



The 2008 Executive Leadership Training Program Fellows during Washington Week.

2008 Year in Review

During the last two decades, NHLI has been a solid source of leadership training for Latinas and has developed one of the most powerful professional women's networks in the country, helping to impact more than 56,000 Hispanics nationwide through mentoring, leadership projects and networking.

This past year, NHLI continued to fulfill its mission to develop Latinas as ethical world leaders by providing the highest caliber of programming for Latinas, and connecting thousands of Latinas across the country.

In February, 22 talented Latinas from more than a dozen states, working in the public, non-profit and private sectors, embarked on professional, personal and transformational journey through NHLI's Executive Leadership Training Program (ELTP). Held in conjunction with the JFK School of Government at Harvard University and the Center for Creative Leadership, ELTP provides mid-level professional Latinas four one-week seminars that span nine months in four cities focused on public policy, leadership, strategic management, team building and race, class and gender issues.

Following a profound week in California and weeks at Harvard University and the Center for Creative Leadership prestigious leadership training programs, the fellows



2008 fellows Maria Valentin and Marisol Morales working on a group project at the ELTP Harvard University week.

ended their leadership experience in Washington, DC. While in the nation's capital the fellows participated in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Training, and a Latina Summit organized by the Senate leadership caucus; met with their congressional representatives to discuss pressing issues in their community; heard from Latina Members of Congress at the NHLI Latina Congressional Breakfast, and connected with other leaders from across the nation. By the end of the program, the fellows committed to launching innovative leadership projects in their communities ranging from financial literacy workshops for low-income Latino families to political leadership training for youth and to inspiring the next generation of Latina leaders by mentoring at least two other Latinas.

The month of March kicked off NHLI's Latina Empowerment Conference (LEC) season, with the first regional training held in Tampa, Florida. In its ninth year, LEC — regional trainings that focus on building skills, knowledge and networking — have inspired thousands of Latinas to take the next step in their careers. This year, over 600 Latinas participated in regional trainings held in Tampa, Florida; El Paso, Texas;

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Cristina Zeller and Elvia Rios learn how to negotiate through group exercise at Harvard University.

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Cristina López

President

NHLI President's Vision for 2009

—CRISTINA LÓPEZ, NHLI PRESIDENT



NHLI welcomes the New Year with lots of exciting ideas and concrete plans for taking the organization to the next level.

NHLI is recognized as an award winning leadership program and a dynamic network of Latina professionals. Our vision for NHLI is to evolve into an institution that is recognized and respected by both the Latino community and mainstream opinion leaders as the most powerful national Latina network; a catalyst for and the voice of a growing "Latina movement" in the US; a leading clearinghouse for information on Latinas; and the premier Latina leadership program in the country.

Crucial to realizing this vision is a strong and visible alumnae network, innovative programs, and resources to assure long-term sustainability. Thus, we will refocus and redouble our investment in programs and services for alums. ***Our priority will be to re-engage our long-time graduates and keep engaged our more recent grads.*** To do this, we will create opportunities to bring back alumnae for cutting-edge seminars, mini-institutes and special convenings, and to heighten alumnae visibility. For example we are:

- Seeking funding to launch at least one **MINI-INSTITUTE** next year (a 2-3 day convening of 25-35 alumnae) to explore a particular topic or sector in depth.
- In discussion with a couple of potential funders to launch an **INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM**—to bring together alums with women leaders from Latin America (we'll start in our hemisphere and then look at expanding our world). The model would be to take small groups of our alums overseas for a week-long learning experience with a group of leaders from the host country.
- Launching the **NHLI COMMUNITY VOICES PROJECT** — by early Spring 2009, we will be announcing a Speakers Bureau to connect our alumnae with speaking opportunities and requests from corporations, government entities and community-based organizations; a Spokespersons Database to connect our alumnae to press requests related to the news cycle or special interests stories; and a Writers' Group to train and encourage our alums to write op eds, which NHLI will help to place in national and local papers, and help them write letters to the editor to send to their local papers when an important issue to our communities

arises. We will be also publishing some of our writers in our own NHLI newsletter.

