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**MANA Salutes Primera Dr. Juliet V. Garcia
on Appointment to Obama Transition Team**

Washington, D.C. -- MANA, A National Latina Organization, with headquarters in Washington, DC, twenty-five Chapters nationwide and six affiliates across the nation, congratulates Juliet V. García, Ph.D., President of the University of Texas at Brownsville and 2008 Las Primeras® Award Recipient in Education for her appointment to the transition team for President-Elect Barack Obama. She became President of the University of Texas at Brownsville in 1992, after serving as President of Texas Southmost College for six years. She developed a unique partnership between UTB and TSC, designed to consolidate resources, increase efficiency, eliminate transfer barriers for students, and provide increased higher education opportunities for the people of the Lower Rio Grande Valley in South Texas.

Dr. García has served on the Presidential Advisory Council on Institutional Quality and Integrity and on the White House Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. She has also served as Chair of the American Council on Education, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Ford Foundation, Public Welfare Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Texas Campus Compact, and Raise Your Hand Texas.

She received her Ph.D. in Communication and Linguistics from The University of Texas at Austin and her M.A. and B.A. in Speech and English from the University of Houston. She holds honorary doctorate degrees from Notre Dame University and Brown University. Her postdoctoral studies include work at the Institute for Educational Management and the JFK School of Government at Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the London School of Business Study for International Business Fellows program.

“In this historic year where the Latino vote was crucial to the electorate, we are so proud that Dr. García was chosen by President-Elect Obama to serve on the transition team. Her experience leading post-secondary institutions near the US-Mexico border brings a vital voice to the incoming administration. Dr. García serves as a role model for young Latinas, demonstrating that academic success is an attainable goal for all,” said President and CEO, Alma Morales Riojas

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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 mentoring program for girls 11-18, *HERMANITAS*®, which brings over 100 girls each year to a Washington, DC, Latina leadership institute that includes educational activities at the White House, on Capitol Hill, and at the Pentagon.