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Local Leader Selected in Award Winning National Leadership Program
Seattle's Own Selected Among Hundreds of Applicants, Returns from Harvard University



(Washington, DC) Lourdes Sampera-Tsukada, President of Opening Latino Doors, LLC was selected to participate in the National Hispana Leadership Institute's (NHLI) 2009 Executive Leadership Program.

Held in conjunction with the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the Center for Creative Leadership, NHLI's Executive Leadership Program (ELP) is the premier leadership development training for Latinas in the United States. ELP is a four-week intensive leadership program that spans nine months and is implemented in four cities. This intensive learning experience provides training in strategic management, public policy, and cultural issues. At the end of the program each participant mentors at least two other Latinas and completes a leadership project in their community.

These Latinas were selected from a national search to participate in the executive leadership program, which began in February in San Juan Bautista, CA, continued at Harvard University, Boston in mid April and extends into September.

Lourdes Sampera-Tsukada has been selected as one of the twenty two fellows from a nationwide recruitment to participate in the 2009 National Hispana Leadership Executive Institute (NHLI). NHLI is the premier leadership development for Latinas in the nation. Fellows represent diverse professions, ages, geographical areas, and subgroups within the Hispanic community. Lourdes' commitment to the Latino community and her proven community track record earned her this prestigious fellowship.

As President of Opening Latino Doors, LLC, Sampera Tsukada has relentlessly focused on her passion: increasing business access for all Latinos and non-Latinos to expand their own business and/or their skills. Lourdes is known as one who takes the lead as a hard worker to get results, for any goals, set in a committee & great at connecting with and knowing who's is who in the Hispanic organizations and Hispanic Communities in the Puget Sound. She participates on several boards and committees which include Women of Color Empowered Committee, the Antioch University Seattle Alumni Council, and the Urban Enterprise Center Advisory Board. She was also recently recruited as a National Wi\$eUp Expert in Financial Education for Women because of her dedication, knowledge, and advocacy to women and their education.

"Lourdes' leadership symbolizes the progress Latinas are making to break the glass ceiling and the impact they have in our communities," said Cristina López, NHLI's President.

A national recruitment effort solicits applications from the best and the brightest mid-career Hispanic women. Only twenty-two women are selected every year. They represent diverse professions, ages, geographical areas, and subgroups within the Hispanic community.

“I am so proud and honored to have been chosen. The Latinas I am meeting along the way are an inspiration. I will be a better leader, follower and mentor because of the NHLI. The dedication I have seen and felt among all of my NHLI Latina Sisters is inspirational and a life changing experience. I look forward to sharing these tools in Leadership within my Latina(o) community affiliations so they may grow as I am!!,” said Sampera-Tsukada.

To date, 462 distinguished Latinas have graduated from the national Executive Leadership Program. ELP has been recognized with several awards by the Center for Creating Leadership, the Independent Sector and the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute, among others. NHLI’s 20 year Impact Study indicates that the organization has had a significant impact on communities across the country through its alumnae, improving community services to Hispanics through alumnae leadership projects, directly reaching more than 31,000 Latinas and touching hundreds of thousands of lives. Through mentoring, leadership projects, and networking, NHLI has measurably affected the lives of more than 56,000 Hispanics nationwide.

This program is supported by several sponsors including: Wal-Mart, StateFarm, Coors, Nordstrom, General Motors, Southwest Airlines, Anheuser Bush, Goya, Nationwide and Sprint.

NHLI is currently accepting applications for the 2010 Executive Leadership Program. To find out eligibility and deadline, visit www.nhli.org/elp.htm. For media inquiries please contact Lourdes Sampera Tsukada at 206 334-5200 or Cheryl Aguilar at 703-527-6007

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The National Hispana Leadership Institute (NHLI) is a national leadership development organization focused on Latina leaders. For more than 20 years, NHLI has developed hundreds of Latina leaders who have gone on to become elected officials, corporate executives, entrepreneurs, executives at non-profits and powerful decision makers. Founded in 1987 to address the disparity of representation of Latinas in leadership, NHLI’s mission is to develop Hispanas as ethical leaders through training, professional development, relationship building, and community activism. www.nhli.org.