In addition, we are in conversation with some potential funders to launch a new Institute for Latinas 24-34 years old with less than 10 years work experience. The **EMERGING LATINA PROFESSIONALS INSTITUTE**, which we hope to start in the summer of 2009, will focus on career planning and other professional development and leadership skills to help our young Latinas advance into senior management and prominent leadership positions in their workplace and communities. This will allow us to better target our stellar Executive Leadership Training Program to the needs and interests of leaders over 35 seeking to advance to top executive positions.

We will be extending our Latinas Learning to Lead Institute to add more days and new components to the curriculum focusing on financial literacy and technology.

While we will continue our highly successful regional Latina Empowerment Conferences (and plan to be in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Houston, and Chicago in 2009), we will be revamping the format to make them more interactive and relevant to each host community, and keep participants connected after the event via a cyber network.

We are also approaching some new funders to start a new series of regional seminars: **FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCES**. These one-day seminars will focus on financial literacy topics such as managing credit/debt; financial planning including budgeting, saving and investing, building your asset base, and planning for retirement. With Latinas playing an important role in consumer decisions for the family and with the rising number of Latina entrepreneurs, it's critical to empower Latinas with tools and knowledge to manage their finances and achieve financial independence.

In 2009 we will explore ways to use technology to reach more and more Latinas. We will launch a **WEBINAR SERIES** and hope to pilot three webinars the first year. The topics are still being determined (so this is your chance to weigh in — what would you like to see?). We anticipate collecting these webinars into a podcast library/archive that you can download from our website. Furthermore, we will launch a job bank to help more Latinas connect with good-paying jobs and promising opportunities.

It's a long list and a tall order for 2009, but I believe that with your support we can do it!!

2008 Year in Review

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Detroit, Michigan; Jersey City, New Jersey and Seattle, Washington.

In July, 22 Latina student leaders joined NHLI's Latinas Learning to Lead Summer Youth Institute in Washington, DC. After a one-week intensive leadership development program focused on cross cultural communications, conflict resolution, career planning and public policy, trips to the White House and briefings with key Bush Administration officials and with Congresswomen Hilda Solis (D-CA) and Loretta Sánchez (D-CA), the young leaders returned to their communities politically engaged and motivated to promote change.

As 2008 took its course, NHLI welcomed new staff members including a new President, Cristina López, who came from national social justice non-profit, Center for Community Change (CCC) where she served as Deputy Executive Director; and Cheryl Aguilar, NHLI's Communications and Online Marketing Manager. Additionally, three new members



Congresswoman Hilda Solis addresses the 2008 fellows and audience members at the NHLI Latina Congressional Breakfast.

LATINA EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCES



Lively discussions engaged the hundreds of participants at the Latina Empowerment Conferences in New Jersey, Detroit and Tampa.



joined the NHLI Board of Directors: Peter Villegas, First Vice President, National Manager of Community & External Affairs Division at WaMu; Carmen Bauza, Division Merchandise Manager, Vice President from Wal-Mart and Barbara DesMarteau, Director from the Adams County Community & Economic Opportunity Department.

NHLI culminated 2008 with a successful Executive Leadership and Mujer Awards Conference held in Orlando, Florida; a newly launched campaign to ensure Latinas are

represented in the new presidential administration and a renewed commitment to continue investing in the country's Latina leaders to close the opportunity gap and shatter the glass ceiling.

In 2009, stay tuned for the unveiling of new initiatives to provide leadership opportunities to emerging Latina professionals, online leadership trainings and increased communications via quarterly newsletters and e-alerts.

With the constant support of NHLI's network, 2009 promises to be a flourishing year!



Congresswoman Grace L. Napolitano



2008 Fellow Miryam Bujanda, and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

2008, a Year of Empowerment

BY MARIA VENTURA



While attending NHLI's 2008 Executive Leadership Training and Mujer Award Conference in Orlando, Florida this past November, I reflected on the impact this organization has had in my life.

