

**A PROCLAMATION SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR BARBARA MILLER-WILLIAMS**

**RE: Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Council, and the
Pioneers of Bilingual Education in Buffalo Public Schools**

WHEREAS, we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in Western New York from September 15th through October 15th to recognize the achievements and contributions of the Hispanic Community, Hispanic Heritage Month in WNY is an excellent opportunity for people of all cultural backgrounds to embrace the ethnic diversity and ethnic literacy that makes our community and nation great; and

WHEREAS, the observation of Hispanic Heritage Month in the WNY area is commemorated annually by numerous events, the 2015 celebration includes a tribute to the often unrecognized contributions of those who fought for Bilingual Education in the Buffalo Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Bilingual Education Act of 1968 provided funding to school districts to develop bilingual education programs, the Equal Education Opportunity Act of 1974 further defined bilingual education programs as programs that provided instruction in English and in the native language of the student to allow the student to progress effectively through the educational system and;

WHEREAS, these policies encouraged school systems to maintain Hispanics' native language and to help students become, and stay, fluent in multiple languages, the dedication, hard work and efforts of educators and members of the WNY Hispanic Community to have the bilingual program implemented in the Buffalo Public Schools are to be honored and commended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby goes on record to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month and commends the Hispanic Heritage Council for its commitment to preserving and educating the community on the rich history and pride of Hispanic culture; and be it further

RESOLVED, the membership of the Erie County Legislature recognizes and commends the pioneers of Bilingual Education in the Buffalo Public School and their efforts to ensure a diverse education experience for children of Hispanic descent.