

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 observance started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

2015 Theme:

Hispanic Americans: Energizing Our Nation's Diversity



HISPANIC PROFILE: *Dr. John Cortinas, Meteorologist & Director of OAR's Office of Weather and Air Quality*



Dr. John Cortinas is the director of the OAR's Office of Weather and Air Quality (OWAQ). He has been affiliated with OAR since 1992, when he started as a cooperative institute post-doc at the National Severe Storms Laboratory. As the director of OWAQ, he also oversees NOAA's U.S. Weather Research Program. Prior to OWAQ, he was director of OAR's Cooperative Institute program where he oversaw grant management activities and policy development for NOAA's 15 cooperative institutes across the United States, which conduct research at academic institutions in all areas relevant to NOAA's mission. He received a bachelor's degree (1987) in meteorology from Metropolitan State College of Denver and a Ph.D. (1992) in geophysical sciences from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia. He worked as a postdoctoral fellow, a research scientist, and ultimately the assistant director of the Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies at the University of Oklahoma from 1992 to 2003. John's research specialties include hazardous winter weather, severe storms, mesoscale numerical modeling, and

operational weather forecasting. He has published numerous articles on these topics in refereed journals, served on national scientific committees, and received several NOAA group awards. John has been active in numerous scientific organizations such as the American Meteorological Society, the National Weather Association, the American Geophysical Union, and the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science.