HispanicBusiness Magazine January/February, 2009 Edition

National Hispana Leadership Institute has announced the fellows for its 2009 Executive Leadership Program. The Institute selected 22 women out of 150 applicants to participate in the intensive training program, which seeks to foster Latina leadership at the highest level of corporate, government and nonprofit management. The program this year focus on public policy, leadership, strategic management, team building and race, class and gender issues.

The Executive Leadership Program is held in conjunction with the JFK School of Government at Harvard University and the Center for Creative Leadership.

The fellows gather for four one-week seminars, which occur in four cities over a period of nine months.

According to the institute, the 22 fellows were chosen because of the commitment they have demonstrated to the Hispanic community and community service. They come from a variety of backgrounds, including non-profit, government, entrepreneurial and corporate sectors.

This year's fellows were:

- Christina Abreu, Nielsen Company
- Deborah Aguiar-Velez, Sistemas Corporation
- Guadalupe Alcala, State Farm Insurance Company
- Sindy Benavides, Office of the Governor of Virginia
- Gale Castillo, Portland Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber
 - Elviro Corey, Nike
- Dr. Gloria Coronado, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Ctr.
 - Anabelle Escobar, Safe Horizon
 - Laura Esquivel, Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund
 - Sandra Gasca, Youthville
- Belen Gonzalez, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
- Inez Gonzalez, National Hispanic Media Coalition
 - Andrea Juarez, New Latino Visions
- Michelle Minguez Moore, Mickey Ibarra & Associates
 - Lillian Plata, Fulbright & Jaworski LLP
 - Maribel Quiala, Maribel Quiala LCSW
 - Lauren Rivera, New York Department of State
 - Sandra Rodriguez, College of Santa Fe
 - Teresa Alonso, Portland Community College.
- Lourdes Sampera-Tsukada, Opening Latino Doors, LLC
- Rafaela Schwan, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
 - Dr. Madeleine Wallace, National Institute of Health

NHLI was created in 1987 in order to foster increased Latina leadership at the top levels of government, corporations and nonprofit. The organization was established in response to the U.S. Department of Labor's Glass Ceiling Initiative. Which found that minorities and women were making substantial gains in entering the workforce but were not equally represented at the mid- and senior-levels of public and private management sectors.

The NHLI is the only national leadership development program in the United States focused on future Latina leaders. According to the institute its goals include:

- Ensuring that Hispanic women are in leadership positions and have the power to influence public policy and shape an equitable and humane society.
 - Enhancing and developing leadership abilities among Hispanic women.
 - Providing visible role models and mentors for Hispanic women leaders.

- Improving services provided to the Hispanic community by local, state and national organizations.

Mortgage Originator Magazine March 2005: Q&A Radio Article:

Seattle Mortgage has found an ideal way to reach an important audience-the Hispanic borrower. The Seattle, Washington-based mortgage banker has created a special outreach promotion with Radio Sol to reach prospective homeowners who need to learn the basics of home financing. It includes a weekly 10-minute Q&A session led by loan officer Lourdes Sampera. "I'll answer a common question or introduce a topic that addresses issues of interest to first-time borrowers, and then we'll answer listener questions," said Sampera. She noted that incoming call increase significantly after each show. "We get double the normal amount of calls," she added. "It's been a great response so far." While it's taken a while for loan production to increase, the campaign has definitely been worthwhile. "We're now getting a 17 percent return of those listening who actually become customers," she explained. "The referrals are growing as people tell their families and friends to call us as well." The approximate cost of the radio campaign is \$3,000 a month, which also includes 20 60-second commercials and recognition as a sponsor at community events. "This has given us great recognition," said Sampera.