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THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC



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**Valle del Sol's 2011 Profiles of Success Hispanic Leadership Award Honorees**

**Hall of Fame Award**

**José G. López-Plascencia, M.D.**



Dr. José G. López-Plascencia practiced medicine and surgery in the metropolitan Phoenix area for more than six decades with more than 85 percent of his clients from Spanish speaking families. Born in Guadalajara, México in 1921, Dr. López-

Plascencia excelled academically and went on to become a medical doctor. He served in the military as a doctor during a time when racial tension was very high. After the military, he opened his own practice in South Phoenix and was determined to provide quality health care in both English and Spanish to all families no matter their socio-economic status. For more than 60 years of his life, Dr. López-Plascencia spent 10-14 hour days seeing patients. He worked in many areas of medicine and surgery, mostly for families of migrant workers, laborers, low-income, and minority families who were displaced from the traditional health care system. He stood in support of quality health care for all people, regardless of their ethnicity, country of origin, socio-economic status or background. Dr. López-Plascencia has been a fierce advocate of equality and dedicated to the neighborhoods, communities and health of the people of South Phoenix. He is retired from the United States Army. When he became a United States citizen, he repeated medical school as he wanted to learn medicine in English. Dr. José G. López-Plascencia is a true leader in caring for the underserved of our society.

**Hall of Fame Award**

**David Luna**



For more than twenty years, David Luna devoted many hours each week for the betterment of the Latino community in Mesa and the East Valley where he serves on numerous boards and commissions. David takes an active leadership role and

focuses on giving voice to the concerns of the Latino community to ensure the Latino perspective is included in decision making and planning processes. He knows when to advocate quietly behind the scenes as well as when to take a very public, vocal stand on an issue. While working full-time as a Director in the Mesa Public School District, David served on the Board of Directors for Mesa United Way, A New Leaf, United Food, Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens, City of Mesa Human Relations Advisory Board, East Valley Senior Services, City of Mesa Day Labor Taskforce, and countless others. By sharing his expertise in public relations and video development, David provided considerable savings for many organizations. He was awarded many distinctions of excellence for his documentary about immigrants coming across to our community and uses original videos to depict a hopeful reality about immigrants. His ability to work with groups and individuals of varied backgrounds helped make inroads for Latinos in community groups and public policy. Now, while working half-time and trying to transition into retirement, he is pursuing his Ph.D. at ASU. David Luna has championed not only Latino rights but has worked to make systemic change within nonprofit agencies, municipal, and civic leadership.

## Special Recognition Award

### Dennis K. Burke



Dennis K. Burke is the U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona with more than 20 years of public service at both the federal and state levels. He was most recently a Senior Advisor to the Department of Homeland Security under

Secretary Janet Napolitano. Formerly, he served as Chief of Staff to then-Governor Janet Napolitano from 2003 to 2008. Prior to that position, he worked in the Arizona Attorney General's Office as the Chief Deputy Attorney General and was a former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona prosecuting drug trafficking cases, the Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Department of Justice, a Senior Policy Analyst for the White House Domestic Policy Council during the Clinton Administration, and a Majority Counsel for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. Dennis graduated from Georgetown University in 1985 and received a law degree in 1988 from the University of Arizona, College of Law. After law school, Burke was a clerk for the Honorable James Moeller on the Arizona Supreme Court. He was also an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. As the lead for the U.S. Department of Justice in marshalling the efforts leading to the preliminary injunction of SB1070, Dennis applied the principles of justice and took a stand with equal passion and determination. Dennis also spoke out against legislation targeting the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. He was recently appointed to serve on the Attorney General's Advisory Committee (AGAC) which advises the U.S. Attorney General on policy, management, and operational issues at the Department of Justice. He was also selected to be the Chair of the AGAC Subcommittee on Border and Immigration Law Enforcement. Dennis K. Burke has demonstrated a dedicated concern for the positive progress of Arizona and has been a genuine friend to the Latino community.

