



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Communication: October 31, 2013

For Interviews and/or feature stories

Contact Person: Dolores C. Calaf, Director of Programs

Phone: (617) 427-71715 x 222

Cell: (978) 314-3125

Email: Dolores.calaf@laalianza.org

LA ALIANZA HISPANA CELEBRATED ITS 5TH ANNUAL WOMEN OF COURAGE FUNDRAISING EVENT ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013 WITH GREAT SUCCESS

BOSTON- La Alianza Hispana honored three Latinas as the Women of Courage 2013 on the 5th



Annual Women of Courage Celebration held on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at One Financial Center located at 675 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts with great success. The three honorees were **Dr. Eleonora Villegas-Reimers, Lillian Gonzalez, and Zoraida de la Rosa.**

Marisol Amaya-Aluigi, the new Executive Director of La Alianza Hispana also gave a special award to the past Interim Executive Director, Tristram Blake, for his courageous leadership in helping the agency turn around at a financial crossroad in the past year.



Dr. Eleonora Villegas-Reimers, Ed. D. is an Associate Professor at Wheelock College and the Chair of the Elementary Education Department at the same higher education institution.



Her extensive academic resume includes expertise in child cognitive development and published research on improving teacher professional development, particularly in developing countries, and in values education, particularly democratic values and skills. She was also appointed by former Education Secretary Paul Reville to the Massachusetts Board of Early Education and Care (EEC) which oversees policies and regulations for early education and care in the Commonwealth. Dr. Villegas-Reimers has taken it upon herself to ensure that Latino students and all students who arrive at Wheelock College find the supports they need to achieve academic and personal success. She makes herself available supporting students via email and in person as much as they need her. She is committed as a professional and passionate individual working to inspire a world of good and exemplifying excellence whether working at the College, or traveling to teach in Singapore or on a service learning trip with students to South America. Dr. Villegas-Reimers was also the recipient of the Latino Excellence in Education award in 2011 recognized by Governor Deval Patrick for her dedication to the advancement of Latinos. She has been affiliate to Wheelock College since 1988.

Lillian Gonzalez, CPA, MST, CSEP, CSRP, ADPA



Lillian Gonzalez is a CPA with 30 years' experience in the areas of non-profit accounting, estate and retirement planning and taxation. Her practice "Gonzalez & Associates, P.C." specializes in financial services for same gender and transgender persons. Over the years, she has been a consultant and instructor for the Massachusetts Society of CPA's, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, Youth Build USA, the Boston Women's Fund, Tufts University Management Institute, Associated Grant makers, The Support Center of Massachusetts, and the Accounting Assistance Program. Recently, because of tax issues associated with same gender marriages, she has interviewed on NPR and has been quoted in USA Today and The Boston Globe.

Recently she has written several articles for the Sumnews, one of the publications of the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants, on the effect of the Windsor decision on LGBT couples. Lillian is bilingual and is a well-respected leader in the Latino community as

well as in the non-profit community. She is a past board member at the Support Center of Massachusetts, Inc., the Latino Health Institute, the Massachusetts Society of CPA's Grantee and Not-for-Profit Committee, past treasurer at Arlington Street Church and La Alianza Hispana, past advisory board member at the Boston Foundation, past community advisory board member at WGBH, and current advisory board member of Wheelock Family Theater and on the Board of Visitors at Fenway Community Health Center.

Zoraida de la Rosa, RN, Clinical Director, Guardian Healthcare is the co-founder



and clinical director for Guardian Healthcare. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Nursing from the Interamerican University in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Zoraida also serves our country as a Captain for the United States Army. She joined the Army in 1989 as a reservist serving in important Army missions in El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti after the devastating earthquake,

providing her nursing skills to needed people in those countries. Her natural caring for sick and disabled people makes her one of the best nurses in the home care arena, developing expansions for large corporations in the state of Massachusetts. She is a great contributor to the success of Guardian Healthcare as she provided the clinical foundation on where this company was built on.

ABOUT WOMEN OF COURAGE:

The 5th Annual celebration of the Women of Courage is the signature fundraising event of La Alianza Hispana to raise unrestricted dollars to help support the agency's programs and services to the Latino community in Greater Boston. The event has been a great way to honor a total of 40 Latinas who have demonstrated their leadership, passion for their work and inspiration as role models and agents of change to the Latino and non-Latino communities in this region and beyond. This year's celebration raised its goal of \$40,000. Thanks to all our sponsors this year:

Guardian Healthcare, lead sponsor/Leader of Courage; followed by Investors of Courage, Sponsors of Courage and Friends of La Alianza Hispana from the following institution: Goya Foods, Wheelock College, TJX Companies, Neighborhood Health Plan (NHP), Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Gonzalez & Associates, CPA, Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Boston Public Health Commission,

Longevity Care, LCC, Eastern Bank Foundation as well as individuals who have supported La Alianza Hispana through the years of existence.

ABOUT LA ALIANZA HISPANA:

Founded in 1971 in Roxbury, La Alianza Hispana is a community based nonprofit organization serving the Latino community and all residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Our goal is to empower individuals and families, strengthen communities and develop leaders through high-quality education and social services, advocacy and community organizing. Our services are culturally and linguistically integrated in our community.



###