

16TH ANNUAL DC REGIONAL YOUTH AWARDS HONOR LATINO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS IN VARIOUS CATEGORIES ON CAPITOL HILL

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WASHINGTON, DC – The Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF) and its sponsors will honor 21 Latino high school seniors from the DC region for their accomplishments in the classroom, community and their focus on various categories during the 16th Annual DC Regional Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards on December 9 at the Rayburn House Office Building. HHF will also promote the young leaders as role models for their peers through social media as they move forward to college and provide them with grants, which can be used for their education or social entrepreneurship to support their leadership for years to come. Past Youth Awardees will join elected officials, educators, community and business leaders, and families in celebration of the students' achievement. After the Regional Youth Awards Ceremonies in 10 markets, one recipient will be chosen in each of the categories to attend the National Youth Awards in San Juan, Puerto Rico in January 2015 with celebrities. (Recipients' average GPA is over a 3.5).

The Youth Awards Ceremony will take place at the Rayburn House Office Building - Energy & Commerce Committee Room 2123 (Reception with food and beverages at 6 p.m. – Ceremony begins at 7 p.m. local time)

Business & Entrepreneurship – sponsored by *BBVA Compass*

Gold: Jenna Ramirez, James Hubert Blake High School Silver: Axia Nicolle Hernandez, Gaithersburg High School
Bronze: Lisette Obando Pardo, Fairfax High School

Community Service – sponsored by *Colgate-Palmolive Company*

Gold: Santiago Paul Jauregui, Centreville High School Silver: Alicia Rodriguez, Fairfax High School Bronze: Flor Jasmin Chavez, JEB Stuart High School

Education – sponsored by *Southwest Airlines*

Gold: Sophia Marie Caldera, Walt Whitman High School Silver: Andrew Joseph Suarez, James W. Robinson, Jr. Secondary School Bronze: Michelle Luna-Victoria, JEB Stuart High School

Engineering & Mathematics – sponsored by *ExxonMobil*

Gold: Laura Vazquez-Bolanos, Tuscarora High School Silver: Matias Moreno, Washington-Lee High School Bronze: Natalie Diaz, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

Healthcare & Science – sponsored by *CVS Health*

Gold: Karla Rivas, New Town High School Silver: Jessica Statler, Academy of the Holy Cross Bronze: Miguel Portillo, Capital City Public Charter School

Innovation & Technology – sponsored by *Entertainment Software Association*

Gold: Chris Michael Issing, Wilbert Tucker Woodson High School Silver: Emily Samuels, Gaithersburg High School
Bronze: Diana Katerina Carney, Lake Braddock Secondary School

Sports & Fitness – sponsored by *NASCAR*

Gold: Emily DeVilliers, Riverend High School Silver: Diego Zarate, Northwest High School Bronze: Alexander Corbett, Lake Braddock Secondary School

“The Hispanic Heritage Foundation is looking forward to another group of young leaders from the DC area that we can count on for the future and right now,” said Antonio Tijerino, President and CEO of HHF. “We want don’t want to simply honor the outstanding students but more importantly put them in a position from which to lead. Our model is to support innovative leaders to impact thousands of others in industries and fields which are priorities for America’s workforce. And we are grateful to our dedicated sponsors who also realize the importance of tapping a resource like our Latino youth to move not just our community but America forward.”

After receiving the awards, the students are funneled into HHF’s LOFT (Latinos On Fast Track) award-winning, leadership and workforce development program focused on 10 “Tracks” or fields including healthcare, science, technology, engineering, education, public service, entrepreneurship, media and entertainment, finance and Latinas. Tens of thousands of students and young professionals are connected to each other through the LOFT Network; thousands are prepared through trainings, priority-field-tailored symposia, workshops, and Charlas (online Google hangouts with experts); and hundreds are placed into internships, mentorships, fellowships and full-time positions with Fortune 500 companies and government agencies. Join and follow LOFT on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Youth Awards Regional Ceremonies have taken place or will take place in:

Phoenix	Oct. 21, 2014	Arizona State University
Los Angeles	Oct. 22, 2014	University of Southern California
Miami	Oct. 28, 2014	University of Miami
Atlanta	Nov. 18, 2014	Georgia Tech University
Dallas	Nov. 20, 2014	Southern Methodist University
Chicago	Nov. 24, 2014	Loyola University
Houston	Dec. 2, 2014	University of Houston
San Jose	Dec. 4, 2014	Stanford University
Washington, DC	Dec. 9, 2014	Capitol Hill
New York	Dec. 16, 2014	Viacom
National Youth Awards	January 2014	TBD

Additional partners of the Youth Awards include: UPS, PhRMA, Google, NRCCUA, Direct Auto Insurance, Rebuild the Dream, Qlovi, i.am.angel Foundation, OCI Group, Es Tiempo, and Voto Latino.

About the Hispanic Heritage Foundation

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation – a nonprofit established by the White House in 1987 – inspires, prepares, and connects minority leaders in the classroom, community and workforce to meet America’s priorities in 10 areas of focus. HHF also promotes cultural pride, accomplishment, and the great promise of the community through public awareness campaigns seen by millions. HHF is headquartered in Washington, DC, and has offices in Los Angeles, New York, Miami and the LOFT Institute is housed at Michigan State University (Visit www.HispanicHeritage.org).

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WHERE :

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