## Raúl Yzaguirre

## Community Leadership Award

### Lisa Urias



Lisa Urias, a fourth generation Arizonan, has been a driving force to create the Real Arizona Coalition, a multi-cultural assembly of business, faith-based, civic groups, community leaders and individual Arizona citizens

providing an alternative voice to immigration concerns and advocating for state leaders to focus on finding solutions to Arizona's most pressing problems. In an editorial, shortly after SB1070 was enacted into law, Lisa called for a higher level of discourse and a genuine respect for Latinos as well as for the rejection demagogic rhetoric. In 2004, Lisa founded Urias Communications, a firm specializing in the diverse markets of the U.S. Southwest, in particular, the Hispanic market. Previously, she provided strategic marketing services to corporations such as El Paso Energy, Calpine and SRP. Her firm provides regular pro-bono assistance to nonprofit organizations, such as the Stepping Stone Foundation, Valle del Sol, and the Phoenix Boy's Choir. Lisa serves on numerous boards including the Arizona Latino Research Enterprise (ALRE), Heard Museum, and Scottsdale Unified School District Foundation. Lisa was recently accepted as an inaugural fellow to the Arizona Civic Leadership Academy with the Flinn-Brown Foundations. She holds a BA degree in English with an emphasis in Political Philosophy from Arizona State University. Lisa was a gubernatorial appointee in 1997 to the Executive Committee of the Arizona-Mexico Commission. Lisa Urias personifies the values of hard work, determination, and grace in her efforts to champion issues impacting all Arizonans.

## Exemplary Leadership Award Eufemia Amabisca, Ed.D.



One of the most extraordinary challenges in Dr. Eufemia Amabisca's life was pursuing her dream of seeking and obtaining higher education degrees. As a young lady, growing-up in Buckeye, Arizona, Eufemia set personal goals to become a professional who would help others. The greatest professional accomplishment of Eufemia's career was obtaining her doctoral degree from the College of Education, Division of Curriculum and Instruction at Arizona State University. Her dissertation was based on a subject that is dear to her, Mentoring Hispanic Women: Mentees' Perception of Selected Aspects of a Formal Mentoring. Currently, Dr. Amabisca is a Residential Full Time Education Faculty member with South Mountain Community College (SMCC) and serves as Coordinator for the Teacher Education Program. She feels it is important to bring in well known leaders and artists to work with students and share their personal stories and achievements. From the start of her involvement with the Hispanic Women's Corporation (HWC), Eufemia has been a passionate proponent for Latina leadership. In addition to HWC, she served on Valle del Sol's Board of Directors and was involved with the National Association for Bilingual Education, California Association for Bilingual Education, Arizona Association for Bilingual Education, John Paul of the Desert College, Alliance for Multilingual Multicultural Education, and the Maricopa Colleges Faculty Foundation. Dr. Eufemia Amabisca has demonstrated leadership in all of her community endeavors by fully investing herself, her heart, and mind into being an active participant and putting the needs of the organization before her personal needs.

## Exemplary Leadership Award María Manríquez, M.D.



Born and raised in Kearny, Arizona, Dr. María Manríquez's story began when she was very young. She was married at 16 years old and had her first child when she was 17. A daunting task for anyone so young, María was determined to raise her daughter while fulfilling her dream of entering the medical field. With focus and enthusiasm, María earned her associate's degree in nursing and then went on to earn her BS in Nursing. After working as a nurse for a several years, she became fascinated with the work and research being done by her physician colleagues. Inspired, she again returned to school, this time to medical school. María graduated from the University of Arizona as a Doctor of Medicine in 1998 and then went on to complete postgraduate training OB/GYN. Since earning her medical degree, Dr. Manríquez has worked more than seven years providing medical care at Maricopa Medical Center's Women's Care Clinic, with an emphasis on serving the Latino community. Dr. Manríquez uses her experiences and medical skills to inspire young medical residents as they embark on careers as OB-GYNs. With sheer determination and hard work, María helped pave the way for Latinas to work in the field of medicine either as physicians, nurses, or healthcare administrators. Dr. Manríquez serves on numerous medical boards and OB-GYN department committees at Maricopa Medical Center. She is highly respected by her peers and loved by her patients. Dr. Manríquez has been working at Maricopa Integrated Health System since 2004 as the Director of Medical Education for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is the Associate Program Director for the Phoenix Integrated Residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology, as well as the Clerkship Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology for the University of Arizona, College of Medicine-Phoenix. With determination, tenacity, focus and enthusiasm for both her family and the field of medicine, Dr. María Manríquez is a true a leader and inspiration to young physicians.

