



**MedExpress**  
URGENT CARE Great Care. Fast.

**today** MedExpress is open

News > Campus > Administration

November 18, 2010

Tweet

0

Recommend

Write a letter

## Former HUD secretary urges city development

By **Mike Hricik**  
*Collegian Staff Writer*

Former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros spoke about economic development, cities and their importance in American culture at the Nittany Lion Inn on Friday afternoon.

"Cities are where people work, learn, recreate, live and govern. They're the building blocks of American progress," Cisneros said during his introduction to a crowd of about 75 people.

Part of the Penn State Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering's Hankin Distinguished Lecture Series, Cisneros's talk emphasized the importance of college-oriented education for middle-class Americans.

"You can't build a city without human capital. You have to think about education," Cisneros said.

Cisneros rose to political prominence after serving four terms as mayor of San Antonio, Texas, one of the first Latino mayors of a major United States city.

After working from 1993 to 1997 for the Clinton administration, Cisneros currently acts as head of CityView, an urban capital investment group.

J. Roger Glunt, president at Glunt Development Co., Inc. and sponsor of the lecture series, said he "greatly admires" Cisneros.

Glunt originally met Cisneros after President Clinton's election, cautious about a Democratic administration in HUD.

"I had this apprehension that this Republican-Democrat rivalry might unravel what we had over those years, but boy was I wrong," Glunt said.

Cisneros also addressed his part in the 2007 recession, placing blame on homeowner speculation practices which took advantage of policies he initiated to stimulate homeownership.

"We don't have a way to finely calibrate housing policy as we might hope. We pushed for home ownership but I did not see that in a boom environment, we could not predict it," Cisneros said.

He said current HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan is on the right track to quelling the crisis.

Students in attendance praised Cisneros's candidness.

Hunter Woron said his involvement as a member of the Penn State National Association of Home Builders drew him to the former secretary's lecture.

"I like that Mr. Cisneros [gave] us an idea of where the housing industry's going," Woron (senior-architectural engineering) said.



Mr. Henry Cisneros, Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under President Clinton, gives a lecture on the nation's cities and the American future in the Nittany Lion Inn Wednesday night. (Kelly Rootes-Murdy/Collegian)