Hispanic Heritage Celebration September 24 at ABAC

TIFTON – Flags, food, and fun will highlight the 12th annual Hispanic Heritage Day celebration on Sept. 24 from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the campus of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Hispanic Heritage Day coordinator Alma Young said the event seeks to increase cultural awareness and appreciation for the contributions of the Hispanic community locally and across the United States. Throughout the day Latino guest lecturers will speak to students in classes on campus.

Events include the Heritage Art Show from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in The Meadows. Submissions are due by 10 a.m. on Sept. 24. The submission theme is heritage, and the show is open to everyone.

The Hispanic Heritage Day celebration will take place in The Meadows from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. with a sampling of traditional and authentic Hispanic food and the presentation of flags by students of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). This event is open to the community.
Hispanic Heritage Day begins with a symposium in Howard Auditorium from 9:30-10:45 a.m. on the use of technology to improve Latino and rural health care. Panelists include Dr. Raymond Moreno, internal medicine specialist with Tift Regional Medical Center; Dr. Miguel Angel Estopiñan Estopiñan, Dean of the School of Nursing at Nicaragua’s National Autonomous University (UNAN); Dr. Israel Martinez-Franco, Dean of the Biomedical Informatics Department at Mexico’s National Autonomous University (UNAM) School of Medicine; and Dr. Norma G. Cuellar, professor at the University of Alabama’s Capstone College of Nursing.

Moreno has over 30 years of experience in the medical field. His non-surgical medical specialty focuses on diseases of internal organs in adults. Moreno earned his medical degree at the Medical College of Georgia and completed his internal medicine residency at the University of South Florida. He is a practicing physician at Affinity Clinic and Medical Director for Community Outreach & Education at Tift Regional Medical Center. Moreno is a past recipient of the Georgia Hospital Association’s “Healthcare Hero” award for his efforts in furthering migrant and Latino health and education in the region.

Estopiñan has over 20 years of medical and administrative experience in the public health field. He earned nursing and education degrees from UNAN and specializes in pediatrics and public health. Currently he is involved in a Telehealth project serving rural parts of Nicaragua. He also coordinates with ABAC’s nursing program in the study abroad partnership between ABAC and UNAN.

Martinez-Franco completed a specialization in health management and a graduate degree in health management systems at UNAM. He also has taken postgraduate courses including biomedical informatics at Oregon Health and Science University. Martinez-Franco coordinated a national program for Mexico’s largest social security health system which in 2014 provided
over 12,000 telemedicine consultations across the country. He edited the first book about biomedical informatics in Spanish and wrote the chapter on Telemedicine. He has co-authored and authored some of the important articles about biomedical informatics.

Cuellar has been a nurse educator since 1989. She completed a post-doctorate degree from the University of Virginia in complementary and alternative medicine. Cuellar has taught in a variety of nursing programs at the diploma, baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral levels. Her research focus is in sleep disorders, specifically Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS) and the use of alternative medicine to manage symptoms of RLS.

Cuellar is the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Transcultural Nursing and serves as a reviewer for a variety of journals related to education, sleep, alternative medicine, and diversity issues. She is actively involved in the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, serving in a variety of leadership positions at the national level, including time as a board member. Cuellar will be the guest speaker at the Hispanic Heritage Day luncheon.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on Sept. 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico declared its independence on Sept. 16 and Chile on Sept. 18. The national celebration ends on Oct. 12 with the observation of the date that Christopher Columbus discovered America.

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