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"THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION AND THE POLITICS OF CULTURAL REPRESENTATION: THE CASE OF U.S. LATINOS"

REFUGIO I. ROCHIN, PH.D.

Director, Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives, Washington, D.C.

Refugio I. Rochin is the first Director of the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives in Washington, D.C. The Center's mission is to advance knowledge and understanding of Latino contributions to U.S. history, culture and society. It accomplishes its mission by administering funds from the Latino Pool and by promoting projects throughout the Institution's 16 Museums, Centers and the National Zoo. Before joining the Smithsonian in August 1998, Dr. Rochin was Professor of Sociology and Agricultural Economics and Director of the Julian Samora Research Institute (JSRI) at Michigan State University for four years. And prior to his appointments at MSU, he was Professor of Agricultural Economics and Chicano Studies at the University of California, Davis, titles for which he is now Professor Emeritus after 23 years at UC Davis.

Dr. Rochin is known for his research and lectures on Latino Studies, Hispanic Enterprises, Human Resource Economics and International Development. His list of publications includes more than 100 articles, book chapters and peer-reviewed publications. His latest books include: "The Mexicanization of Rural California" (with Elaine Allensworth), 1998, published by The Julian Samora Research Institute, and "Voices of a New Chicana/o History," (co-edited with Dennis Valdes), 1999, by Michigan State University Press.

Rochin has served on numerous Boards, including the California Board of Food and Agriculture, the Board of California Rural Housing Corporation, the Board of the Michigan Educational Opportunity Fund and the Board of Economists of Hispanic Business, Inc. He currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (a national consortium) and represents the Social Sciences on the National Board for Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics.