2010 “Achieving the Dream” Scholarship Recipients Announced

16 students to be honored by community at luncheon on September 17, 2010

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (September 20, 2010), – The Mayor’s Hispanic American Advisory Board (MHAAB) and the First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (FCHCC) awarded the 2010 “Achieving the Dream” Scholarship recipients at a Luncheon held on September 17, 2010. Sixteen local Hispanic graduate and undergraduate students will be awarded $2,000 scholarships to support their pursuit of a higher education.

**FCHCC Recipients**

**Erika Sologuren** is an honor student at Miami Dade College pursuing an associate degree in civil engineering. She considers herself “an immigrant who has faced many obstacles, but an immigrant with dreams and aspirations.”

**Ismel Liriano** is a student at the Florida Youth Challenge Academy and plans to attend the University of Northwestern Ohio. Born in Camaguey, Cuba, Ismel came to the United States at the age of five and has worked his way through school in hopes to someday graduate from college with a business degree.

**Krsha Sendon** is a sophomore and honor student at the University of Florida pursuing a major in sociology and a minor in international humanitarian assistance and organizational leadership for nonprofits. Krsha plans to use her education to help the less fortunate by creating nonprofit organizations for children in need.

**Hector Vasquez** is a first-year student at the University of North Florida pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering. Born in Lima, Peru, Hector came to the United States just before starting high school. Hector has excelled, not only by learning English in just four years, but also through earning several awards for his Microsoft Office and computer skills.

**Irina Skinner** is a graduate student at the University of Florida and is studying wildlife ecology and conservation. Growing up on the First Coast, Irina developed a passion for wildlife conservation. She strives to become a major Hispanic representative in the science community with hope that she can help reduce the disparity of Hispanics in her chosen field of study.

**Indira Cardenas** is a first-year honor student at the University of North Florida pursuing a degree in criminal justice. Indira immigrated to the United States in 2006 with her parents and dreamed of someday attending law school. She prides herself on being a hard worker who stands up for what she believes in and for her determination to not let anything get in the way of her dreams.

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Diana Rojas is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in health as a junior at the University of North Florida. She also has plans to earn a doctor of physical therapy degree. Diana immigrated to the United States with her family in 1992, served in the military, and is now the mother of three girls. Diana hopes to use her education to help the community on a broad scale and to set a high example for her three children as an independent Latina woman.

Sharlene Velez is pursuing her associate’s degree as a sophomore at Florida State College of Jacksonville. After earning her associate’s, she plans to transfer to the University of North Florida to pursue a doctor of physical therapy degree. Through that degree, she hopes to become a successful physical therapist and pursue her passion for helping people and children in recovery as well as helping provide students like herself with a college education.

**MHAAB Recipients**

Jose Barrientos Restrepo is attending the University of North Florida and double majoring in economics and international business. He’s also pursuing a double minor in urban and metropolitan studies and international studies.

Marjorie Ann Perea is attending Jacksonville University and pursuing her bachelor’s in elementary education.

Michael Rivera is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering at the University of North Florida.

Alejandra Isai Arreguin is attending the Florida State College at Jacksonville and pursuing a degree in marketing.

Alissa Alterman is attending the Optometry School at Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Florida.

Diego F. Molina is pursuing a degree in business administration with a focus on marketing and finance at the Coggin College of Business at the University of North Florida.

Trudy Abadie is pursuing a doctoral degree in educational leadership at the University of North Florida.

Lucia Allen is pursuing her bachelor of arts degree in Spanish at the University of North Florida.

News personality Monica Landeros served as Master of Ceremonies. Betty Martinez Lowery, Senior Manager for Minority Business Development at Walt Disney World Resorts and author of *El Arco Iris de la Amistad* gave the keynote address.

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About the First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
The First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (FCHCC) was created to encourage and promote sound, ethical and successful business practices in the Hispanic community and to further Hispanic heritage and culture through educational endeavors. The mission of the FCHCC is to assist all Hispanics in achieving success.

About the Mayor’s Hispanic American Advisory Board
The Mayor’s Hispanic American Advisory Board consists of members appointed by the Mayor to effectively recognize the concerns and desires of the Hispanic community in Jacksonville. The purpose of the Board is to provide a means by which the city may obtain information, guidance and ongoing comprehensive studies relating to its citizens of Hispanic descent. The board has faithfully served the Mayor, the City and her citizens since July 1998.

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