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ROSIE HIDALGO OF THE NATIONAL LATIN@ NETWORK (a project of Casa de Esperanza) RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD AT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS COLLOQUIUM

Rosie Hidalgo, Director of Public Policy for the National Latin@ Network, a project of Casa de Esperanza, Honored with Trailblazer Award for work with issues of Domestic Violence

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Wednesday, October 23rd, Dialogue on Diversity honored Rosie Hidalgo, Director of Public Policy for the National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities, a project of Casa de Esperanza. Ms. Hidalgo was presented with the Trailblazer Award at the 6th Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Colloquium. The Dialogue on Diversity's Trailblazer Award pays tribute to women entrepreneurs and professionals within public- and private-sector agencies. The focus this year was on issues of domestic violence, its prevention and improved interventions, as well as critical issues of immigration reform.

"I am honored to receive this award on behalf of Casa de Esperanza and the National Latin@ Network," said Rosie Hidalgo. "It is a reflection of the growing strength and commitment in Latino communities to work together to end domestic violence. While significant improvements were included in the recent reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, comprehensive immigration reform is the critical next step to reduce the vulnerabilities to abuse and exploitation of millions of undocumented immigrants in the United States and to strengthen families and communities."

The annual event explored problems related to domestic violence and immigration, as well as the interrelation between these two issues in the United States. This year, the program's themes included the improvements in the recent reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), as well as issues of teen dating violence, elder abuse, trafficking, and the need for immigration reform. The colloquium was co-sponsored by the Office of Latino Affairs of the District of Columbia, and featured U.S. Representative Raúl Grijalva and National Council of La Raza (NCLR) founder and long-time president Raúl Yzaguirre as speakers.

Throughout her twenty year career, including in her current position as the Director of Public Policy for Casa de Esperanza and the National Latin@ Network, Hidalgo has been dedicated to the movement to end domestic violence. She has also worked at legal services programs for low-income families in New York City and in Northern Virginia, providing representation in the areas of family law, domestic violence, child welfare and education and played an integral role in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL LATIN@ NETWORK FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

The National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities is a network of individuals and organizations committed to improving the health and well-being of Latin@ communities. The National Latin@ Network is led by Casa de Esperanza, a national Latina organization whose mission is to mobilize Latinas and Latin@ communities to end domestic violence. The National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities builds on Casa de Esperanza's experience working in local communities to support families, end domestic violence, and increase meaningful access to services for Latina@s and incorporates a research center, public policy initiative, and training.

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