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**THE TOMAS RIVERA POLICY INSTITUTE EXPANDS LATINO SCHOLARSHIP  
DIRECTORY TO REACH ACROSS THE NATION**

**FREE popular internet and print guide with overwhelming demand holds  
updated and complete information on hundreds of scholarships designed to  
make college more affordable for Latino students**

**Los Angeles, CA** – The nation's leading Latino policy research organization has expanded its annual Latino College Dollars Scholarship Directory nationwide to meet overwhelming demand for scholarship information on how students can apply for the money they need to attend college.

An unprecedented response to the first Latino scholarship directory of the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI) in California last year prompted the Institute and its sponsors to produce the national guide. Released today, it contains clear information on more than 300 scholarships targeting Latino high school, undergraduate, and graduate students across the United States.

The new directory - made possible with grants from The John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation, The Sallie Mae Fund, and The Walt Disney Company - follows recommendations from a TRPI study that showed Latino students often are misinformed or unaware of scholarship opportunities. The directory offers a needed resource with updated and complete listings.

"Our research has shown that Latino families aspire to send their children to college but are critically lacking in awareness of how to pay for it. We're working to be sure Hispanic parents and students are not caught in a financial aid information divide," said Kathleen deLaski, President of The Sallie Mae Fund, which last year awarded \$2.6 million in scholarships to more than 1,000 students nationwide. The directory is aligned with the charitable organization's mission of increasing access to higher education for America's students.

A guide on how to apply for scholarships in both Spanish and English is included in the directory. For the ease of students and parents, scholarship listings are categorized by education level, deadline, minimum GPA, by whether citizenship is required as well as by region.

The directory will optimize existing resources by connecting them to deserving students, according to Dr. Efrain Garza Fuentes, Director of Multicultural Programs for The Walt Disney Company.

“We can think of no better investment to make than in future talent,” Dr. Fuentes said. “The Latino college community is very important to The Walt Disney Company, and since we had such great success with the directory at the local level, the next logical step was a national effort.”

The online directory is searchable by key categories such as grade level, grade point average (GPA) and citizenship. This search functionality makes the online directory extremely user-friendly and truly positions it as a one-of-a-kind resource in the online space. The Latino College Dollars Scholarship Directory can be downloaded for free at [www.latinocollegedollars.org](http://www.latinocollegedollars.org). Hard copies of the guide can be ordered online for a postage and handling fee of \$5.

The Institute conducted a study in 2006 which identified the directory as a much needed resource for the Latino community. The study also found that very often scholarship information is conflicting, out-of-date, and not actively disseminated to people who need it. Access the TRPI study at <http://www.trpi.org/PDFs/scholarshipreport.pdf>.

In addition, parents will be able to use the guide as a resource to help their children apply for scholarships. In a TRPI study commissioned by The Sallie Mae Fund, 94 percent of Latino parents believe college education is an important part of success in life, but more than half could not name a single source of financial aid.

“This project has been very valuable to Latino students and their parents in California, and now the positive impact will be nationwide,” said TRPI President and CEO Dr. Harry Pachon. “We are very excited about encouraging the pursuit of a higher education, about giving Latino students the information they need to help start and finish college by making it more affordable.”

Last year’s directory of California scholarships was viewed online an average of 7,000 times a month. “We expect demand this year to surpass the pace set last year,” Dr. Pachon said.

TRPI will mail 6,000 scholarship guides to guidance counselors at low-income schools in the five states with the largest Latino populations in the country – California, Florida, Illinois, New York, and Texas.

A total of 2,500 scholarship guides will be distributed to Latino students during The Sallie Mae Fund Paying for College Bus Tour that visits schools and community centers across the nation this Fall and Spring.

An additional 1,500 guides will be distributed to community based and direct service organizations such as The Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, Parent Institute for

Quality Education, and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund for distribution at town hall and parent meetings.

Also in the 2007-2008 directory:

- Complete and up-to-date information on 329 scholarships for Latino students attending or applying for admission to community college, undergraduate colleges and universities, and graduate schools
- A guide to applying for scholarships presented in English and Spanish: "Get the Money You Need!" and "Padres: ¡Ayuden a sus hijos a obtener el dinero que necesitan para asistir la universidad!"
- Separate listings of scholarships by sponsoring organization, citizenship requirements, education level, minimum GPA, deadline, and state/regional awards
- Scholarships for community college transfer students
- Customized searches online

### **About TRPI**

Founded in 1985, the Tomas 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>