At the conference, attendees brought their energy as well as their commitment to NHLI's core mission to develop Latinas as ethical world leaders. There were hundreds of attendees including sponsors, alumnae spanning more than 20 years, and leaders committed to improving conditions for Latinos in this country. Most importantly, there was synergy; we were all there to see each other succeed.

I had the distinct pleasure of being one of 22 Hispanic women selected from a nationwide recruitment to participate in NHLI's Executive Training Program this past year. When I discovered I had been accepted to the program, I was ecstatic. But little did I know at

the time what a deep personal and professional journey would await me.

Like many in these difficult economic times, I was confronted with uncertainty and the stress associated with being laid off. What was I going to do? Faced with a challenging job market, financial obligations, and my own internal struggle to remain positive.

One constant that remained, namely the unconditional support from the 2008 NHLI fellows. We were four months into the nine-month fellowship when I broke the news to them. I had been laid off. Just like any good sister, they immediately offered advice, key contacts, and most importantly emotional support. Through this tumultuous time in my life, I grew profoundly.

The training week at Harvard University taught us how to negotiate and successfully navigate corporate America. At the Center for Creative Leadership we examined our strengths as leaders and how we can best motivate others with similar or different strengths. There, I met with an executive coach to determine: what is needed in a job; what I wanted; and what I absolutely could

not accept and settle for.

With this knowledge I was well equipped to say "no" to job offers that weren't the right fit, which takes a strong sense of self when you are unemployed.

Life has gone full circle. I am now happily employed with State Farm Insurance®, a proud sponsor of NHLI. State Farm is committed to the advancement of all communities. Sponsors like State Farm make it financially possible for women like myself to participate in the institute.

I am one of 462 women who has graduated from the Institute. We all have our own success and struggle stories. Each has provided countless contributions to her respective community. As I reflect on this past year, it is truly amazing to see what we can achieve when we work together. NHLI has given me more than I can ever give back. The next time an *hermana* reaches out to me, I'll be her champion as many others have been mine.

Maria Ventura is a Public Affairs Specialist for State Farm Insurance® and a proud graduate of the NHLI Class of 2008.

NHLI Takes the Lead to Ensure Latina Inclusion in the New Administration



This past election cycle an unprecedented number of Latinas — representing nearly half of the estimated 11 million Latino voters who cast ballots — made history and demonstrated their force and value to the nation.

Latinas took the first step by coming out in droves. NHLI took the second step by leading an effort to translate the Latina political power into opportunities for Latinas in the new administration.

As 2008 came to an end, NHLI launched CELINA: Campaign to Ensure Latina Inclusion in the New Administration, to make certain the new administration recognizes Latinas' leadership, influence and impact.

NHLI will play a strong advocacy role to ensure that highly qualified Latinas are adequately represented among the lists of candidates for consideration.

In late November, hundreds of Hispanic women from across the nation interested in learning about the application process joined NHLI in a teleconference facilitated by major Latina political

players including NHLI's President, Cristina López; Ingrid Duran, NHLI Board Chair and Founding Executive Board Member of PODER PAC; Liz Montoya, Obama Transition Team, Department of Energy; Rita Jaramillo, Director of Latino Outreach, National Education Association (NEA) and Former Clinton Presidential Appointee; and NHLI Founding Board Member and three times presidential appointee, Maria Elena Toraño.

The teleconference provided a clear overview of the application process, resources available and expectations of interested candidates.

NHLI's commitment to promote Latina leadership in the new administration extends beyond the conference call. In the coming months, NHLI will continue to take names and resumes and compile a Latina list to present to the Transition Team and ensure it is included in other Latino, women's and other diversity lists. Candidates' resumes will be promoted through the various channels that are organizing efforts.

For more information visit www.nhli.org.

