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## **Indiana's first MultiEthnic Conference, initiated by Governor Mitch Daniels**

**MultiEthnic conference to enhance knowledge, educate and empower Indiana leaders**

INDIANAPOLIS-- Indiana will be hosting a multiethnic conference, which will encourage Hoosiers from all backgrounds to discover and understand their common ground.

“The goal is to educate each other about who we are, why we are here and how we can help each other to better ourselves, the state and - in the end - the country,” said Juana Watson, senior adviser of Latino and immigrant affairs.

Indiana's elected officials, educators, law enforcement, community and business leaders will be invited to the conference. The objective of the conference is to educate Indiana's leaders on their role in making our state a more welcoming place for diverse ethnic groups. The conference also serves to highlight positive roles our multiethnic communities serve in fostering social and economic growth through foreign investment.

The conference will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at the Sheraton Hotel and Suites in Indianapolis. The event will feature morning and afternoon workshops and include opening remarks by Gov. Mitch Daniels, keynote speakers Dr. Bobby Fong, President of Butler University and Mr. Jerome Peribere, President of DOW Agro and a final plenary session with distinguished panelists.

The cost is \$60 and registration information is available online at [www.indianamultiethnic.org](http://www.indianamultiethnic.org). The first 50 students to register are qualified for a discounted student rate of \$30. Questions can be directed to Carmen DeRusha at

cderusha@purdue.edu or 317.275.9253. The conference is limited to the first 400 people.

Sponsors for this conference include the Governor's Office, Indiana Civil Rights Commission and Purdue Extension - Marion County. For media resources, registration information, conference background, committee biographies and more, visit [www.indianamultiethnic.org](http://www.indianamultiethnic.org).

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The Indiana MultiEthnic Conference is the first event in what is envisioned as a long-term strategy to highlight the ethnic diversity in the state of Indiana and the welcoming spirit of Hoosiers. Gov. Mitch Daniels created this initiative and charged Juana Watson, his senior adviser for immigrant and Latino affairs, with bringing this vision to fruition. Judge Gregory Scott, director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, has endorsed the initiative and is working hand-in-hand with the committee to make the Governor's vision a reality. This event is the result of the hard work of that committee representing at least 25 different organizations from around the state of Indiana and led by Carmen DeRusha from the Purdue Extension – Marion County.

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