

HISPANIC HERITAGE FOUNDATIONâ€™S YOUTH AWARDS TO HONOR MIAMI-AREA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP IN THE CLASSROOM AND COMMUNITY

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, The Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF) announced the recipients of the Miami Regional Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards (see names below). Local high school seniors will be honored for their leadership in the classroom and community during a ceremony at Florida International University | Biscayne Bay Campus | Wolfe University Center Ballroom | 3000 NE 151st St. North Miami, FL 33181 on December 15, 2017 from 6pm to 8pm. In commemoration of the 19th anniversary of the Youth Awards, the ceremony will spotlight past Youth Awardees with special guests in attendance. To follow the Youth Awards Ceremony online, use the hashtag **#YouthAwards17**.

The Youth Awardees will receive grants for their education, or to fund an idea or community project to encourage “actionable leadership,” which is HHF’s call to action. Recipients will then be mentored by past Youth Awardees as they prepare to attend college and into their careers through HHF’s award-winning Latinos On Fast Track (LOFT) workforce development program. The Youth Awards are taking place in 10 regions across the country with prestigious Hispanic Heritage Youth Awardees selected from thousands of applicants. The average GPA for the students is nearly a 4.0.

“We are thrilled to honor yet another class of outstanding young Latino leaders from Miami who will certainly make an impact on our communities and workforce as they move forward in their careers,” said Antonio Tijerino, President and CEO, HHF. “We also applaud the vision of our sponsors as they share our focus in supporting what we consider priority fields for America. We believe these are the young leaders of today, not tomorrow and frankly, we can’t afford to wait. I will say that after 19 years of Youth Awards, there is no shortage of top, young, Latino talent.”

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF) will also recognize a parent with the **Hispanic Heritage Pearson Parent Award**, sponsored by Pearson in honor of the pivotal role parents play in the educational success of Latino youth. Parents are nominated by more than 200 recipients of the prestigious Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards.

After the regional ceremonies, the Regional Youth Awards recipients will be narrowed to one National Youth Award recipient for each of the seven categories and celebrated at the National Youth Awards presentation along with celebrities who are recognized for being role models. National Awardees will also receive a laptop computer and all-expense-paid trip to the ceremony (location TBD).

Additional sponsors of the Youth Awards include Nascar, IndieDesk, Macy’s, Crowell & Moring, UPS, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Inc, and Es Tiempo. HHF also partners with thousands of high schools, colleges, community organizations, media outlets and business partners on the program.

2017 Miami Regional Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards Recipients:

Business & Entrepreneurship, sponsored by BBVA Compass:

Gold: Yanik Ariste

Silver: Ariana Ortega

Bronze: Christine Sanchez

Community Service, sponsored by Colgate- Palmolive:

Gold: Evelyn Alexis Forte

Silver: Danelis Lopez

Bronze: Maria Alejandra Mendoza

Education, sponsored by Southwest Airlines (*Official Airlines of the Youth Awards*):

Gold: Anilegna Nunez

Silver: Jessica Perez

Bronze: Elizabeth Rodriguez

Engineering & Mathematics, sponsored by the Hispanic Heritage Foundation:

Gold: Andres Gutierrez

Silver: Andrea Isabel Vallenilla

Bronze: Estefania Urrego Hernandez

Healthcare & Science, sponsored by CVS Health:

Gold: Roxana Diaz Cruz

Silver: John James Massa

Bronze: Ana Maria Ruas

Media & Entertainment, sponsored by NBCUniversal | Telemundo

Gold: Paloma Aisenberg

Silver: AnaMichele Morejon

Bronze: Gabriel Chez

Technology, sponsored by Google:

Gold: Raxel Gutierrez

Silver: Leonardo Levy

Bronze: Melanie Alfonzo

About 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. 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 Los Angeles with satellite workspaces in New York, Silicon Valley, San Antonio, and Miami (Visit www.HispanicHeritage.org). Follow HHF on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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WHERE :

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