

## **ANTONIO TIJERINO TO RECEIVE “DIGITAL EQUALITY AWARD” FROM MULTICULTURAL MEDIA, TELECOM AND INTERNET COUNCIL (MMTIC) DURING THE 7TH ANNUAL BROADBAND AND SOCIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT IN DC**

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Washington, DC - Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF) President and CEO Antonio Tijerino will receive the Champion of Digital Equality award from the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTIC) at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Broadband and Social Justice Summit in Washington, DC. The Champion of Digital Equality Award recognizes visionary leadership in promoting minority entrepreneurship, promoting access to capital, universal broadband access, adoption and informed use, diversity and success in America's most important industries.

Tijerino will be presented the award for his work in closing the “homework gap” or lack of internet access for minorities as well as the Innovation Video Gaming and App Development challenge, Code as a Second Language (CSL) and other initiatives. The Broadband and Social Justice Awards were created to recognize persons or organizations whose extraordinary advocacy has helped to bridge the digital divide and promote social justice concerns at its annual Broadband and Social Justice Summit in January of each year.

“I’m humbled to receive this important award from an organization like MMTIC which has taken on the inequities in broadband and technology as the social issue of the present and the future,” said Tijerino. “This recognition also inspires me to do more, a lot more, in making sure all Americans, especially youth, can be impacted and make an impact through technology and broadband access. I share this award with the amazing Hispanic Heritage Foundation staff, my visionary Chair Emanuel Pleitez and our Board, and our dedicated sponsors.”

Tijerino has led the 28-year-old nonprofit for 15 years and has expanded its mission to inspire, prepare, and connect Latino leaders in the classroom, community and workforce through a vetted network of tens of thousands students and young professionals. In addition, HHF promotes Latino cultural pride, accomplishment and promise through public awareness campaigns seen by millions. Tijerino also co-executive produces the star-studded Hispanic Heritage Awards at the Warner Theater and the television broadcast on PBS. HHF has been recognized by the White House, US Congress, US Army, Fortune 500 Companies, National PTA and the Government of Mexico for its impact. (visit: [www.HispanicHeritage.org](http://www.HispanicHeritage.org)).

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