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**MANA Leaders Across The Nation Selected for
2006 AvanZamos ®Ford Fellowship Program**

MANA, A National Latina Organization, is proud to announce the 2006 AvanZamos ®Ford Fellowship Program participants. Established in 2002, the AvanZamos® Ford Fellowship Program provides a network of mentor-trainers for MANA's National Hermanitas® Program. The three-day program consists of a day of leadership development from the Gallup Organization, a day focused on mentoring and mentor-training, and a day devoted to local and national leadership within MANA. This year the Program will take place from July 19th to July 22nd at the Double Tree Hotel Crystal City at National Airport in Arlington Virginia, which is right outside of Washington, DC. This leadership training program and annual support is sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund.

"Ford is proud to continue its partnership with MANA. The AvanZamos Ford Fellowship provides Latinas with an opportunity to build their own leadership abilities and support the development of young Latinas" said Raquel Egusquiza, Director of Community Development and International Strategy, Ford Motor Company Fund

This year's Fellows include outstanding and accomplished Latinas from MANA Chapters and Affiliates throughout the United States. Each AvanZamos ® Fellow has committed to complete two local mentor-training sessions each year for the next three years for their MANA chapter or local community. Program participants were selected through a competitive application process.

The 2006 AvanZamos® Fellows are Stephanie Sacriste, MANA de Chicago; Lizet Campos, MANA de San Diego; Annette R. Ulloa, MANA de San Diego; Melanie Lira, MANA de Imperial Valley, CA; Josephine Hernandez, MANA Affiliate The Circle of Latina Leadership, CO ; Lourdes Fernández-Oropeza, MANA of Orange County, CA; Ana L. León, MANA Affiliate The Circle of Latina Leadership, CO; Dolly Marchena, Houston; Guillerma Morales, MANA Affiliate, American GI Forum Women, Dallas ; Nichole Medina, MANA del Norte, NM; Ernestina DeLaRosa, MANA de Topeka, KS; Evelyn Rojo, MANA de Metro Denver; Roberta Brodsky, MANA de Metro Denver; Belinda Garza, MANA de Hidalgo County, TX; Jaqueline Orozco, MANA de Metro Detroit; Ana Cortes, MANA de Topeka, KS; Sandra Gutierrez, MANA Affiliate Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad, NY; Debbie Salazar, MANA Affiliate American GI Forum Women, CO; and Ofelia Faz-Garza, Dallas.

"These exceptional women are already leaders in their respective communities," said Alma Morales Riojas, MANA President and CEO. "The AvanZamos® Ford Fellowship Program will provide them with skills that will enhance their mentoring abilities for our "Hermanitas®," or little sisters, who today need the support of good role models and leaders more than ever," added Ms. Morales Riojas.

MANA, A National Latina Organization, is a nonprofit advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, D. C., with chapters across the country. It is the oldest national Latina membership organization in the United States. The MANA mission is to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service, and advocacy. The MANA vision is a national community of informed Latina activists working to improve the quality of life for all Hispanics. MANA is unique in that it has the only national Latinas' mentoring program for girls from 11 to 17 years of age, "HERMANITAS®". "HERMANITAS®" annually brings over a hundred young Latinas to Washington, DC for a leadership institute that includes a briefing at the White House and a visit with their Congressional representatives.