Congratulations to the 2008 Latinas Learning to Lead Graduates

PAMELA ALVARADO

Central Washington University
Ellensburg, WA

ROSA ALVAREZ-VELEZ

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
Watertown, WI

ERIKA ANCHONDO

The University of
Texas at El Paso
El Paso, TX

MARIA BANUELOS

Lewis-Clark State College
Lewiston, ID

KARINA BERMEO

Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA

MAYRA CONTRERAS

Santa Clara University
Santa Clara, CA

NOLVIA DELGADO

Borough of Manhattan
Community College
Manhattan, NY

LETICIA DOMINGUEZ

Catholic University
Washington, DC

KISBEL FERNANDEZ

Baruch College
Brooklyn, NY

JESSICA FLORES

University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Ana, CA

KAREN FLORES

University of Arizona
Bisbee, AZ

ANDREA GIRAUDO

University of Georgia
Watkinsville, GA

LAURA GONZALEZ

California State University, Sacramento
Hopland, CA

SAYRA GORDILLO

University of Missouri, Kansas City
Kansas City, MO

ALICIA MARQUEZ

California State University, Sacramento
Brentwood, CA

JUANA MATIAS

University of Massachusetts Boston
Dorchester, MA

ROSELA ROMAN

Santa Ana Community College
Santa Ana, CA

ALEXIS RUIZ

The University of Georgia
Athens, GA

ODALYS SOLARES

Miami Dade College
Miami, FL

JACQUELINE TOLENTINO

DePaul University
Chicago, IL

NATALIA TRINIDAD

Creighton University
Omaha, NE

VICTORIA WATSON-NAVA

Colorado State University, Pueblo
Pueblo, CO



2008 LLL Summer Youth Institute participants received media training at the Newseum Museum (bottom left), learned effective resume writing strategies (bottom center), and participated in briefings at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) (bottom right) and the White House (top right) with top Latina officials and policy makers.

NHLI's Annual Leadership Conference Attracted Top Latina Leaders, Experts and Celebrated Women for their Achievements



Crowd at the Conference kick-off at the Health and Wellness and Career Fairs.



The 2008 Mujer Award statuettes.



(Left to right) Congresswoman Loretta Sánchez, NHLI President Cristina López and Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.



Reading about the presenters during a break in the conference.



Nely Galán, recipient of the 2008 Chair's Award, was one of the keynote speakers.

When Maria Diaz Urbino (NHLI Class of 2002) learned the National Hispana Leadership Institute (NHLI) was returning to her community in November, 2008 to hold the 8th Executive Leadership Training and Mujer Awards Conference, she didn't think twice about attending the annual convening.

A long-time community leader in Orlando, a city known for hosting some of the country's top conventions and special events, Maria knows a good thing when she sees it, and she knew the NHLI 2008 Conference was the place to be to network with hundreds of professional Latinas from across the country, obtain skills-building training, and hear from exciting motivational speakers.

"The NHLI conference is a national caliber conference that represents the very best Hispanics have to offer to our community and our great nation," said Urbino, who works as a Community Relations Manager of Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

By connecting with fellow professionals, at-

tending cutting-edge seminars and visiting informational fairs, participants leave the training more knowledgeable and full of ideas for new opportunities.

Take Pauline Nuñez, from NHLI's second graduating class in 1989. While attending NHLI's annual conference in Denver, Colorado last year, the networking opportunity the conference provided put Nuñez on the radar for a job at the Census Bureau.

The two-day conference offered a variety of workshops ranging from professional development to politics to corporate strategies to financial advice — many facilitated by NHLI's very own talent pool. Alumnae — who have gone on to become elected officials, senior managers, entrepreneurs, executives at non-profits and powerful decision makers — share their expertise each year with the conference participants.

A jam-packed session on public speaking titled *Are You Ready for Prime Time?* by Ysabel Duron (NHLI '90), Senior Anchor, KRON4 News in San Francisco, provided tools to get participants ready to represent their organi-

zations, business or themselves as speakers.

