

## **Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to be Honored by Washington Redskins During Hispanic Heritage Month at Halftime of Sept. 20 Football Game**

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Loudoun County, VA - The Washington Redskins will recognize the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (VAHCC) and its Passport to Education Program during halftime of the Redskins vs. St. Louis Rams game on Sept. 20 at FedExField in Landover, Md. The VAHCC supports Hispanic students on their path to higher education or skill sets certification, creating the next generation of leaders who will enter the workforce.

VAHCC officially kicked-off Hispanic Heritage Month with a business mixer on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at Northern Virginia Community College in Manassas. Many events scheduled during the month-long celebration (September 15-October 15) will culminate in a fundraising event for the Passport to Education Program, the annual Hispanic Gala on October 16<sup>th</sup> in Richmond.

"The Passport to Education Program is vital to ensuring that increasing numbers of Latinos complete high school and go on to higher education, in an effort to contribute to the overall economy and workforce of our commonwealth and our nation," says Michel Zajur, VAHCC President. "It is an honor to be recognized by the Washington Redskins for our efforts to keep this growing demographic in school and on the path to success."

Some of the students selected from middle school programs at Elkhardt Thompson and Salem Church will travel to FedExField to participate in the halftime recognition.

Hispanic students are the youngest demographic in the U.S. and fastest growing segment of our labor force, with the lowest high school and college graduation rates out of any demographic.

Passport to Education's key components include bilingual leadership programs in schools, a web portal offering guidance in navigating the educational system in the U.S., field trip excursions to universities, radio show, and \$50,000 in scholarships annually. To date Passport to Education bilingual programs have served 1,343 students.

"The Redskins are very proud to support the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, honoring the great work Passport to Education has done and celebrating its success at our Hispanic Heritage game against St. Louis on September 20<sup>th</sup>," added Washington Redskins Executive Vice President, Terry Bateman.

For more information and about these and many other events taking place during this exciting month, visit [www.vahcc.com](http://www.vahcc.com) or contact [info@vahcc.com](mailto:info@vahcc.com).

**About the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (VAHCC):** The VAHCC is a membership-based nonprofit organization dedicated to "building bridges" for its members and partners by promoting, enhancing, and developing business opportunities between the Hispanic business community and the business community-at-large. <http://VAHCC.com>

**About the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation (VAHCCF)** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit with the mission of providing information, education and resources to Virginia's Hispanic community.

**About the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation:** Since inception, the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation has provided nearly \$20 million dollars in support to our community. Founded in 2000 by Dan and Tanya Snyder, the mission of the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation is to make a positive and measurable impact in the lives of children in our community. For more information on the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation's programs and events or to donate, visit [www.redskins.com/community](http://www.redskins.com/community) or follow the Foundation on twitter at

@RedskinsCR.

**About the Redskins:** Headquartered at Redskins Park in Ashburn, Virginia, and owned by Daniel Snyder, the historic Washington Redskins Football Club has won five World Championship titles including the 1937 and 1942 National Football League Championship games, as well as Super Bowls XVII, XXII and XXVI. Founded in 1932 as the Boston Braves in Massachusetts, the team changed its name to the Redskins in 1933 and relocated to Washington, D.C., in 1937. Since then, the team has become one of the most recognizable professional sports franchises in history, featuring multiple Hall of Fame coaches, 19 members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame (with seven others who also were Redskins) and becoming the first team in the NFL with an official marching band and fight song, "Hail to the Redskins." The Redskins have been owned by Dan Snyder since 1999, and beginning in 1997, began playing their home games at FedEx Field in Landover, Md.

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