



For Immediate Release

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2009 AvanZamos® Fellows Announced

MANA, A National Latina Organization, with twenty-six chapters and six affiliates nationwide, is pleased to announce that the 2009 AvanZamos® Fellowship Program will be held from July 21st-26th in Orlando, Florida. This year is MANA's eight consecutive year where we train outstanding groups of motivated women leaders from across the country. These leaders give their personal time to take part in a training program designed to provide chapter leadership skills and the tools to adequately guide their chapter HERMANITAS® programs, HERMANITAS® Coordinators, and most importantly to train Madrinass® to serve as mentors for the hermanitas.

AvanZamos® Fellows are adult leaders, largely nominated by their Chapter or Affiliate Presidents for this competitive program. Each Fellow demonstrates a commitment to MANA through their current participation and agrees to provide training for other leaders within their communities. This year, the program is proud to host participants from MANA de North Texas, MANA de Topeka, MANA de Sonoma County, MANA de Corpus Christi, MANA de San Diego, MANA de North County San Diego, MANA de New York City and MANA Affiliate American GI Forum of US Women.

The training will begin with a full day with the Gallup Organization, where facilitator Connie Moya will discuss with participants previously completed personality and strengths assessments. The fellows will also participate in workshops on creating a mentoring program with Allyson Roberts of the Virginia Mentoring Partnership. Other workshops will include Internet Safety with Ana Cody of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; College Resource with Sandra Rodriguez of MANA National Board of Directors; MANA Chapter Leadership with Alfred Ramirez of Diverse Strategies; and Building an HERMANITAS® Program with Amy Hinojosa of the MANA national staff.

The AvanZamos® Fellows will also have the opportunity to join the HERMANITAS® Leadership Institute participants for the experiential day in the Disney World Magic Kingdom. They will participate in the Disney Youth Education Series Program: Dynamics of Technology, where the HERMANITAS® will explore the evolutionary nature of technology and discover the complexity behind the acceleration of technological development and humankind's acceptance of it.

“As an organization that focuses on grassroots leadership development, it is extremely important to see that the baton is passed on. The AvanZamos® Fellowship program helps us ensure that we continue to increase the capabilities of our grassroots membership so that they in turn can help educate the next generation of Latina Leaders and ultimately ensure leadership at the National level,” said MANA President and CEO, Alma Morales Riojas.

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

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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.