

For Immediate Release
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The NHPO Leadership Institute Honors Inaugural Class

On June 4, 2009, the NHPO Leadership Institute held a graduation ceremony for the inaugural class of 21 graduates. The event was attended by 250 guests, including Oscar de la Rosa and Armando Lichtenberger with La Mafia, Council Member Peter Brown, Greg Compean, Felix Fraga, Sylvia Gonzalez, and Judge Richard Vara.

The graduation ceremony started off with a bang with vocalist, Raul Dominguez, singing the national anthem. Minerva Perez, Mistress of Ceremonies, kept everyone in good spirits with her humor throughout the program, which included powerful speeches by Irene Porcarello, President of HCC Southeast Campus; Maria Mendez, Aetna's Regional Director of Community Relations; Michelle Squair, graduate, and JR Gonzales, National President of NHPO.

The highlight of the evening was a video production created by Diana Falcon Rojas. It gave a perspective of what it was like taking the leadership course with still shots leaders speaking to the class. These leaders included: Sheriff Adrian Garcia, Senator Mario Gallegos, Dr. Tatcho Mindiola, Dr. Rey Garay, and Richard Farias.

Each of the graduates works for or serves on the board of a non-profit organization in Houston's Hispanic community. The course was designed to not only train individuals to become effective leaders, but to build relationships so that their respective organizations can work together to improve our community.

ABOUT NHPO LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

On January 1, 2009, NHPO and Houston Community College (HCC) joined forces to create the NHPO Leadership Institute, a program designed to help foster professional growth of leaders, so that they, in turn, can make our communities stronger. The NHPO Leadership Institute's first task was to create a leadership course at HCC in the spring semester of 2009.

The course, "Preparing the Leaders of Today and Tomorrow", gave participants an overview of what it takes to be an effective leader, organizer, and motivator. The topics covered in this course included: Leadership, Latest Internet Collaboration Tools, Effective Communication, Team Building, Time Management, Conducting Effective Meetings, Networking, Strategic Planning, and Public Speaking.

ABOUT NHPO

The National Hispanic Professional Organization (NHPO) is a non-profit organization founded on January 1, 2004. Its mission is to provide a myriad of educational seminars and professional development training to foster and promote self-improvement, professional advancement and personal achievement.

NHPO is a national organization with 21 new chapters across the country. The NHPO Houston Chapter currently has 1,200 members comprised of different ethnic, professional, financial, educational and social backgrounds. Approximately 52% of the members are female, 98% have attended college, 47% own their own business, 88% range between 26 and 55 years of age, 98% are registered to vote, and 50% have a household income of \$100k+.

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NHPO LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE INAUGURAL CLASS



Yolanda Cano
Program Manager
Ser-Jobs For Progress



Patrick Castillo
President
New Day Mortgage



Robert Castillo
Asst. Dir. Admissions
HCC



Cecy Davila
Office Manager
TEC Brake



Diana Falcon Rojas
Office Manager- HR
Promovita



Laurie Flores
President
La Bonita CDC



Veronica Garcia
Realtor
Keller Williams



Erika Gaytan
Training Specialist
Asurion



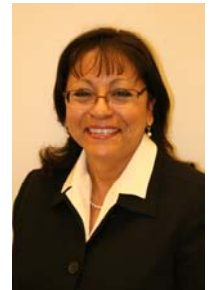
Victor Gomez
System Coordinator
HCC



Sonia Gonzales
Vice-President
Sterling Bank



Lenz Gutierrez
Financial Rep.
NW Mutual



Theresa Gutierrez
Director
La Rosa



Sandy Ibanez
Media Consultant
The SRC Group



Veronica Lopez
Teacher
PISD



Ben Mendez
President
PMG



Mary Munoz
Fin. Design Analyst
Shell



Monica Quintero
Services Exec.
Xerox



Linda Riviera
Contracting Officer
NASA



Michelle Squair
Branch Manager
Baxter & Schwartz PC



David Velez
Financial Rep.
NW Mutual



Dr. Manuel Zamora
Researcher
HPD