



## INSTITUTO DEL PROGRESO LATINO

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Laurie R. Glenn  
Phone: 773.252.8672 ex. 301  
Mobile: 773.704.7246  
E-mail: [lrglenn@thinkincstrategy.com](mailto:lrglenn@thinkincstrategy.com)

Vanessa Ferniza  
Phone: 773.252.8672 ex. 303  
Mobile: 773.562.2091  
E-mail: [vferniza@thinkincstrategy.com](mailto:vferniza@thinkincstrategy.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2009**

### **PRESS RELEASE INSTITUTO DEL PROGRESO LATINO HONORED AS 2009 NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR AWARDEE**

**CHICAGO** –Instituto del Progreso Latino (Instituto) received *the 2009 Affiliate of the Year Award* from the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the nation's largest national Latino civil rights and advocacy organization at its annual conference that was held this past week in Chicago, IL.

Partnering with more than 300 community-based organizations nationwide, the *2009 Affiliate of the Year Award* recognizes the work of one distinguished affiliate for their outstanding contributions to the Latino community and support for NCLR policy and programmatic initiatives.

"We are honored to be recognized as the 2009 NCLR Affiliate of the Year Awardee, the success of Instituto del Progreso Latino can only be measured by the success of the families who walk through our doors and create positive impact that resonates throughout their lives and community," said Juan Salgado, President & CEO, Instituto del Progreso Latino.

#### **FUELING THE POWER OF EDUCATION**

Since 1977, Instituto has been committed to the development of Latino immigrants and their families through education, training, and employment that fosters full participation in the changing U.S. society while preserving cultural identity and dignity. Serving more than 43,000 families throughout the city of Chicago, Instituto has created an undeniable footprint in the lives of Latino immigrants and their families for generations by developing quality holistic programming engaging the entire family. Participants take part in programs ranging from workforce development, adult education, and youth development to citizenship preparation.

#### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & CAREER PATHWAYS**

Instituto provides workforce development for highly skilled manufacturing positions as well as career pathway training to foster a competitive workforce that meets today's market demands.

Programs include:

- **ManufacturingWorks:** Provides local manufacturers with qualified employee recruitment and placement in partnership with the City of Chicago.
- **The Center for Working Families (CWF):** A dynamic partnership between Instituto and The Resurrection Project that provides job training, employment services, financial counseling and access to public benefits increasing a family's economic self-sufficiency.
- **Carreras en Salud:** An award-winning collaborative career pathway program, which provides a unique approach to teaching English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL), Vocational English as a Second Language (VESL) and basic skills in the context of instruction in technical healthcare topics by bridging limited English-proficient individuals into Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) positions. '
- **Mujeres Avanzando:** Instituto's latest pilot program creates a comprehensive program design that will result in increased earnings, household assets, and eventually homeownership. An innovative community partnership between Instituto, Mujeres Latinas en Acción, and The Resurrection Project geared toward addressing the needs of Latina single-working mothers in Chicago.

### **CROSS-GENERATIONAL & BI-LINGUAL EDUCATION**

Committed to creating equitable access to education across generations, Instituto has created innovative programs and further developed partnerships to meet the specific needs of the community.

From early education programming such as **KEY (Keep Educating Youth)** an after-school program working with elementary age children in the areas of academic tutoring, life skills, arts, and sports recreation to supporting the pursuit of higher education through **The Escalera Program**, a College Bridge Program partnership with the National Council of La Raza and the PepsiCo Foundation. Offering Latina/o high school juniors the opportunity to learn about the options available for the future and preparing them for college.

### **CITIZENSHIP/CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Currently, Instituto is leading the way in Illinois as the largest citizenship preparation center. Processing 2,500 applications annually with 98% becoming U.S. Citizens while also providing civic education to adult learners. Instituto, also offers Adult Basic Education programs that includes Spanish Literacy and ESL.

### **A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR INSTITUTO**

For more than 30 years Instituto has strived to create sustainable community development through access to education that is multi faceted, multi-generational, and bi-lingual but most importantly that meets the needs of Latino immigrants and their families.

**INSTITUTO DEL PROGRESO LATINO:** Today, Instituto del Progreso Latino (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. 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. Education is Power. Fuel the Power! [www.idpl.org](http://www.idpl.org).

###