



Connecticut Puerto Rican Forum, Inc.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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Fairfield County Community Foundation

Awards a Grant to Launch the Latino Leadership Development Seminar for Latinos Seeking to Serve on Boards of Education in Greater Bridgeport

Hartford, CT. The Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF) has awarded the Connecticut Puerto Rican Forum \$25,000 for the Latino Civic Engagement Academy (LCEA). The LCEA will offer the Latino Leadership Development Seminar for seekers of board of education seats in the Greater Bridgeport Area. The seminar will begin in January 2009. Registration will begin in November 2008.

The LCEA seminar is open to Latinos interested in educational leadership and advocacy. Latinos who are currently serving or vying for a seat on a board of education, exerting leadership as an education advocate, or planning to use information obtained from these training workshops to effect positive change in educational policy and systems. The intent of the seminar is to increase Latino representation on local boards of education throughout the Greater Bridgeport area especially where Latino representation is disproportionately low.

The LCEA accepts Latino leaders of all ages, educational levels, and economic status. The seminar will be offered during the winter 2009 semester on Saturday at **Housatonic Community College** located on 900 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport. Limited seating is available. To request an application please contact Nancy Perez at the CPRF at nancy_perez@ctpuertoricanforum.org or at (860) 247-3227.

The LCEA is a joint project of the Connecticut Puerto Rican Forum (CPRF) and Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (SINA). Its mission is to prepare Latinos to navigate the road to effective leadership.

Since 1979, the Connecticut Puerto Rican Forum has been providing culturally competent training programs and services to the Latino community. The CPRF has been successful in developing contextualized programs, curriculums tailored to trainees, and providing support services. This mix has enabled CPRF to capture participant interest and increase individual strengths and capacity. To learn more about CPRF, visit www.ctpuertoricanforum.org.

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish charitable funds and contribute to existing funds. The community foundation also provides philanthropic advisory services and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It is in compliance with the Council on Foundations' national standards for community foundations. The Fairfield County Community Foundation merged with the Greater Bridgeport Area Foundation in January 2008. The merged foundation's net assets approach \$150 million. The combined history includes over \$90 million in grantmaking to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit www.fccfoundation.org.