Neddy Perez, a 2000 alumna and Human Resources & Diversity Consultant, along with Adriana Comellas-Macretti (NHLI '03) from State Farm Insurance Companies, shared top tips on *How to Recession Proof Your Career?* during the challenging economic climate.

While many were still dissecting the presidential elections results, NHLI's alumna Ingrid Duran ('02), founder of Poder Pac, and Laura Drain (NHLI '08), co-chair of Latinas for McCain, provided the first past election analysis from a Latina perspective and discussed opportunities for Latinas with the new administration.

Judy Majors, NHLI '08 graduate and Senior Project Manager of the Office of Diversity & Inclusion at Fannie Mae, informed the public about *Home Ownership in Times of Economic Stress*, and Marieli Colón Padilla, Vice President of Fleisham-Hillard, Inc. and NHLI Class of 2006, moderated a discussion about *Cultural Segmentation and the Growing Influence of Latinas in Marketing*.

Consequently, the conference included informative workshops and presentations provided by other renowned experts, panelists and speakers including Goya Foods celebrity Chef Fernando Desa and Congresswomen Loretta and Linda Sánchez.

Long time NHLI friends Ret. Lt. Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, President and Founder of Educational Achievement Services, Inc., and media mogul Nely Galán, President of Galan Entertainment who is also an alumna from the class of 1989, empowered the attendees with their inspiring keynote speeches. In addition, renowned artist, Sina Sutter, enhanced the gala with her painting *Cruzando Fronteras*, which was used as the conference signature artwork. Sina has created art for previous NHLI conferences.

There were many firsts at the conference. Making their debut at this year's conference, the *Ask the Expert* sessions provided attendees with one-on-one coaching on resume writing, interviewing skills, effective speaking and presentation skills, negotiating compensation, preparing for a promotion or career change, and other topics.

As in previous years, the *Latina Authors Book Signing* proved to be a popular stop for many of the conference goers. Cristina Benitez featured her latest book, *Latinization: How Latino Culture is Transforming the U.S.*; Suzanne Moreno presented her *Latino's Guide to Parenting* and Congresswomen Loretta and Linda Sánchez signed scores of their book, *Dream in Color: How the Sánchez Sisters are Making History in Congress*.

The conference culminated with the *Mujer Awards*. With Sarykarmen Rivera, a TV personality at Telemundo Orlando, as Mistress of Ceremony, the gala paid tribute to three outstanding Latinas for their unrelenting commitment to their communities and their lifetime achievements. The 2008 honorees have made it their life's work to empower their communities through the media, and by expanding access to health care.

The year's Chair Award was presented to Nely Galán. She was honored for her commitment to the Latino community through her entrepreneurial spirit and charity organization *Count Me In*, a non-profit organization that empowers women to create their own business and achieve financial independence. Galán is the perfect example of a celebrity who channels her star power to transform the lives of others.

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"Latinas in the 2008 Elections: The Story Behind the Numbers" workshop.



The State Farm booth at the Career Fair.



Latina Authors Book Signing.



(Left to right) "Business with a Conscience" panelists: Victoria Negrete representing Nissan; N. Cornell Boggs, MillerCoors; Roger Guzman, Wal-Mart; and Ofelia Melendrez, McDonald's.



Goya Chef Fernando Desa.



A participant getting advice from Milagros Mateu (right) at the Ask the Expert session.



NHLI Board Member, Carmen Bauza, sharing a few words at the Mujer Awards Gala on behalf of Wal-Mart.



NHLI President Cristina López (left) presents the National Mujer Award to Dr. Angela Diaz.

2008 Conference

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Dr. Angela Diaz, MD, MPH, received this year's National Award for her lifetime work in the medical field. As Director of the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center—which under her leadership has become the largest adolescent health care center in the U.S.—Dr. Diaz has been a pioneer in providing free primary care, reproductive health, mental health and health education services to teens. Dr. Diaz is an NHLI graduate of the Class of '96 is also President of the Children's Aid Society, the country's oldest child services agency.

