

## 12th Annual National LATINA Symposium

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Washington, DC - LATINA *Style* Inc., in partnership with Parents Step Ahead (PSA), will host the **12<sup>th</sup> Annual National LATINA Symposium** – a national platform for Latina professionals addressing the most pressing issues affecting the Hispanic woman in the United States. The *Symposium* will be held on **Wednesday, September 9, 2015** from **7:30 am – 3:30 pm** at the **Renaissance & Residence Inn Arlington Capital View | 2800 South Potomac Avenue | Arlington, VA 22202**. Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez will deliver the welcoming remarks.

The National LATINA *Symposium* will feature five panels. The first panel “**Workforce of the future...What to Expect and How to be Prepared**,” includes: Ilka S. Rodríguez-Díaz, Chief, Support Hiring Division, Talent Acquisition Group, Central Intelligence Agency; Veronica Villalobos, Principal Deputy Associate Director, Employee Services, U.S. Office of Personnel Management; Michelle Arias, Deputy Director of Recruitment, Examination, and Employment, U.S. Department of State, and Monique R. Kelso, Unit Chief, Federal Bureau of Investigation. The panel will be moderated by Maria Pastrana Lujan, Senior Advisor, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

The second panel “**Learning Strategies for Success**,” includes Sandra Lopez, Director, and Strategic Alliances for New Devices Group, Intel; Antoinette Fox, President of Hispanic Employee Resource Group – Hispanic Initiative Team (HIT), GM; Maria G Arias, Vice President, Diversity & Inclusion, Comcast Corporation, and Micaela Fernandez Allen, Director of Federal Government Relations, Walmart. The panel will be moderated by Kathryn Medina, Chief Talent Officer, APCO Worldwide.

The third panel “**Leadership and Diversity through the Eyes of General Officers**,” includes Major General Linda Urrutia-Varhall, U.S. Air Force; Rear Admiral Raquel Bono, U.S. Navy; Read Admiral Cari Thomas, U.S. Coast Guard; Brigadier General Sylvia R. Crockett, California Army National Guard. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Gladys Brignoni, Deputy Commander, USCG Force Readiness Command (FORCECOM).

The fourth panel “**Decoding STEM Initiatives**,” presented by Parents Step Ahead (PSA), includes Dr. Frances A. Colón, Deputy Science and Technology Advisor to the Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State; Lorena Fimbres, Chief Business Development Officer, STEMConnector®; Sandra Lopez, Director, and Strategic Alliances for New Devices Group, Intel; Melissa Moritz, Deputy Director of STEM Initiatives, Office of Innovation and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education. The panel will be moderated by Simon L. Pollard, Director, Business School Relations & International Expansion Initiatives, Educational Testing Service (ETS).

The last panel “**Military-to-Civilian Transition: Matching Military Skills to Workplace Needs**,” presented by the LATINA *Style* Hero Initiative (LSHI), includes Patricia Villarreal Tamez, Government Relations Advisor, Shell Oil Company; Raphael Hernandez, Senior Talent Acquisition Manager, Amtrak; Cathy Christian, VP, Enterprise Services and Financial Systems, Financial Management Department, Prudential Financial, Inc. It will be conducted by Jose Velazquez, Master Chief Career Counselor, U.S. Navy Retired, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The Symposium ascertains, through round-table discussions, as well as in-depth surveys, the status of the Latina professional working woman in the United States. The highlight of the event is the **Distinguished Military Service Awards Luncheon**. LATINA *Style* is proud to present the only national awards program honoring Latina military and civilian personnel who through their service have enhanced the role of Latinas in their organizations.

The luncheon will take place from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is the stage for the presentation of the President's Award's to honor Admiral Michelle Howard, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, and Ms. Irma Edys Fuentes, U.S. Coast Guard, in recognition of their distinguished service to our country and exemplary work as a female role model. Admiral Michelle

Howard, Vice Chief of Naval Operations will provide the keynote remarks.

The 2015 National LATINA *Symposium* sponsors are: Intel, PepsiCo, Walmart, Shell Oil Company, General Motors, Nationwide, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Comcast Corporation, Wyndham Worldwide, Central Intelligence Agency, and CapitalWirePR. Official Airline: Southwest airlines.

For further information about the *Symposium* or to register, please visit [www.nls.latinastyle.com](http://www.nls.latinastyle.com), or call (214) 357-2186. Register by September 1<sup>st</sup> to secure your admission - Attendance is Limited.

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**WHEN :** 2015-08-28 10:22:08  
**WHERE :**

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