



California League of United Latin American Citizens

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CALIFORNIA LULAC DEMANDS PUBLIC APOLOGY FROM OSCAR HOST SEAN PENN

Penn's "Green Card" Comment Ruins Oscar Night For All Americans

Camarillo, CA – The California State League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is appalled and deeply regrets the unnecessary comments at the 2015 Oscars last night. Oscars Host Sean Penn's insensitive comment right before announcing the Best Picture award brought a magnificent night of celebration in Hollywood to a screeching halt with his "Green Card" statement.

"The California State League of United Latin American Citizens is appalled and outraged with the insensitivity and total disregard to Latinos throughout the U.S. and Latin America – especially the gifted Alejandro G. Iñárritu", stated Dave Rodriguez, State Director of California State LULAC. "It should not surprise Mr. Penn, or Hollywood, of the disappointment caused by his insensitive remarks on national and international television. Without question, the statement was insensitive to the plight of all Latino immigrants in the U.S. and racist to all Latino U.S. citizens."

Although the 2015 Oscars were filled with countless stories that uplifted the spirits of all that viewed the show – especially the excellent and powerful reminder to us all of the civil rights movement in America, Sean Penn's comment before announcing the Best Picture award last night, certainly ruined the evening for all that saw it live and those that will look at it on recorded tape. Last night, as Sean Penn prepared to announce Alejandro G. Iñárritu's "Birdman" as the film of the year, Penn made a reference to the Mexican director's immigration status.

"Hollywood must ensure that appropriate sensitively vetting is injected into the preparation of the Oscar's, as needed," stated Rodriguez. "It is unfortunate that a night of celebration, for all, is reduced to reminders that racial and cultural insensitivity is alive and well in American – yes, even in the progressive world of Hollywood. Penn's remarks was a total distraction to Alejandro G. Iñárritu's film of the year award announcement, but a reminder of the continued work that LULAC must continue to do to support the American Dream in the hearts, spirit and minds of all Latinos in America regardless of their station in life – even award winners in Hollywood."

California will monitor Mr. Penn's response to this call for an apology and for Hollywood's proactive "re-setting" of opportunities in Hollywood for young Latinos in America.

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