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"THE CHALLENGE OF DEMOGRAPHICS: HISPANIC GROWTH AND WHITE RESPONSE"

JOEL GAJARDO, PH.D.

Executive Director, Hispanic Community Center

Dr. Joel Gajardo is Executive Director of the Hispanic Community Center and a consultant on Latin American Issues. He is former Director of the South American Department of the National Council of Churches, and former Director of the Committee on United States/Latin American Policy at Cornell University.

Gajardo is a citizen of the Republic of Chile and received his university degree from the University of Chile in Santiago. He is an ordained Presbyterian minister with degrees from the Union Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentine, Princeton Theological Seminary and Princeton University. He has served pastorates in the Presbyterian Church in Chile, and has held professorship in Systematic Theology, Ethics and Anthropology in the Evangelical Theological Community and Catholic University of Santiago, Chile.

Gajardo has been a visiting professor at the School of Theology at Claremont, California, Southern Methodist University, Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Fluent in several languages, Dr. Gajardo is the author of many scholarly articles published mostly in English and Spanish.

As coordinator of the Minority AIDS Education Task Force in Lincoln/Lancaster County, Dr. Gajardo has been instrumental in developing new awareness among culturally diverse people in health related issues. He is also President of the Nebraska Minority Health Association and has been appointed by the Governor of the State of Nebraska as one of the six members of The Excellence in Health Care Council, responsible for the distribution of the tobacco settlement funds coming to Nebraska. For his commitment to "think globally and act locally" Doane College conferred him the honorary degree of Doctor of Human Letters in 1994.