The 2008 Regional Award was presented to Rossana Rosado, Publisher and CEO of *El*

Diario La Prensa, the oldest Spanish daily newspaper in New York delivering outstanding news content to all its readers. She is honored for her distinguished achievements in the print and electronic media industry and unsurpassed commitment to the Latino community.

The 2008 Executive Leadership Training and Mujer Awards Conference was a resounding success thanks to the contribution of numerous supporters and allies; the participation of renowned experts, panelists and speakers and the support of NHLI's board members, staff and volunteers.

Special thanks to NHLI's conference sponsors: State Farm Insurance Companies, Wal-Mart, T-Mobile, MillerCoors, the United States Postal Service, Sprint, Southwest Airlines, General Motors, Nordstrom, Ford,

McDonald's, Nationwide Insurance, Nissan, Johnson & Johnson, Verizon, Hispanic MPR, The Walt Disney Company, BBVA Compass, WaMu, The Cartel Group, Goya Foods, Anheuser Busch, UPS, American Family Insurance, Fannie Mae, Latinosinhighered.com, Telemundo Orlando, Radio La Fantástica, *Latina Style Magazine*, *La Prensa-Orlando*, Nielsen Company and DFW Airport.

Additionally, NHLI would like to acknowledge TV producers, Neisa Condemaita and Andrew Arbuckle, for the production of the 2008 Mujer Awards honorees' video clips; translator Nichelle Gillian for her services; and the team of Diversity Broadband TV who produced NHLI's first conference webcast.

To view conference highlights and the webcast, visit www.nhli.org.



2008 Mujer Awardees: (left) Dr. Angela Diaz, M.D., MPH, Nely Galán, Media Mogul and President of Galan Entertainment. Not pictured, Regional Awardee Rossana Rosado, Publisher and CEO of *El Diario-La Prensa* (New York).



Members of the NHLI Board of Directors and 2008 Mujer Awardees at the VIP Reception.



Latinas Learning to Lead attendees at the Gala with NHLI President Cristina López (4th from left) and Evelyn Garcia-Morales, NHLI Program Manager (3rd from left).



Sina Sutter, 2008 Mujer Award Poster Artist, signs her artwork at the Gala.

Never Too Much Time to Talk About Latinas

BY MARIBEL FERRER-GIL
FLEISHMAN-HILLARD, INC.

In mid-November, my colleague Marieli Colon-Padilla and I had the privilege of attending the National Hispana Leadership Institute annual conference — a great experience to connect with influential Latinas from around the country who have a deep sense of commitment to supporting each other and their communities. During the conference, we had the opportunity to lead a workshop session along with author and Hispanic marketing pro Cristina Benitez.

The topic: the growing influence of Latinas in marketing. In thinking back, the topic can really make for a full-day workshop and in the interest of what we might have left unsaid, here are a few thoughts:

- Latinas influence or make a decision on the majority of the household purchases for the \$860 billion spending power of the demo in the U.S.
- They are graduating high school and college at faster rates than male peers.
- As the 2008 election showed, they are interested and active in the political arena.
- Overall, they feel higher pressure to balance values and cultures that leads to unfortunate repercussions such as the potential for depression.
- And if being cultural gatekeepers for their family is not enough, they also are opening small businesses and growing that area at faster rates than male peers.



Maribel Ferrer-Gil (left) and Cristina Benitez.

True that the Latina experience is widely varied across the nation, across generations, and even across cultural heritages. But common to all is their role at the center of the home, at caring for family first, and at imparting and establishing a sense of community. For marketers, brands, non-profits, corporations, connecting, engaging and developing a relationship with this segment is the most important strategic next step in a Hispanic marketing program built to last.

Thanks to all who joined us at the workshop and kudos to NHLI on their 21 years of history!

