

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Sept. 15 to Oct. 15

During National Hispanic Heritage Month we recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans and celebrate their heritage and culture. The National Hispanic Heritage Month observance started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded to a month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402. September 15th is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16th, and Chile did so on September 18th. Also, Columbus Day, or Día de la Raza, falls within this 30-day period, on October 12th.

2014 Theme: "Hispanics: A legacy of history, a present of action and a future of success."



HISPANIC PROFILE: Dr. Roberto Mera, Kendall Science Fellow in Climate Attribution



Dr. Roberto Mera joined the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) in April 2013, as a Kendall Fellow on Climate Attribution. His work entails analyzing specific carbon emissions to determine how they are affecting global temperatures and extreme heat events.

Dr. Mera's main focus and motivation is the interface between climate science and society. He was an intern at the NOAA National Climatic Data Center in 2008 where he helped to develop a new M.S. degree in Climate Change and Society at North Carolina University. He was recently a UCAR Postdoc Applying Climate Expertise Fellow working for the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development. His work entailed developing user-friendly maps showing how climate change may affect extreme weather events.

Dr. Mera received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Science from North Carolina State and a B.S. in Atmospheric Science from the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

Roberto spoke at the Americas Latino Eco-Festival in Boulder, CO on September 12, 2014. He was part of the panel discussion, Why are Latinos ahead of the Climate Change Curve? Read his full bio and blog at: <http://www.ucsus.org/about/staff/staff/robreto-mera.html>

