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Contact: Amy Hinojosa
ahinojosa@hermana.org

MANA Recognizes Las Primeras[®] at U.S. Capitol



Left to Right: Azucena Maldonado, Brent Wilkes, Celeste Carrasco, Judy Chapa, Amy Hinojosa, Adrianna Quintero
Photo Credit: Tony Hinojosa

Washington, DC (March 26, 2016) – MANA proudly held the 2016 Las Primeras[®] Awards at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center on March 26, 2016. Since 1990, the MANA Las Primeras[®] Awards have honored Latinas who demonstrate important ‘firsts’ in their fields with a national impact. The achievements of these extraordinary women show the important contributions Latinas make to this country.

The 2016 Las Primeras[®] Awards were presented to The Honorable Judy Chapa, the first Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Financial Education; and Azucena Maldonado, Founder and President of the Latina Golfers Association. Awards were also presented to partners that have deep commitments to the Hispanic community. The HerMANA Award was presented to Celeste Carrasco, Director of Federal Public Affairs for AT&T. The HerMANO Award was presented to Brent Wilkes, National Executive Director of the League of United Latin American

Citizens (LULAC). The Community Partner Award was presented to Voces Verdes and accepted by Executive Director, Adrianna Quintero.

Las Primeras® Awardee, The Honorable Judy Chapa: Ms. Chapa was appointed by President George W. Bush in 2002 as the first Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Financial Education, and was responsible for establishing the office and developing the Treasury Department's financial education policy. She currently serves as the Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility for the Financial Services Roundtable. In this capacity, she oversees the Corporate Social Responsibility Department which highlights Roundtable member companies' efforts to improve their communities, with a focus on financial literacy, and strengthens relationships with non-profit partners and public policymakers.

Las Primeras® Awardee, Azucena Maldonado: Azucena Maldonado is on a mission to transform women's lives through golf. She founded the Latina Golfers Association (LGA) in 2008 to introduce Latinas of all ages to golf for their professional development, personal enjoyment, and to promote a healthy lifestyle. The LGA teaches women how to utilize golf as a business tool. Ms. Maldonado teaches women how to break gender and cultural barriers through golf. She has shared her secrets of how to be welcomed into the elite "boys club" and break the glass ceiling with a golf ball.

HerMANA Awardee, Celeste Carrasco: Celeste Carrasco is the Director of Federal Public Affairs for AT&T. A strong advocate of diversity, inclusion and volunteerism, she is the President of the DC Chapter of HACEMOS, The Hispanic/Latino Employee Association of AT&T, as well as the DC Ambassador to the AT&T Foundation Aspire Program.

HerMANO Awardee, Brent Wilkes: Brent Wilkes is the National Executive Director of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). He works to improve the quality of life for Hispanic Americans by guiding the organization's extensive legislative, public policy, and service activities in Hispanic communities throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Community Partner Awardee, Voces Verdes: Voces Verdes is a non-partisan network of Latino business, public health, academic, community leaders and organizational partners who advocate for sound environmental policy to combat climate change and support clean, renewable energy. It aims to ensure that the voices, concerns, and talents of the growing Latino community are taken into consideration in shaping public policies and government action that promote environmental progress, economic prosperity and healthy communities.

Las Primeras® serves as an educational program and commemoration of how far we have come, yet serves as an important reminder of the long road ahead for full inclusion of Latinas in the top levels of leadership in this country. Amy Hinojosa, President and CEO of MANA, A National Latina Organization, said, "We are honored to recognize these luminaries in the national Hispanic community. Each and every day, they serve with distinction, break barriers,

advocate for the advancement of Latinos nationwide, and are successful in their efforts. Each awardee deserves this recognition and our thanks for their service.”

Founded in 1974, MANA, A National Latina Organization® (MANA) is a national grassroots membership organization with chapters, individual members and affiliates across the country. MANA represents the interests of Latina women, youth and families on issues that impact our communities. MANA contributes the leading Latina voice on many of the major issues in the public sphere, particularly in the areas of education, health and well-being, financial literacy, equal and civil rights, and immigration reform.

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