



# National Latino Children's Institute

"Creating a voice for young Latinos"

A National Forum

## Building a Nation of Hope for Latino Children

Leveraging community assets to improve educational opportunities for young Latinos

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Marriott Courtyard Washington, DC/Capitol

1325 2nd Street NE

Washington, DC 20002

NATIONAL LATINO CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE

In partnership with the

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, SOUTHWEST AIRLINES and UNIVISION

### Introduction

The National Latino Children's Institute (NLCI), in partnership with the National Education Association (NEA), Southwest Airlines and Univision, will provide an opportunity through this forum for young Latinos, policymakers, local and national partners working with or on behalf of Latino children and their families to develop strategies and solutions to ensure healthy communities and schools where children can succeed.

According to the Pew Hispanic Center in their 2009 report **Between Two Worlds: How Young Latinos Come of Age in America**: "Hispanics are the largest and youngest minority group in the United States. One-in-five schoolchildren is Hispanic. One-in-four newborns is Hispanic. Never before in this country's history has a minority ethnic group made up so large a share of the youngest Americans. By force of numbers alone, the kinds of adults these young Latinos become will help shape the kind of society America becomes in the 21st century." The high school dropout rate among Latino youths (17%) is nearly three times as high as it is among white youths (6%) and nearly double the rate among blacks (9%). In order to increase the high school completion rate the public and private sectors must work together with the community to improve priority schools and neighborhoods. A variety of factors affect Latino children's education, including language abilities, immigration status of the family, health and safety, as well as the quality of the school.

### National Forum

NLCI will convene its national network of Latino children's service providers including stay-in-school programs, after school programs, health care, mentoring and tutoring, etc. This network is referred to as *La Promesa* Programs or the "Promise of a bright future". The network of best practices will convene in Washington, D.C. to develop a joint advocacy agenda with and on behalf of Latino children. Participants will present their recommendations to Members of Congress and other policy makers. This forum will provide youth and stakeholders with the opportunity to dialogue directly with policy makers, media representatives, funders and other national and local leaders.

### Opportunities for Sponsorship:

Please contact Durquia Guillen for details on sponsorship opportunities at [durquia@nlci.org](mailto:durquia@nlci.org) or call her at 210-228-9997.



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## Preliminary Agenda Overview for 2010 Public Forum

### Day One: Wednesday, April 28, 2010

- 8:00-9:00 Continental Breakfast and Welcome
- 9:00-9:15 Who is NLCI, The role of NLCI and *La Promesa* Network  
The National Latino Children's Agenda-Gloria Rodriguez NLCI Emeritus Board Member
- 9:15-9:45 Demographics, Healthy Communities, Immigration Overview on Issues/Recommendations-Mark Lopez,  
Associate Director, Pew Hispanic Center
- 9:45-10:00 Youth Representative
- 10:00-12:00 Panel on Leveraging community assets to improve educational opportunities for young Latinos
- Congressman Grijalva, U.S. Congress, 7<sup>th</sup> District, Arizona (Invited)
  - José Rico, Deputy Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans
  - Kevin Jennings, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools
  - Dr. Peter Grevatt, Director, Office of Children's Health Protection & Environmental Education  
Environmental Protection Agency
  - Ron Blackburn-Moreno, President & CEO, ASPIRA  
La Promesa Representative
  - Ivelisse Estrada, Vice President, Corporate & Community Relations, Univision Communications Inc.
- 12:00-1:15 Lunch/ Keynote on Priority Schools Campaign  
Dennis Van Roekel, President, National Education Association
- 1:15-1:30 Small Workgroup Overview
- 1:30-3:30 Small Workgroups to discuss issues around priority communities:  
Part One: identify challenges, resources, as well as solutions to the problems impacting young Latinos within  
the community  
Part Two: build a local and national advocacy agenda
- 3:30-4:15 Workgroup Report and Discussion  
Next Steps-NLCI Advocacy Agenda
- 4:15-4:30 Closing Address-Henry Solano, NLCI Board Chair

## Additional Activities for *El Día de Los Niños - Celebrating Young Americans* Press Conference & Dialogue (Preliminary Schedule)

### Day Two: Thursday, April 29, 2010

- 9:30-11:00 Press conference announcing *El Día de los Niños* resolution and recommendations- *La Promesa* network  
representatives and youth will participate in a press conference with members of the U.S. Senate to  
advocate with and on behalf of the children, as well as to celebrate the Senate sponsored resolution  
recognizing *El Día de Los Niños - Celebrating Young Americans*
- 12:00-1:30 Brown Bag Lunch and Dialogue with Pew Hispanic Center
- 2:30-5:00 Capitol Hill Visits—contact your Congressional Representative and/or Senator and set up a meeting