Maribel Ferrer-Gil is a senior bilingual and bicultural counselor with deep experience developing and managing national strategic Hispanic public relations programs. She leads FH Hispania, a team of national Hispanic marketing experts, and Fleishman-Hillard's marketing arm.

SOURCE: FH HISPANIA PLAZA BLOG.

Silent Auction Raises Funds for NHLI

Once again, NHLI friends pitched in and donated a variety of items including iPods, jewelry, and hotel stays that were auctioned off at the Mujer Awards Gala. The silent auction has become a gala tradition and the funds raised help NHLI continue its mission to develop Hispanas as ethical world leaders. A special thank you to our donors:



One of the many participants in the Silent Auction.

Maria Cecilia Buron de Patanian	MillerCoors
Patricia Lee Chavez	Motorola, Inc.
Amelia De Jesus	NHLI Class of 1988
The Coca Cola Company	NHLI Class of 1995
Compass Bank	NHLI Class of 2005
ConAgra Foods	NHLI Class of 2006
Educational Management Corporation	NHLI Class of 2008
Emily Gantz McKay	Elizabeth Orlando
Nora Garza	Pauline Nunez
Ford Motor Company Fund	Priscilla Pena
Goya Foods, Inc.	Denise Perez
Hotel Palomar Arlington	Virginia Robles-Villalba
Johnson & Johnson	T-Mobile
Key Bridge Marriott Hotel	Verizon Communications
Laura Lopez Cano	Wal-Mart
Leticia Lopez	The Westin Alexandria
Migun Health Center-Miami, FL	

Alumnae on the Move!



In April, **BELINDA GONZALEZ-LEON** ('05) completed her education doctorate in Organizational Leadership. Her dissertation was a program evaluation of the Latinas Learning to Lead program. She was also honored by the Latin Chamber of Commerce of USA at their "Successful Hispanic Women of the Year 2008" symposium and business luncheon in October.



VIRGINIA MADUENO ('06) received the National Anna Maria Arias Memorial Business Fund Award in Washington DC in September. Virginia was also chosen as one of three small business owners from across the country to receive a National Association of Women Business Owner's/Wells Fargo Trailblazer Award.



LINDA MAZON GUTIERREZ ('92) was named to the Board of Directors of the National Council of La Raza.



CELIA NUNEZ ('04) has been re-elected as City Council member for the City of Wilsonville in Oregon. She is also the new State Farm Agent in Newberg, Oregon. Previously, she was the Executive Recruiter for State Farm in the Pac NW Zone.



NATASHA LYCIA ORA BANNAN ('06) received the Peace, Health, and Justice Award from Casa Atabex Ache, an organization in the South Bronx facilitating collective transformation and social change for women of color.



SANDRA OTERO, PH.D. ('06) formed an exploratory committee to consider running for elected office in the Arizona State Assembly.



LAURA PERALTA (LLL '03) began her Masters program at the University of Southern California in Public Administration in the Fall.



MAYDA PREGO ('06) was elected President of the Hispanic National Bar Foundation in September 2008.



ROSEMARY RAVINAL ('88) was appointed to head Public Relations and Marketing Communication in Latina America for A&E, the History Channel and the Biography Channel.



RAMONA REYES ('03) took the helm as President of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Columbus, Ohio.



BETTINA RODRIGUEZ AGUILERA ('94) was appointed Director of Economic Development for the City of Doral, Florida.



ROSARIO ROMAN ('91) was selected to serve as a member of the Miami-Dade County Equal Opportunity Board.



ANA MARIA SOTO ('04) became the Executive Director of Latino Initiatives at National-Louis University in August.



RACHEL RIOS ('99) was appointed Director of Juvenile Parole Operations for the Division of Juvenile Justice for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.



MARIA VENTURA ('08) became a Public Affairs Specialist with State Farm in August and relocated to Dupont, Washington to oversee the State of Alaska.

Thanks for Your Outstanding Work!