## Exemplary Leadership Award John Morales



Born and raised in Yuma, Arizona, John Morales is a former Junior High Social Studies teacher. As Executive Director of Yuma Private Industry Council (YPIC), a nonprofit organization providing job seeker and employer

services in Yuma County, John oversees a Dislocated Worker Program, Disadvantaged Youth Program, and Disadvantaged Adult Program. John's reputation is beyond reproach as he seeks to be a positive force in making the lives of the unemployed better. John is one of a handful of Arizonans who signed-on to *The Arizona Education Commitment*, a nonpartisan initiative, developed by organizations and individuals committed to Arizona's long-term growth and economic prosperity, which is directly tied to a strong educational system and an educated workforce. He was a member of the Governor's P-20 Education Council and Yuma County Chamber of Commerce. During the economic downturn with a 16.7 percent unemployment rate in Yuma County, John persistently looks for partnerships and opportunities for collaboration with local organizations, educational institutions, and other nonprofits. He is an active voice and door-opener for bringing in the Fall of 2011 a Latino leadership development program, the Hispanic Leadership Institute-Yuma County. Under John Morales' leadership, the National Association of Workforce Boards presented a national award to YPIC for its impact on people's lives. John also received the inaugural Workforce Development Professional of the Year Award in 2006 by the Arizona Association for Economic Development. John Morales' positive impact is on Yuma County's families who have been hurt by the pain of unemployment and in developing the next generation of leaders.

## Rosa Carrillo Torres Humanitarian Award Honorable Rebecca Ríos



Rebecca Ríos is a fourth-generation Arizonan who started her career in politics by working as a campaign worker for her father, Peter Ríos. After earning her bachelor's degree in social work from Arizona State University, a

seat in the Arizona House of Representatives opened up and she seized the opportunity to serve. Her priorities as a legislator were education and healthcare. Rebecca was a member of the Arizona State Senate, representing District 23 from 2005 to 2010 where she served as Assistant Minority Leader. She was elected in 2004 to represent the 23rd district and subsequently re-elected in 2006 and 2008. As well as having served in the state legislature, Rebecca's involvement includes: Advisory Board, Arizona State University School of Social Work, Advisory Board, National Association of Social Workers, and President/Member, Pinal Gila Headstart Board. Rebecca also holds an MSW in Social Work from Arizona State University. In 2010, she was honored as one of Arizona's leaders of the year in public policy for government transparency by the Arizona Capitol Times. Also, she received a Champion of Cities and Towns Award along with the Ruby Award for her work to improve the lives of women and girls through their personal or professional activities. In 2007, Ríos received the Outstanding Legislator of the Year from the Rural Arizona Health Association for her continued support of policies that ensure citizens have access to basic health care through managed care. The cause of Rebecca Ríos' life has been to champion fairness in the accessibility to education and healthcare, especially for the underserved. Her humanitarian efforts, as both an elected official and private citizen, underscore a level of commitment for bettering Arizona.

