

La Celebracion De La Herencia Hispana

A momentous night celebrating Hispanic culture

Junior Alison De Luna saw the Hoover community needed change. As a Latina she saw the lack of wide celebrations during Hispanic Heritage Month. For De Luna to be the change at Hoover, she created an eventful night for the community.

De Luna believes that the Hispanic community has the right to be acknowledged by others. She wanted to bring good awareness and show others her culture to remind them to represent and be proud of their culture.

“I believe the Hispanic community both within and surrounding Hoover deserves to be recognized. Bringing positivity into our community while showing the beautiful Hispanic culture is something that is needed for everyone to see that they need to be proud of who they are,” De Luna said.

Teachers also agree that students should be proud of who they are and represent their culture everywhere they go.

“It’s important to celebrate and educate the Hoover community about Hispanic Heritage. You don’t leave your culture at the door of the school, never do that. It’s the biggest strength of our school for individuals to learn with and from others from so many different cultural backgrounds,” social studies teacher Amber Davison said.

The reason she wanted to organize the event at the school is due to Hoover being the most diverse school in Iowa.

“I though it was necessary to have the event at Hoover since we are the most diverse school within the district. Having this honor, we should start to celebrate every culture that is represented in Hoover,” De Luna said.

De Luna’s favorite part of the event was the Latino community leaders and showing her culture to others.

“My favorite part of the event was meeting the inspirational Latino community leaders and being able to celebrate my culture along with my fellow classmates,” De Luna said.

Not only did students have a fun night, but staff members also enjoyed the eventful night filled with dancing.

“The most memorable part of the event was when we danced to the live band! Students, staff, and families danced together, and this was a very special moment because dancing is a huge part of our culture and it was celebrated justly that night,” restoration coordinator Eduardo Bolaños Jackson said.

De Luna believes it’s important for people to learn about

different cultures as this nation is filled with many different cultures. The reason for this is because every culture should be acknowledged and celebrated to bring the community together. Being educated about this topic can be one step closer to a brighter future of diversity.

Staff believe that students should be open minded towards different cultures because they can have positive takeaways from it.

“People should have more opportunities to be exposed to cultures and take from it what they need. Some folks might walk away dreaming about the food, others humming the music they heard that night, others leaving feeling more a part of the community,” Bolaños Jackson said.

Teachers hope that this event helps students want to celebrate their culture more with the community.

“I’m hopeful in the years to come we will have more celebrations and events that both honor and educate the community around the diverse cultures at Hoover,” Davison said.

De Luna’s future plans for this event is to expand it by working together with other high schools district wide.

“The plans that I have for the future is for the community to celebrate the Hispanic culture by bringing more high schools together to make this event bigger and longer. Hopefully with more vendors, speakers, and performers we can bring the Des Moines community closer,” De Luna said.

De Luna would like to thank everyone who helped and attended the event. She hopes she inspired students to spread their culture by celebrating it with events the community can come together since it’s something they should be proud of. Remember to be the positive change that the community needs.

As for De Luna and her group, everyone is proud of the enjoyable night that was created thanks to you guys. Everyone is grateful for this event as it brought the community closer as a whole.

“ I HOPE THIS WAS AN INSPIRATION FOR STUDENTS TO CELEBRATE THEIR CULTURE WITH OTHERS AS IT’S SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF. BE THE POSITIVE CHANGE THE COMMUNITY NEEDS,” DE LUNA SAID.

Photo courtesy of myself.

Tips on organizing an event at school:

- Share your ideas with classmates. Most likely, there will be others who enjoy your idea and will be willing to help

-Talk to teachers and administrators about it. Gaining support from them could help your idea become a reality!

-Communicate with community members. There will be people within the community who would like to help out. The more help, the better.

-Make sure that planning takes many months before the event (The Hispanic Heritage Celebration took SEVEN months to plan, enough time for changes)

- Don't be afraid to ask for help! The more help you gain, the easier the event planning will be

Benefits from organizing an event celebrating your culture:

-Gain connections within the community, these connection could help you gain more opportunities with volunteering, jobs, internships,etc.

-Feel more connected with your culture more than ever. Seeing other people enjoy your culture brings a wonderful feeling, as well as seeing the people within your culture see a festival thats celebrating them

-Inspire others withing the community! Just imagine your idea becoming a reality for the years to come



Que



Viva



La



Raza



Junior Alison De Luna

Momentos

Memorables