

## News Release

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### ***CARRERAS EN SALUD*** Receives 2008 Recognition of Excellence *U.S. Department of Labor Awards Nursing Pathway Partnership*

**CHICAGO, July 23, 2008** – The U.S. Department of Labor presented Instituto del Progreso Latino, the National Council of La Raza, Humboldt Park Vocational Center of Wright College, and Association House of Chicago the 2008 Recognition of Excellence Award at the 2008 Workforce Innovations Conference for the collaborative partnership program *Carreras en Salud*.

The Workforce Innovations Conference offers the opportunity for leaders in workforce development, business, economic development, education, community-based organizations, and philanthropy to collaborate and generate ideas on issues relating to the nation's labor market. Each year, the U.S. Department of Labor awards 5 programs across the nation in key categories:

1. Educating America's Workforce to Serve Emerging Industries
2. Building a Regionally-Focused Workforce Strategy
3. Leveraging the Power of Partnerships
4. Tapping the Talents of Special Populations in the Workforce
5. Connecting America's Youth to the Workforce

*Carreras en Salud* was recognized in the area of "Tapping the Talents of Special Populations in the Workforce." Each program is evaluated for its innovation, collaboration, replicability, quality performance, linkages between workers and demand occupations and emerging industries, sustainability, and impact. "The labor of Latino immigrants fuels the economy of the United States," says Juan Salgado, Executive Director of Instituto del Progreso Latino. "*Carreras en Salud* was an opportunity to impact the nursing shortage and increase upward mobility for working families. We are moving hundreds of families out of the ranks of the working poor. We are delighted to be awarded by such a prestigious institution, and are proud of our ability to recognize the needs of industry partners and the families we serve."

Since its implementation in early 2005, over 700 students have enrolled in *Carreras en Salud* – 85 bilingual and bicultural mostly Latina students completed the program and attained their LPN. Graduates have doubled their salaries earning an average of \$40,000 per year and have moved their families forward on a pathway to self-sufficiency.

**-more-**

To view the Carreras en Salud “Tapping the Talents of Special Populations in the Workforce” video visit: [http://www.idpl.org/idpl\\_news.html](http://www.idpl.org/idpl_news.html).

### **About Carreras en Salud**

*Carreras en Salud* is a partnership established to bridge limited English-proficient individuals into Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) positions. The program offers students seven levels at which they can enroll. Students enter and advance according to their capacity and test scores and each level is designed to be completed in 16 weeks.

In October of 2007, the National Council for Continued Education and Training recognized Carreras en Salud with the prestigious 2007 National Exemplary Program in Workforce Development Award. This honor made Instituto and its partners the first-ever awardees by the NCCET in Chicago. In January 2008, *Carreras en Salud* was selected as one of ten national finalist programs to receive the 2008 Bellwether Award. In February 2008, *Carreras en Salud* was selected by the Illinois Council for Continued and Higher Education as the recipient of the 2008 Program of the Year. In July 2008, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the National Council of La Raza presented Instituto with the 2008 Strengthening Hispanic Families Award for *Carreras en Salud*.

### **About Instituto del Progreso Latino**

Instituto del Progreso Latino (Instituto) was incorporated in 1977 to meet the needs of Latino immigrants to learn English, find employment, accustom their children to the U.S. educational systems, and adjust to life in Chicago in a myriad of ways. Today, Instituto is a recognized leading city and state educational center serving more than 14,000 participants annually to advance their basic academic skills, obtain a high school diploma, pass the GED exam, become U.S. citizens, increase their job skills, and provide assistance with employment opportunities.

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