



Contact: Doris M. De Los Santos
(401) 413-5775

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Latina Leadership Institute is now accepting applications for its 2007 Class

Providence, RI: The Latina Leadership Institute (LLI), a program of The Rhode Island Latino Civic Fund, is now accepting applications for its 2007 Latina Leadership Institute. The LLI provides participants with the opportunity to meet and work with other emerging and influential Latina leaders from a diverse cross section of the state. The Institute works to ensure that Latinas have the opportunity to foster relationships with other Latinas while participating in trainings that promote positive change throughout the state.

The Latina Leadership Institute is an educational program. The Institute will host eight four-hour classes starting on **March 17, 2007**. Latinas of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds are invited to apply, free of charge, no later than **February 8th, 2007**. Students will have the opportunity to interact with established and up-coming Latina leaders, while learning about public policy, leadership, strategic management, team building, political campaigning, public speaking, media relations and of course, the myriad of racial, class and gender issues facing the state's burgeoning Latina population.

Distinguished leaders in the public and private sectors have recognized the excellence and relevance of Latina Leadership Institute's training program. Community leaders such as Patricia Martinez, Olga Noguera, Luis Aponte, Gonzalo Cuervo, Vanesa Toledo-Vickers, Chris Barnett, Karen Malcom, Tomas Avila, Nellie Gorbea, Shannah Kurland, Gladys Gould and a host of others have addressed Institute participants. De Los Santos said. She noted, "We live in a diverse world and it is important to hear from lots of different people. Everyone's views are important. We encourage people to engage in public participation" An alumni of the 2006 Leadership Institute, Carolina Briones, a bi-lingual outreach specialist with the Providence Public Library, anticipates using her increased knowledge of the community in her library work with the

Latino community. Programs that Briones manage at the library include a book club for Latino/Latina adults and contests for Latino/Latina children.

“The idea behind the Institute is simple,” said LLI Program Coordinator Doris M. De Los Santos, “the institute prepares Latinas for political leadership and social advocacy roles, and in doing so, increases political representation and social opportunities for Latinas.”

To apply, please Email latinocivicfund@yahoo.com or call (401)413-5775 with your request.

Applications are due on February 7th, 2007. Classes will be in English and translation to Spanish and on-site child care will be provided.