



Contact Maya Gomez-O'Cadiz
Office 213-286-2061
Email mocadiz@latinas.org
Website Latinas.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2018

KICKING OFF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, ROSTER OF
LATINA LEADERS IN CALIFORNIA LAUNCHED
*Statewide nonprofit Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE)
publishes alumnae roster profiling over 600 Latina professionals*

LOS ANGELES, CA, March 1, 2018– Today, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) released [the latest edition of its Latina leadership Roster](#) profiling hundreds of professional women who have completed their signature programs: The HOPE Leadership Institute (HLI) and the HOPE Youth Leadership Program (HYLP), which have trained 920 Latina women and girls.

The Roster is a resource for corporate recruiters, government appointment secretaries, elected officials, community and business leaders looking to hire and appoint accomplished Latina professionals spanning all business and public sectors.

The HOPE Roster launch aptly coincides with Women's History Month, a time dedicated to recognizing the historical contributions of women and celebrating women's leadership.

HOPE's Executive Director and CEO Helen Iris Torres said, "The reach of our alumnae is vast, with women impacting both rural and urban communities; from grassroots community organizations, to multinational corporations, to the floor of the California State Assembly. HLI alumnae are representing Latinas and making our voices heard. It is crucial for the advancement of Latinas and all women that we not only recognize women's accomplishments, but also support them in advancing their careers by connecting them with professional opportunities."

The publication highlights striking statistics on the influence of the highly accomplished HOPE alumnae who have greatly contributed to the growth of Latina leadership in California. Some highlights include:

- HLI alumnae have served on over **800 boards and commissions**.
- HLI alumnae are leading county, local school and community college boards, and starting nonprofits.
- HLI women currently serve on the City Councils of California's largest cities: Los Angeles, Fresno, and Long Beach.
- Over the entirety of the program's existence, **56 HLI alumnae have been elected to office**.
- In their leadership positions, HLI alumnae manage budgets that add up to well over **28 billion dollars**, more than the budgets of 20 states.
- **98% of HYLP alumnae** graduate from high school (vs. national average of 83%) and an impressive **92% enroll in college** (compared to the national average of 69%).

The Roster's launch is especially timely given the current political and social climate surrounding women's rights. Over the past few months, women have been stepping up and speaking out against workplace sexual harassment, lack of leadership opportunities, and overall challenging the status quo. The HOPE roster seeks to add to this movement by contributing to the complete and accurate representation of Latinas in the U.S. and creating a pipeline of sustained Latina leadership.

HOPE's leadership programs are sponsored by PG&E, Chevron, Southwest Airlines, Andeavor, Comcast, The California Endowment, Kaiser Permanente, Union Bank, and The Walt Disney Company.

[Hispanas Organized for Political Equality \(HOPE\)](#) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to ensuring political and economic parity for Latinas through leadership, advocacy, and education to benefit all communities and the status of women.

###

For press inquiries about this HOPE Leadership Roster, please contact Maya Gomez-O'Cadiz at 213-286-2061 or email at mocadiz@latinass.org.