

APPLICATIONS FOR 17TH ANNUAL HISPANIC HERITAGE YOUTH AWARDS NOW AVAILABLE AT HISPANICHERITAGE.ORG FOR RISING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

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WASHINGTON, DC – Latino high school rising seniors across the United States and Puerto Rico now can apply to the 17th **Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards** presented by the Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF). The application is available at hispanicheritage.org, deadline is October 15, 2015. Students must demonstrate leadership in the classroom and community in addition to an interest in various categories. Awardees receive a grant for their education or to support a social innovation effort, laptops, and may be featured as a role model on the National Youth Awards TV broadcast on Vme TV.

The 2015 Youth Awards categories are:

Business & Entrepreneurship – sponsored by BBVA Compass **Community Service** – sponsored by Colgate Palmolive **Education** – sponsored by Southwest Airlines **Innovation & Technology** – sponsored by Entertainment Software Association Foundation **Engineering & Mathematics** – sponsored by ExxonMobil **Healthcare & Science** – sponsored by CVS Health **Sports & Fitness**

The 2015 Youth Awards Regional Ceremonies will take place in the fall in the following areas: Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Phoenix, Rio Grande Valley, San Jose, and Washington, DC. In each of the regions, three students (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) will be honored in each of the categories. Students from the United States and Puerto Rico can apply in the region nearest to their area of residence. If selected, the students must attend their local ceremony to receive their award. After the Youth Awards Regional Ceremonies conclude, one national recipient will be recognized in each of the categories and celebrated at the National Youth Awards in Houston with celebrities and a TV broadcast on Vme.

“HHF and our dedicated sponsors are privileged for the 17th year to recognize and mobilize these young leaders and provide a pipeline of innovative minds to meet America’s priorities in the education, STEM and business fields,” said Jose Antonio Tijerino, President and CEO of HHF. “Our focus is on each one of our Youth Awardees to make an impact on thousands of others as well as the workforce going forward and it’s clear, year after year, that there is no shortage of talent our community.”

Additional sponsors of the Youth Awards include: PhRMA, UPS and GEICO.

Additional partners of the Youth Awards include: **DIRECT AUTO INSURANCE** Es Tiempo, myCollegeOptions.org, NRCCUA, OCI Group, The Raben Group, Saber es Poder, and Voto Latino.

About HHF and LOFT

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit originally established by the White House in 1988, inspires, prepares, positions and connects minority leaders in the classroom, community and workforce to meet America’s priorities. HHF also promotes cultural pride, accomplishment, and the great promise of the community through public awareness campaigns seen by millions. HHF is headquartered in Washington, DC, and has offices in Los Angeles, New York and the LOFT Institute is housed at Michigan State University (Visit www.HispanicHeritage.org). Follow Hispanic Heritage Foundation on Facebook and @HHFoundation on Twitter.

HHF's award-winning LOFT leadership and workforce development program is divided into 10 "Tracks," or industries including: Technology, Science, Healthcare, Engineering, Finance, Entrepreneurship, Education, Public Service, Media & Entertainment, and Latinas. Tens of thousands of students and young professionals are tracked and connected to each other as well as to mentors and resources; attend over 50 trainings, workshops, and Charlas hosted across the country; participate in creative initiatives; and placed into internships, mentorships, fellowships and full-time positions with Fortune 500 companies and government agencies. Visit www.loftinnovation.org, and join <http://loftnetwork.org> to *get on the fast track!* Follow LOFTInstitute on Twitter.

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