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**The Tomás Rivera Policy Institute Announces Its
20th Anniversary Celebration Gala Dinner Honorees**

(LOS ANGELES, CA) February 13, 2006 – The Tomás Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI) announces its 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner, “*A Night of Celebration*”, scheduled Thursday, May 18 at the Town & Gown on the University of Southern California campus. TRPI will honor prominent national leaders, scholars, and elected officials who have helped the Latino community make significant strides in power and influence over the last two decades.

TRPI, known for its work to improve public policies affecting Latinos and underserved communities through objective research, will recognize **Bank of America**, the **Lozano Family**, founders of La Opinión, Claremont Graduate University President Emeritus **John D. Maguire**, former Congressman **Edward Roybal** and Congresswoman **Lucille Roybal-Allard**.

The honorary dinner committee includes Antonio Villaraigosa (*Mayor, City of Los Angeles*), Fabian Núñez (*Speaker, CA State Assembly*), Eva Longoria (*Star, ABC’s Desperate Housewives*), Ann Marie Tallman (*President, MALDEF*), Henry Cisneros (*Chairman and CEO, American CityVista*), and Bill Richardson (*Governor, State of New Mexico*). Support for the event includes sponsorships from Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, First Data/Western Union, Sempra Energy, Truman Media, Union Bank of California, Verizon, AstraZeneca, TELACU, Allstate, Countrywide, and Korn/Ferry International.

About the honorees:

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation is one of the largest corporate foundations in the country. Throughout their history, Bank of America and the Bank of America Charitable Foundation have sought opportunities to touch the communities in which they do business by helping the businesses grow and prosper. In 2004, they announced an unprecedented, \$1.5 billion, 10-year goal for philanthropic giving, and have been repeatedly honored for their commitment to supplier and hiring diversity.

Ignacio E. Lozano fled Mexico at the turn of the century and originally settled in San Antonio, Texas, where Lozano founded the Spanish-language daily newspaper, *La Prensa*, in 1913. As the Mexican population flourished in California, Lozano established *La Opinión* in Los Angeles on September 16, 1926 to coincide with Mexico's Independence Day. Lozano's son, Ignacio E. Lozano, Jr., began working at *La Opinión* in 1948, and today Lozano's vision, carried on by his children and grandchildren, has not only made *La Opinión* the leading Spanish-language newspaper in the U.S., but also one of the top 100 daily newspapers in the nation.

Dr. John David Maguire, an internationally respected teacher, scholar, administrator, and social justice activist, is a founding trustee of the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute. He became president emeritus of the Claremont Graduate University (CGU) in mid-1998 and senior fellow in the Institute for Democratic Renewal in CGU's School of Politics and Economics. Maguire was instrumental in giving TRPI an academic home at the Claremont Graduate University in from 1985-2003, and he served on the TRPI board of trustees for almost 20 years.

Edward Roybal was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives on November 6, 1962. He was the first Hispanic from California to serve in Congress since the 1879 election of Romualdo Pacheco. During his three decades of service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Roybal worked to protect the rights of minorities, the elderly, and the physically-challenged. His daughter, Lucille Roybal-Allard, a political pioneer, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992, becoming the first Mexican-American woman elected to Congress. Congresswoman Roybal-Allard champions her efforts to modernize and upgrade public schools, improve school safety, increase the federal minimum wage, reduce the high Hispanic drop-out rates, preserve Social Security and Medicare, and stimulate economic growth to create new jobs.

Founded in 1985, the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute advances critical, insightful thinking on key issues affecting Latino communities through objective, policy-relevant research and its implications, for the betterment of the nation. TRPI is an affiliated research unit of the University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning, and Development, and is associated with the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy at Columbia University. To learn more about the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute or the gala dinner visit the Institute's website at <http://www.trpi.org>.

For more information about the dinner or sponsorships, please call Kathryn Grady at (213) 821-5615.

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