

PRESS RELEASE

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Mrs. Aida McCammon, President & CEO of the Indiana Latino Institute, Inc. (NLTCN's Lead Agency) Honored with Prestigious 2010 Torchbearer Award

Indianapolis, IN – On March 4th, 2010, the Torchbearer Awards were presented at the Indiana Statehouse Rotunda to ten women of Indiana for making their mark on society with their significant contributions to their communities or to the state through their careers, community leadership or public service, making this state a better place to live, work and raise a family. Aida McCammon, President/CEO of the Indiana Latino Institute, Inc. (ILI) was among the selected group of women recognized this year.

Mrs. McCammon has served as a bridge builder between the Latino/Hispanic communities, government and private efforts to improve services which ultimately have a positive impact on the health and lifestyles of all populations. Under her guidance, ILI's original mission, to strengthen agencies and organizations which serve Latino communities in Indiana, has paved the way increasing awareness throughout the state of Indiana on health issues affecting Latinos such as Tobacco, HIV/AIDS & other STD's, Domestic Violence, Nutrition, Diabetes and Arthritis; additionally, ILI has been at the forefront in the fight against the disparities in the levels of education that afflict Latino youth across the state by using a three-pronged approach that encompasses education fairs, scholarships and internships. Today, many of these programs serve as models for other organizations seeking to improve disparities in their communities caused by the commercialization of tobacco, the lack of services and/or the lack of culturally sensitive communication regarding the availability of these services.

Therefore, it is no coincidence that in July 2008, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office on Smoking and Health selected ILI as the lead agency for the National Latino Tobacco Control Network (NLTCN), which is part of a cooperative agreement between the CDC and collaborating organizations seeking to educate, mobilize, and connect communities in an effort to strengthen tobacco control initiatives for specific populations. Thanks to Aida's vision and efforts, ILI was catapulted into a national platform, and along with this high visibility came a stronger voice to address the struggles, needs and issues in matters surrounding tobacco consumption which affect the Latino populations across our nation.

The Torchbearer Awards highlight Hoosier women who have overcome obstacles and made Indiana a better place. The state agency responsible for this recognition is the Indiana Commission for Women. "The awards are our way of recognizing women who have made outstanding contributions to Indiana, or who have been pioneers in their industries throughout their lives," said Kristin Garvey, executive director of the commission. The awards are the state's most prestigious recognition of women. We congratulate Aida McCammon and her counterparts for attaining such meritorious honor.

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