

Esperanza

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Prayer, Motivation and Resources Mark the 2006 National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast and Conference

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Rev. Luis Cortés, Jr. welcomed President George W. Bush to The 2006 National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast on June 8.

As congress moves to reconcile its House and Senate-passed bills on immigration, Esperanza USA rallied Hispanic clergy from around the nation during

the 2006 National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast and Conference, its fifth celebration since 2002.

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One of several moments of prayer and reflection at The 2006 National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast.

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News from the President

Saludos,

In partnership with Hispanic faith-based organizations, Esperanza USA



launched Esperanza Trabajando (Hope is Working) across the nation in ten cities: Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Chicago, Tucson, Los Angeles and Seattle.

Esperanza Trabajando unites us through our work to help Hispanic youth who are either at-risk of criminal involvement or who have a criminal record.

Few people would give these troubled youngsters a break because of mistakes they made in the past. Through Esperanza Trabajando, we give these young people hope for a better future, one that keeps them out of jail and places them into society as responsible members.

In its first year, Esperanza Trabajando partners surpassed their goals by enrolling more than 700 youth into workforce development programs and exceeded their benchmarks in job placement and employment retention.

I wish all our partners, both from last year and this year, continued success in the work that you do and welcome everyone as a part of the Esperanza USA family.

Que Dios les bendiga,

Rev. Luis Cortés, Jr.
President,
Esperanza USA

Room to Grow: Esperanza College To Expand Physically and Academically

The new name and logo for the Eastern University branch campus



All of five individuals proudly run Esperanza College and have more reason to smile with the grant to expand its facilities. (left to right: Elvita Quiñones-Smith, Karen Santiago, Jack Weaver, Ariel Olivencia, and Kim Oliver).

Eastern University and Nueva Esperanza, Inc., Esperanza USA's parent company in Philadelphia, announced that Esperanza College received funding to continue its partnership with Nueva Esperanza, expand its facilities and develop new academic programs for the Hispanic community.

The \$2.15 million grant from the United States Department of Education is made possible under the Title V Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions program.

Esperanza College is one of only 20 schools nationwide to win the highly competitive grant which will develop unused space at the college campus, located in Nueva Esperanza's offices,

for a library, classrooms and other facilities to meet the needs of its growing student population.

Esperanza College, the only Hispanic Serving Institution of higher learning in Pennsylvania, offers its students the opportunity to transfer to four-year colleges and universities after completing their associate in arts degree.

Currently, more than 90 students are enrolled in the associate in arts program in one of three concentrations: Business Administration, Communications or Early Childhood Education.

Esperanza College also unveiled a new logo to replace the previous image from last year when it was known as "NECHE."

Making Hope Work: Secret to Success

An Esperanza Trabajando participant's testimony

Designed to help at-risk Hispanic youth, including those with a criminal record, Esperanza Trabajando enables faith-based organizations to collaborate with their local workforce development offices to help youth receive educational resources and job training.

Miami's SER Jobs for Progress, Inc., an employment service veteran of 20 years, is no stranger to the needs of Hispanic youth looking for work.

Founded in 1978 in Miami's Little Havana neighborhood, the organization's area of service now reaches from southern Palm Beach County to the Florida Keys.

Each year, nearly 100,000 customers visit SER Jobs for Progress' seven locations that specialize in areas ranging from psychology and education to career guidance and placement.

While the company helps anyone in need of their services, it also operates programs targeted toward specific groups like youth ages 16 to 21, individuals ages 55 and over, recently arrived refugees and welfare recipients looking for work.



Program Coordinator María Leticia Marroquín (pictured above) said that Esperanza Trabajando made it possible for them to reach their desired goals in helping place Hispanic youth with jobs.

"Esperanza Trabajando projects a bright future together with the collaboration of everyone involved. Its objectives are always focused on the youth's needs and their achievement of permanent employment," said Ms. Marroquín.

"It has been my utmost pleasure to partner with Esperanza USA," she continued. "I feel very fortunate to be part of this program and to make a positive contribution into someone's life."

School's Out! Esperanza Celebrates High School and College Graduations



Left: The Nueva Esperanza Academy Charter High School celebrated the graduating Class of 2006 on June 9th at Temple University. Of the 67 students that graduated, 63 graduates have been accepted to post-secondary and higher education institutes. **Right:** Esperanza College of Eastern University held its May 2006 graduation at the Eastern University campus in St. Davids, Pennsylvania. Twenty Esperanza College students graduated with their Associate of Arts degree with several students graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern University through the Degree Completion Program.



Holding on to your dream

When seeking a new hire, employers look for a number of characteristics in an employee. From the way you dress at an interview to the layout of your résumé, the hunt for employment can appear difficult.

Helping to make the process less intimidating is The Betances Employment and Training Program of Nueva Esperanza, which specializes in helping community members gain the necessary skills to find and maintain a steady job.

I realize that without education, there is only hope for a "job." What I am striving for is actually a "career."

