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Monday, October 15, 2007

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Spotlight on College Access for Latinos at 4thTRPI Education Conference

Over 500 educators, grassroots organization leaders, and policymakers to attend

Los Angeles, CA – The fourth annual Tomás Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI) Education Conference, being held today at the Long Beach Convention Center, promotes the success of Latinos in college by advancing solutions to build equal opportunities in higher education.

The one-day conference – “Practical Tools to Increase Latino College Access and Success” – welcomes more than 75 speakers and presenters this morning along with more than 500 educators, outreach directors, program directors, researchers, and high school and university administrators. It is in association with the Center for Urban Education at the University of Southern California’s Rossier School of Education.

“The outstanding five-track program will highlight research and innovative outreach programs that demonstrate a measurable and positive impact on the college achievement rates of Latinos,” TRPI President and CEO Dr. Harry Pachon said.

With an emphasis on how to improve Latino college achievement rates, the event promotes the development and implementation of an agenda for equal opportunities in education.

“Presenters will offer relevant and replicable solutions that can be followed by communities, higher education institutions, and other organizations,” Dr. Pachon said. “Exhibits will feature grassroots organizations working to affect change.”

Presentations include improving Latino student success at both state and community colleges, engaging parents, working with undocumented students, fostering responsibility with institutional data, and using data as a diagnostic tool, as well as teacher training, mentoring programs, and college information campaigns. In addition, an array of events, programs, and campaigns that have been shown to improve Latino access and success in higher education will be spotlighted.

Featured speakers at the conference include:

- Deborah Ortiz, former California state senator, will offer opening remarks after Dr. Pachon’s welcome at 8:30 a.m.
- Jay Rosner, executive director of The Princeton Review Foundation, will follow with a speech on university admissions tests.
- Plenary remarks will be presented at 1:30 p.m. by Estela Mara Bensimon, director of the Center for Urban Education.
- David Brewer, superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, will give the keynote speech.

Major sponsors include Bank of America, The Coca-Cola Company, ExxonMobil, Union Bank of California, and Washington Mutual.

The Long Beach Convention Center is located at 300 East Ocean Boulevard in Long Beach. Maps are available online at <http://www.longbeachcc.com/maps.htm>.

In addition, on Tuesday, October 16, a special half-day added workshop at another location will provide a model and plan for campus-based teams to examine institutional data and areas of inequity. “Communities of Practice: Moving Toward Equity in Student Outcomes” is a hands-on workshop facilitated by Elsa Macias, Ph.D., director of research and development for the Center for Urban Education, and Hannah Alford, research analyst at Long Beach City College. The workshop runs from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach, next to the convention center.

For more information on the conference, visit http://www.trpi.org/update/events_fall_1.html.

About TRPI

Founded in 1985, the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI) advances informed policy on key issues affecting Latino communities through objective and timely research contributing to 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.

Website: <http://www.trpi.org>