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Latino Policy Forum's 2018 Multicultural Leadership Academy Announced

CHICAGO, IL – Today, the Latino Policy Forum announced the 24 community, policy, art and culture leaders selected to the 2018 Multicultural Leadership Academy. The Academy, now in its second year, encourages intercultural collaboration and collaborative social action between Latinos and African Americans in Illinois. The Academy draws on the traditions of a diverse range of cultures to increase cross-cultural understanding and develop a network of leaders who will be able to call upon each other in the future.

“In this time when Latinos and African Americans are the largest ethnic minorities in Chicago, it’s critical that communities of color collaborate on issues that affect all of Illinois and Chicago,” the Forum’s Executive Director Sylvia Puente said. “The Multicultural Leadership Academy gives leaders a platform to begin those conversations. Last year’s graduates inspired me with their display of commitment to their communities and organizations, and I can’t wait to work with this year’s cohort, as well.”

The Academy graduated 23 community leaders in the last cohort who committed to social change, policy impact, and/or community improvement to benefit communities of color throughout Illinois. The graduates continue to collaborate and support each other with on-going projects and utilize the networks they established at the Academy.

The 2018 Multicultural Leadership Academy cohort:

Jose Abonce	Austin Coming Together	DeeDee Pacheco	Urban Gateways
Berto Aguayo	The Resurrection Project	Leila Rahrvan	Center for Changing Lives
Reco Bates	Chicago Tech Academy	Rev. Saeed Richardson	Community Renewal Society
Evelyn Benitez	Chicago Department of Family and Support Services	Claude Robinson	UCAN
Jessica Cañas	Enlace Chicago	Sonica Ruiz	Chicago Park District
Teishetta Daniel	Chicago Park District	Siemone Smith	Family Focus Englewood
Tevonne Ellis	Claretian Associates	Shanavia Stevens	La Casa Norte
Judy Idrovo	Planned Parenthood of Illinois	Cory Stevenson	High Jump/Open Architecture Chicago
Daris Jasper	Children's Museum of Art and Social Justice	Jorge Valdivia	National Museum of Mexican Art
Itzel Lopez-Hinojosa	Illinois Math and Science Academy	NiCole Ward	Metropolitan Family Services
Cynthia Nambo	Network for College Success at the University of Chicago	Lilliane Webb	Big Shoulders Fund
Luis Narvaez	Chicago Public Schools	Rafael Yanez	U.N.I.O.N. Impact Center

The Forum would like to thank the sponsors of the Academy: MacArthur Foundation, Robert R. McCormick Foundation, The Chicago Community Trust, The Reva & David Logan Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, Allstate Foundation, American Express, and JP Morgan Chase.

About the Latino Policy Forum

The Latino Policy Forum is the only organization in the Chicago area that facilitates the involvement of Latinos at all levels of public decision-making. The Forum conducts analysis to inform, influence and lead. Its goals are to improve education outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote just immigration policies, and engage diverse sectors of the community, with an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future. For more information, visit www.latinopolicyforum.org.

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