The program gives special attention to single women with children who receive public assistance and helps these women become self-sufficient through education and employment.

Over 1,500 clients have passed through the Betances program, which includes classroom instruction for life skills and job skills, and each group has countless shining stars.

Wilhelmina Thomas, one such star student, enrolled in the Betances Program in May of 2004 while living in a shelter with her husband and four children.

Despite housing difficulties, Wilhelmina said she was determined to transcend her situation. Less than one year later, she not only obtained new housing, but also landed a job as a customer service representative making \$12.00/hour.

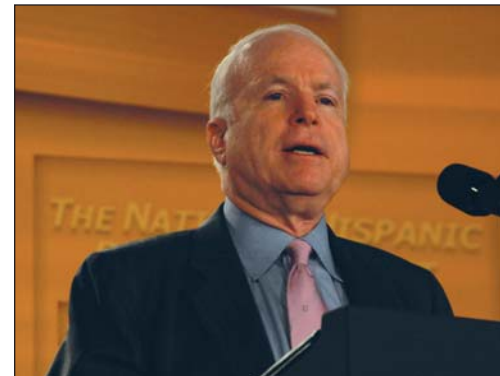
The case managers at the Betances Program are proud that one of their students overcame such adversity and persevered through a difficult year. Even in her entrance application to the program, Wilhelmina showed optimism to succeed in her future:

"The past few years of my life have taught me several lessons. The one I feel would most enhance my ability to succeed in this program is the desire to learn," she wrote.

"I realize that without education, there is only hope for a 'job.' What I am striving for is actually a 'career.'"

The 2006 National

From top to bottom: Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Senator John McCain, Senator Edward Kennedy and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid.



Hispanic Prayer Breakfast and Conference

from page 1

Close to 700 Hispanic pastors, community leaders, and business leaders gathered in prayer and in fellowship in Washington, D.C. along with invited government officials.

Rev. John Gimenez (VA), Bishop Felicita Vega (NY), Psalmist Manuel Bonilla (AZ) and Armando Contreras (CA) passionately articulated prayers for national leadership, our community and nation.

With substantive discourse, reflection and sublime worship, Esperanza USA brought to center stage the issues of comprehensive immigration reform, affordable housing and the disproportionate affect of HIV/AIDS on the Hispanic community.

Featured during the conference were resources such as Rev. Luis Cortés' book, *How to Buy a Home*, and the HIV/AIDS educational film "No Te Rindas" (Don't Give Up). Both resources address the Hispanic community's existing and prevailing needs.

The conference also served as a platform to announce Esperanza USA's strategic part-

nerships with PhRMA (The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America), Freddie Mac, The American Bible Society and Guideposts ministry.

Visit www.esperanza.us for more information.



PHOTO BY DANIEL CIMA



PHOTO BY OBED ARANGO



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Clockwise from the top: Students from St. Rita Catholic School, Marcos Witt, Manuel Bonilla receiving the Esperanza Spirit Award and the musical group Blest.

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Historic Women's Leadership Breakfast in our Nation's Capital



PHOTO BY DANIEL CIMA



PHOTO BY OBED ARANGO

Participants at The 2006 National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast and Conference woke early on Wednesday, June 7th for the first-ever Mujeres de Esperanza Leadership Breakfast.

The women's breakfast event featured the top Latina leaders in our nation, Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA) and United States Treasurer Anna Escobedo Cabral. Julissa presented an inspirational musical performance to jump-start the crowd.

The prayers offered throughout the morning and the speakers' presentations stirred the audience's spirits and affirmed Mujeres de Esperanza's work in recognizing women leaders throughout the nation.

"Seldom do we hear that women are banding together through God to come to Washington to talk about, listen to and to advocate

for the people we care about," said Rep. Grace Napolitano to the audience of over 220.

Mujeres de Esperanza will host a concert of prayer and praise with Marcos Witt on Friday, September 8th in Dallas, Texas and a women's training session on prayer, leadership and community service on Saturday, September 9th.



PHOTO BY OBED ARANGO

For more information on Mujeres de Esperanza, visit www.esperanza.us/mujeres.



PHOTO BY DANIEL CIMA

Top left: Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA), the first Latina chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. **Top center:** United States Treasurer Anna Escobedo Cabral. **Top right:** Julissa raised prayer through song at the women's breakfast event. **Bottom right:** The Mujeres de Esperanza Board of Governesses closed the event with a stirring prayer for women, our communities and our nation.



Activating the Faith of Women through Intercession and Service

Coming soon... to a church near you

Esperanza USA produced a short film in Spanish entitled "No te rindas" (Don't Give Up) to create awareness about HIV/AIDS in the Hispanic faith community. Esperanza USA invites Hispanic pastors and church leaders to private screenings in the following cities where interested individual pastors or leaders may present the film in their own church and utilize a study guide to help them educate their congregants:

Los Angeles; Chicago; Dallas; Orlando; New York City; Philadelphia; Miami Houston; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Washington, DC.

For more information, visit www.esperanza.us