After four years as Chair of the Alumnae Committee and Representative on the NHLI Board of Directors, Nora De Hoyos Comstock (Class of 2000) steps down. Nora has done a truly exceptional job of representing the alumnae's interest on the NHLI Board and keeping everyone informed, but the continuously growing Comadres Network requires more of her time. Las Comadres is a nationally known Latina organization empowering women to be actively engaged in the growing Latino/Hispanic communities through on line and face to face networks. Nora has been key to connecting with our program graduates and keeping NHLI focused on its priority constituency: the alumnae. Nora will continue to be engaged with NHLI both as active alum and a partner in future efforts between NHLI and the Comadres Network. The Class Reps will be electing a new Chair in December.

Got a promotion? Just completed your degree? Recently moved? Keep NHLI up-to-date by sending us a brief e-mail with your update, your most recent headshot picture and brief bio to nhli@nhli.org.

NHLI STAFF NEWS

New Hire

Having been exposed to the other side of media relations as researcher for *People en Español* magazine, reporter for *Nuestra Comunidad*, a Gannett-owned Spanish language newspaper in South Jersey and freelancer for several publications including DC-based magazine *Soluciones*, **CHERYL AGUILAR** passionately brings her past experience to NHLI as its new Communications and Online Marketing Manager. Previously, at the Center for Community Change, she managed media outreach to ethnic media, conducted outreach to mainstream media, and supported the media efforts of local grassroots groups across the country.

Later, Cheryl brought those skills to the nationally recognized Latin American Youth Center, the largest youth development agency in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, where she was responsible for overseeing the communications and media efforts. In the last three years, Cheryl has organized several media campaigns and dozens of media events including a national call-in day campaign to congress to support comprehensive immigration reform and a national telephonic press conference for ethnic media to inform developments on immigration reform bill.

Cheryl graduated from Rutgers University, with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Media Studies and she is looking

forward to pursuing her Master's degree in Public Relations in 2009. Cheryl is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications and the Public Relations Society of America.

Promotions

EVELYN GARCIA-MORALES, '04 Latinas Learning to Lead alumna, was recently promoted to Program Manager from her former post as Program Coordinator. Evelyn, who is responsible for overseeing NHLI's leadership programs and alumnae relations, feels excited about the new role.

"NHLI has allowed me to evolve. As I continue to evolve personally and professionally, I look ahead at the opportunity to move the programs forward and continue improving them so that NHLI remains the premier leadership institute for Hispanics."

Evelyn has been involved with non-profit work since 2001. Her passion for developing the next generation of leaders is such that in the next three years she plans to pursue a Master's degree in leadership development. Meanwhile, Evelyn will continue to keep busy through her volunteer work teaching English to undocumented immigrants and through her affiliations at the Young Non-Profits Professional Network, the Washington, DC University of Nevada, Las Vegas network, among others.

Administrative Assistant **KATHERYN HERNANDEZ** has been promoted to Online and Networks Support Associate. In addition to continuing to assist with program and conference events, she will be responsible for managing NHLI's various databases, supporting our soon to be launched membership program, assisting with online communications efforts, and coordinating webinars.

Katheryn, who is studying web design, is thrilled to be able to do new things. "Everything is moving towards a more technological direction. It feels great to be a part of NHLI's new initiatives." Katheryn has been working at NHLI since September, 2007. She previously worked at the National Hispanic Press Foundation.



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As you get ready to donate to the Combined Federal Campaign this year, please remember NHLI.

We have been designated #10216 and are listed under the National/International Organizations.

NHLI IN THE MEDIA

Check out the NHLI in the News section (www.nhli.org) to see the latest articles and media coverage of NHLI and alumnae.

Have recently been featured in the news?

Have written an op-ed or blog? Share it with NHLI.

Interested in writing opinion columns about different issues?

If needed, NHLI can provide technical and op-ed placement assistance.

Have a passion for expressing your ideas and expertise with the media?

We are collecting information for future interview opportunities.

Connect with Cheryl Aguilar at Cheryl@nhli.org or 703-527-6007, ext. 16.

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