

CHCI and CHLI Welcome Hispanic Members of the 112th Congress

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Washington, DC – The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) and the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI) welcomed Hispanic American members of the 112th Congress at a reception on Wednesday, January 5, 2011, at Union Station in Washington, D.C. The event gathered a bipartisan crowd in support of the organizations' missions to develop the next generation of Latino leaders and advance the diversity of thought in the Hispanic community, respectively.

"I look forward to working with these two superb organizations on the issues that matter to Hispanics, because our issues of importance are also the issues that matter to all Americans," said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, CHLI Board Member and CHCI Advisory Council Member. "Working together we can build better communities in which our children can grow and prosper, and together we will build a better nation for ALL Americans. There is much to be done, but I have no doubt that we will accomplish great things through hard work and bipartisanship."

"As we begin a new session in Congress, it is critical that we rededicate our support for CHCI and CHLI as they promote education, public service and civic engagement among Latino youth," said CHCI Chair Rep. Charles A. Gonzalez. "As the Latino youth population continues to grow, we must rise to the challenge to meet its needs and shape the Latino community leaders of tomorrow."

The program, featuring celebrity host Natalie Morales, NBC Co-Host and National Correspondent, *Today*, focused on the 2010 Census results and the growing political strength of the Latino community; the national imperative that U.S. economic future prosperity is critically tied to the success of the growing Latino population; the rich diversity within the Latino community; and the need for the Latino community in all sectors to work together to ensure all Hispanic Americans have the ability to achieve the American dream.

The beginning of the 112th Congress equals the largest number of Latinos in history, with 31 members in the House and the Senate, the same number that entered the 111th Congress.

New Hispanic American members include: Sen. Marco Rubio (FL), Rep. Francisco Canseco (TX-23), Rep. Bill Flores (TX-17), Rep. Jaime Herrera (WA-3), Rep. Raúl Labrador (ID-1), and Rep. David Rivera (FL-25).

Returning members include: Sen. Robert Menendez (NJ), Rep. Joe Baca (CA-43); Rep. Xavier Becerra (CA-31); Rep. Dennis Cardoza (CA-18); Rep. Jim Costa (CA-20); Rep. Henry Cuellar (TX-28); Rep. Mario Díaz-Balart (FL-21); Rep. Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20); Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (AZ-7); Rep. Luis V. Gutiérrez (IL-4); Rep. Rubén Hinojosa (TX-15); Rep. Ben R. Luján (NM-3); Rep. Grace Flores Napolitano (CA-38); Rep. Devin Nunes (CA-21); Rep. Ed Pastor (AZ-4); Res. Comm. Pedro Pierluisi (PR); Rep. Silvestre Reyes (TX-16); Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-18); Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34); Del. Gregorio Sablán (NMI); Rep. Linda Sánchez (CA-39); Rep. Loretta Sánchez (CA-47); Rep. José E. Serrano (NY-16); Rep. Albio Sires (NJ-13); Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (NY-12).

About CHCI

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), a nonprofit and nonpartisan 501(c) (3) organization, provides leadership development programs and educational services to students and young emerging leaders. The CHCI Board

of Directors is comprised of Hispanic Members of Congress, nonprofit, union and corporate leaders. For more information call CHCI at (202) 543-1771, visit www.chci.org, or join us on Facebook, Twitter (chci) and LinkedIn.

About CHLI

The Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI, pronounced "chili") is a non-profit, non-partisan organization, based in Washington, D.C., that advances the diversity of thought in U.S. Hispanic community in the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as in the international community. For more information, please visit www.chli.org. You may also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter (chlinstitute) and LinkedIn.

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WHERE :

CONTACT:

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Photo caption: Photo Caption: Natalie Morales, Today Show co-anchor; Rep. Gene Green; Rep. Charles A. Gonzalez, CHCI Chair; Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen; Rep. Joe Baca; Rep. Xavier Becerra; Hon. Hilda Solis, Sec. of Labor; Rep. Rub n Hinojosa; Rep. Ben Lujan Jr.; Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard; Rep. Nydia M. Vel zquez; Res. Comm. Pedro Pierluisi; Rep. Martin Heinrich; Francisco Sanchez, Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade; and Hon. Ben Lujan Sr., New Mexico Speaker of the House.