## Manuel Ortega Youth Leadership Award Daniel Hernández, Jr.



Daniel Hernández, Jr. is a Tucson native and a student at the University of Arizona studying political science. He is a congressional intern for the office of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona's eighth congressional district. While

on the job assisting Congresswoman Giffords with a constituent town hall in Tucson on January 8, 2011, Daniel is widely credited with saving the life of the congresswoman after a gunman shot her and 18 other people. Daniel began his political activism in 2007 working on the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign. In 2008 he worked on the Gabrielle Giffords congressional campaign. Since 2010, he has served as a member on the City of Tucson Commission on LGBT issues. He is dedicated to student advocacy and political activism. He serves as a director on the Arizona Students' Association's Board of Directors advocating for affordable and accessible higher education for all Arizonans. At the UofA, Daniel has served in leadership positions with the Residence Hall Association and the Arizona Students' Association. Daniel attended public schools in Tucson's Sunnyside Unified School District where he received his training in certified nursing and phlebotomy. Daniel has conducted more than 300 media interviews in English and Spanish with local, state, national, and international outlets. He has also received numerous honors and awards from organizations including: League of United Latin American Citizens, United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, Victory Fund, Human Rights Campaign, University of Arizona Foundation, and United States Hispanic Media Coalition. Service above self to the community and bravery make Daniel Hernández a true American hero.

## Latino Advocacy Champion Award Molera Álvarez Group



The Molera Álvarez Group is a business development and consulting firm specializing in government affairs, public relations and community outreach. Their goal is to create strategic alliances and develop effective messages to assist

clients in achieving short and long term objectives. Prior to forming the Molera Álvarez Group, Ruben Álvarez served as Governor Jane Dee Hull's Policy Advisor for Mexico and Hispanic Affairs and also as the Governor's Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity. Ruben graduated from Arizona State University with a BA in Political Science. Jaime A. Molera held a variety of high-level state positions including as Arizona's Superintendent of Public Instruction, policy advisor to Governor Jane Dee Hull and was appointed to the State Board of Education by Governor Janet Napolitano. Jaime is a board member of Sunrise Bank of Arizona and the Arizona School Choice Trust. He also serves as Chairman of the Arizona Prevention Resource Center. Ruben currently serves as a board member of the Washington, D.C. based Latino Leaders Network, Desert Mountain's Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Maricopa Partnership for Arts and Culture, Voto Latino and is Chair of Maricopa County's Integrated Health Service's Diversity Council. Most recently, the Molera Álvarez Group publicly advocated for the preservation of the 14th Amendment and assisted Valle del Sol to defend birthright citizenship, which led to the defeat of proposed legislation to challenge the 14th Amendment in the last legislative session. The Molera Álvarez Group put in place a wide-range strategy that incorporated Valle del Sol's goals of challenging the proposed legislation with a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural approach and outreach to the business community. The Molera Álvarez Group advocates on causes crucial to the Latino community with a future-forward approach and to better the community for all Arizonans.

## Latino Excellence in Arts & Literature Award

### ErLinda C. Tórres



A native Phoenician and 7<sup>th</sup> generation Arizonan, ErLinda C. Tórres was inspired by her mother who often fed the hungry and clothed the poor. At a young age, ErLinda decided it was her responsibility to watch out

for her community and, like her mother, became an activist for Latinos believing that everyone mattered. She advocated for Chicano civil rights and served as the Senior Director of Marketing and Development for Raza Development Fund, NCLR. By teaching and leading students in higher education for over 34 years, ErLinda helped underrepresented students find a voice and success by affecting change and served as the Founding Senior Director for Strategic Partnerships and Community Relations for the ASU Community Development and Civil Rights Center. She was the Founding Vice President for The Victoria Foundation. She currently serves on the board of Phoenix Union High School District Foundation and Phoenix College Foundation. ErLinda is co-founder of Arizona's first Latino Arts and Cultural Center, ALAC. In 2007, ErLinda had a dream to build the first Latino cultural center in downtown Phoenix. She, artists and other community members dedicated their efforts for several years to make this dream come true. ErLinda collaborated with the city government, educational, business and nonprofit organizations to create a vision for the cultural center. ErLinda has 17 years experience with nonprofit organizations as an executive director, volunteer, performing artist, and choreographer of Mexican Folklorico dance groups locally and nationally. ErLinda's devotion to Latino/Chicano/Indigenous arts and culture is a legacy for the entire community. ErLinda diligently works to serve as a leader within the National Hispana Leadership Institute, as part of the national planning committee, to develop national Latina

