the community. In my experience as a political campaign manager, I know that victory is not achieved if the voter doesn't know who the candidate or issues. That requires investing in reach to the community and take advantage of the media that we already have in the hands. Although residents have a duty to be informed to develop and achieve the American dream; we must also develop communication systems designed for the same success or at least to be informed and not be surprised.