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Contact: Geenae Rivera  
Telephone: 202-833-0060  
riveragr@hermana.org

**MANA, A National Latina Organization's Annual Conference May 24-26, 2007 in Santa Fe, NM**

MANA, A National Latina Organization, with headquarters in Washington, DC, twenty one Chapters nationwide and four affiliates across the nation, will hold it's Annual Training Conference on Latina Health and Wealth Issues from May 24-26 at the College of Santa Fe and the Lodge at Santa Fe. Latinas from all over the country will converge for two days of workshops and leadership training. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to listen to dynamic speakers including The Honorable Mary Herrera, Secretary of State of New Mexico; Dolores Roybal, Executive Director of Con Alma Health Foundation; Juana Bordas, author and motivational speaker; Dr. Carmen Tafolla, author; Julia Hubbel, author and founder of The Hub Factor; Roger Rivera, President of the National Hispanic Environmental Council; and Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez, author of the New York Times Best Sellers *The Dirty Girls Social Club* and *Playing With Boys*.

Activities will begin on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, as MANA hosts the 2007 Child Passenger Safety Day at Santa Fe Community College, sponsored by State Farm. MANA members and affiliates who complete the State Farm Fellowship Program, from May 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, will be certified as Child Passenger Safety Technicians. They will check car seats for proper safety procedures and give away a limited number of car seats to low income families as a free public service.

The Conference will begin Thursday evening with a reception "Honoring Latina Public Officials". The Honoree for this event will be the Honorable Mary Herrera, Secretary of State of New Mexico. The Honorable Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico, has also been invited to attend. On Friday and Saturday, there will be workshops with experts on Latina Wellness topics, Latina Lifetime Skills, Creating Wealth, Latinas and Retirement, Entrepreneurship, Chapter Leadership, Financial Literacy, Holistic Health and Career Advancement.

Throughout the conference, MANA will be showcasing the work of three talented artists: Yolanda Valdés-Rementería of Portland, Oregon; Tamara Lopez of Santa Fe, New Mexico and Laura Lopez Cano of Houston, Texas. Some of their works will also be featured on conference programs and literature.

On Friday, May, 25<sup>th</sup>, MANA welcomes breakfast keynote speaker Juana Bordas, author of the new book, *Salsa, Soul and Spirit: Leadership for a Multicultural Age*. She is the president of the Mestiza Leadership International and was the founding President and CEO of the National Hispana Leadership Institute. The keynote speaker at the afternoon luncheon will be Carmen Tafolla, internationally acclaimed writer and educational consultant. She has published five books of poetry, seven television screenplays, one-non-fiction volume, and numerous short stories, academic articles, and children's works.

Julia Hubbel, professional speaker, seminar leader, prize-winning journalist, and author of the forthcoming book, *The Art of Principled Networking: When You Schmooze, You Lose*, will be the breakfast keynote speaker on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. She is a fully disabled, decorated Vietnam era veteran who served as journalist and television producer-director in the Army, and as Chief of Military Protocol for the Jimmy Carter Presidential Inaugural in 1977.

“This conference not only showcases successful Latina artists, writers, teachers, and speakers, it demonstrates the Latina CAN and WILL DO attitude and actions. By advancing educational achievement, MANA helps contribute to community development across the country,” said MANA CEO and President Alma Morales Riojas.

MANA is pleased to recognize State Farm Insurance Companies, Southwest Airlines, and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. for their unyielding commitment to Latina empowerment. For more information on the conference or to register, please visit [www.hermana.org](http://www.hermana.org) or call at 202-833-0060.

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***About MANA:** MANA, A National Latina Organization, is a nonprofit advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, DC. With chapters across the country, it is the oldest national Latina membership organization in the United States. MANA, whose mission is to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service, and advocacy, envisions a national community of informed Latina activists working to improve the quality of life for all Hispanics. MANA also has the only national Latina's mentoring program for girls 11 to 17, "HERMANITAS®" which brings over 100 girls each year to a Washington, DC leadership institute that includes a briefing at the White House and a visit to the girls' Congressional representatives.*