



HISPANIC FAMILY CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY
Providing the community with a broad range of culturally relevant social services and advocacy programs that promote and encourage empowerment and self sufficiency since 1976.

PRESS RELEASE

HISPANIC FAMILY CENTER AWARDS GOVERNOR CORZINE VISION AWARD FOR BLUE RIBBON PANEL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Camden, NJ (June 23, 2009) – New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine will be presented with the 2009 Vision Award from the Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey during its 7th Annual Cultural Sensitivity Conference. The Governor was selected to receive the award for creating the Blue Ribbon Panel on Immigrant Policy which was established by the signing of a 2007 Executive Order. It marked the first time in New Jersey's history that a state entity has been charged solely with the task of examining state issues as they relate to immigrants. The mission of the panel was to develop recommendations for a comprehensive and strategic statewide approach to successfully integrate immigrants into New Jersey's population.

Throughout the panel's lifespan, its work focused broadly on the immigrant workforce and labor, the role of the state in the delivery of social services and public benefits to the immigrant population, local government best practices, and education issues involving children in early childhood settings, primary and secondary schools and college. The 34 member panel, which included HFC Executive Director, Elsa Candelario, submitted their final report to the Governor in March of this year. Ronald K. Chen, the NJ Public Advocate and Chairperson of the Blue Ribbon Panel, is one of two persons to receive the 2009 Excellence Award from the Hispanic Family Center. Albert Alvarez, Deputy Chief of Staff to Gov. Corzine, will receive the other for his role in providing leadership to panel. The two men will attend the conference to accept their awards, as well as accept the Vision Award on behalf of Governor Corzine.

The 7th Annual Cultural Sensitivity Conference, "Keeping Culture in the Mix," will take place on Thursday, June 25, 2009. This year's conference will feature keynote speaker, Lee Mun Wah, who will deliver the speech, "Only a World Away." A nationally acclaimed lecturer, Lee Mun Wah is a Chinese American community therapist, documentary film maker, Special Education educator, performing poet, Asian folk teller, and author. The Conference, which celebrates diversity, will include educational workshops on topics like cultural competency and immigrant integration.

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The Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey is a multi-service agency dedicated to providing the community with a broad range of culturally relevant social services and advocacy programs that promote and encourage empowerment and self-sufficiency. To meet this goal the Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey offers over 20 programs including after school programs, employment and training programs, health education and prevention services, mental health services, senior services and substance abuse treatment. Each year the Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey serves over 6,000 individuals and families.

Contact:

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Cultural Sensitivity Conference

June 25, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 pm
The Mansion
Evesham and Kresson Roads
Plaza 3000
Voorhees, NJ 08105

If you would like to cover this event, please RSVP by June 24, 2009 to Portia Butler-Moore at (856) 365-7393 or pbutler-moore@hispanicfamilycenter.com