## Latino Excellence in Health & Sciences Award

### Anabell Castro Thompson



Anabell Castro Thompson has dedicated much of her professional and personal life to advocating for the healthcare needs of uninsured and underserved Hispanic community members. As a nurse practitioner and Hispanic

community liaison at Hospice of the Valley, Anabell cares for terminally ill patients and strives to decrease the complexity of end-of-life issues that impact patients and their families. She discovered her passion for bettering the health of her community as an undergraduate student at the University of Arizona more than 15 years ago. Anabell serves on the board of the Phoenix Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure and National Association of Hispanic Nurses. She is a national speaker on cultural competence and has scholarly publications on the subject. Originally from Mexico, Anabell immigrated to the United States when she was 14. As a bilingual and bicultural leader, she brings a unique perspective to the organizations she serves. While she feels fortunate to work with organizations whose ideals and objectives mirror her own, Anabell acknowledges there are still challenges when it comes to championing the voice of the uninsured or underserved minority populations in our community. As an advocate for the underserved, she feels it is her responsibility to help fellow leaders understand the most pressing issues so they can prioritize and work together to ensure the goals are met. Her dedication to the Hispanic community continues to have far-reaching effects. Anabell Castro Thompson possesses a unique combination of spirit, compassion, and professionalism that inspires her patients, peers and fellow community members.

## APS Peacemaker Award

### David J. Bodney



Over the years, David J. Bodney has successfully defended print, broadcast and electronic media in defamation, privacy and related lawsuits in numerous federal and state courts. He is a partner in the Phoenix office of Steptoe & Johnson LLP and serves as an adjunct faculty at Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Telecommunication, where he teaches media law. David has served as the co-author of the Arizona sections of the Media Law Resource Center's *50-State Surveys* on privacy and employment privacy law since their inception. He has lectured on media law and litigation at conferences internationally, including presentations on extreme speech, libel and mass media law in Cambridge, London and Moscow, respectively. For more than 25 years, David has worked to secure open government legislation on behalf of the publishing industry. In 1999, together with *The Arizona Republic*, he earned the Arizona Newspapers Association's Freedom of Information Award for his work in federal court on behalf of Phoenix Newspapers, Inc. On behalf of one Arizona tribe, David worked with Senator John McCain to secure passage of a landmark Indian water rights settlement act. His work on Indian law involves a host of legal services, from government relations to litigation in federal, state and tribal courts. He recently co-authored a monograph on freedom-of-information laws for the ABA's Central and East European Law Initiative to assist emerging democracies in the former Soviet Union with the enactment of FOI laws. David is a member of the National Commission of the Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Committee Board of Directors—Arizona Region, the past Chairman of the Board of the Children's Action Alliance and past President of the Board of the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest. He also serves on the Endowment Board of ASU's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Telecommunication. David J. Bodney is a community leader who significantly impacts the lives of many in a positive way by promoting peace and well being.

## **PROFILES OF SUCCESS BROADWAY FOREVER...Fabulous Leaders**

Join Valle del Sol's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual *Profiles of Success*  
Hispanic Leadership Awards Celebration  
to recognize special individuals who have demonstrated  
outstanding leadership and achievements in our Arizona community.

**Friday, September 9, 2011**  
**Phoenix Convention Center | North Ballroom**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Street & Jefferson – Downtown Phoenix**

10:45 a.m. Reception & Silent Auction  
11:50 a.m. Event Video Countdown  
12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Luncheon & Celebration Program

**For more information, call 602.258.6797, ext. 110.**  
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