



**For Immediate Release**

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**MANA Announces 2009 Annual Latina Health and Wealth  
Educational and Training Conference May 21-23, 2009, in Arlington, VA**

MANA, A National Latina Organization, with headquarters in Washington, DC, twenty six chapters nationwide and six affiliates across the nation, will hold the 2009 Annual Educational and Training Conference May 21-23, at the DoubleTree Hotel - Crystal City in Arlington, VA. Latinas from all over the country will come together for two days of workshops and training programs. The MANA mission is to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service, and advocacy. Thanks to our primary sponsors Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., State Farm Insurance Companies and Southwest Airlines, MANA is able to provide training programs in the areas of child passenger safety, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship; as well as workshops on advocacy, health care reform, leadership, diversity, and government employment.

As MANA celebrates 35 years of Latina leadership, the conference will feature invited speakers including the Honorable Hilda L. Solis, United States Secretary of Labor; Juana Bordas, educator, motivational speaker and author; Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez, New York Times Best Selling author; as well as confirmed speakers and guests including Dr. Carmen Tafolla, renowned Texas author; Mary Theresa Vasquez, author; Angie del Riego, multi-talented artist; Yolanda Valdez-Rementeria, accomplished artist and instructor; and Laura Lopez Cano, nationally recognized and featured artist.

Pre-conference activities will begin on Sunday May 17, as MANA hosts the 2009 State Farm Bilingual Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Fellowship Program. On Thursday May 21, at the conclusion of the training, MANA will host the Hispanic Community Family Safety Day at the Alexandria Health Neighborhood Services Chirilagua location, sponsored by State Farm Insurance Companies and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. The State Farm Fellows will check and install car seats using established safety procedures. MANA will give away a limited number of car seats to low income Hispanic families. MANA members, affiliates, and partners, who complete the State Farm Bilingual CPS Fellowship Program, May 18-21, will be certified as Child Passenger Safety Technicians through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The conference will officially kick off Thursday evening with a reception "Honoring Latina Public Officials," featuring invited guests The Honorable Ana Sol Gutierrez, Maryland State Delegate; The Honorable Emma Violand-Sanchez, Virginia School Board member and special guests including Members of Congress, The Honorable Grace Napolitano (D-CA), The Honorable Joe Baca (D-CA) and The Honorable Bob Filner (D-CA). On Friday and Saturday, subject experts will present workshops on advocacy, health care reform, leadership, diversity, government employment; and as part of a new initiative for entrepreneurs, workshops will be held on accessing capital, marketing and communications, green businesses and jobs, and leadership development. Throughout the conference, MANA will showcase the work of Latina authors and artists at the Mercado, where educational, community information, books, paintings and retail merchandise from Latina business owners will be available.

**MANA Announces 2009 Latina Health and Wealth Educational and Training Conference May 21-23, 2009, in Arlington, VA, continued:**

On Friday, May 22, MANA welcomes invited luncheon keynote speaker the Honorable Hilda L. Solis, United States Secretary of Labor, a 2007 Las Primeras® Awardee who is now the nation's highest ranking Latina member of President Barack Obama's Cabinet, as well as the first Hispanic Secretary of Labor. Secretary Solis broke ground when she became the first woman to receive the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award. She has achieved many firsts, including being the first Hispanic woman to serve in the California State Senate and the first Hispanic woman to serve on the influential House Committee on Energy and Commerce. MANA also welcomes renowned speaker and performance artist, Dr. Carmen Tafolla, an 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. That evening MANA will host a Red Dress Reception and Fashion Show. The evening theme aims to shed light on heart health awareness and heart disease prevention.

"Its exciting to see so many talented, enthusiastic and smart women joining MANA as we celebrate Latina leadership," said MANA CEO and President Alma Morales Riojas. "For 35 years MANA has worked to empower, unite, educate and celebrate Latinas across the country. Our hope is to provide Latinas with the tools that will help them grow and to use these tools to help improve their local communities. The 2009 MANA Annual Educational and Training Conference allows us to survey how far we have come since the organization was founded in 1974 and set a course for what we hope to accomplish in the next 35 years."

The MANA family across the country is pleased to recognize Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., State Farm Insurance Companies, and Southwest Airlines for their immeasurable and continued commitment to Latina empowerment.

For more information on the conference, to register or purchase individual event tickets, please visit [www.hermana.org](http://www.hermana.org) or call 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 mentoring program for girls 11 to 18, known as HERMANITAS®.*