

## The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Set to Kickoff Hispanic Heritage Month and Announces Annual Award Winners for 41st Annual CELEBRANDO Austin Gala

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Austin, Texas - On behalf of its members, board of directors and staff, the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GAHCC) will host its sold-out 41<sup>st</sup> Annual CELEBRANDO Austin Gala and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, September 13, 2014, at the Four Seasons Hotel Austin.

Sally Hernandez, morning/noon news anchor for KXAN News, will serve as Master of Ceremonies and Angélica Vargas will headline the entertainment. Angélica made her stage debut at age six, as a contestant in the 2009 Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza vocal competition. After extensive local performances and appearances in two films, she competed in Televisa's Lo Que Más Quieres contest, where she sang a duet with her father, Manuel Alcaraz Vargas, and won the grand prize. After returning from that trip, she recorded her first CD.

Honorary Co-Chairs for 2014 CELEBRANDO Austin are Cynthia Rubio and *Tony Budet*. Rubio is the President of Radiant RFID, which is an Austin HUB certified minority business, which uses passive RFID technology to implement cutting-edge solutions that automate asset tracking and management in a wide variety of situations. Budet is the President/CEO of UFCU, a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative and Austin's largest locally-owned financial institution.

At CELEBRANDO Austin, the GAHCC will showcase Hispanic-owned businesses, corporate citizens, volunteers and individuals who have gone the extra mile in business and civic engagement.

The 2014 award recipients are:

-Hispanic Business of the Year: German and Delmy Ustariz, owners and operators of four McDonald's franchises in Austin

-Hispanic Male Entrepreneur of the Year: **Jim Estrada-businessman, award-winning** documentary film producer and award-winning **author**

-Hispanic Female Entrepreneur of the Year: Chef Iliana de la Vega, owner of el Naranjo restaurant

-Lifetime Achievement Award: Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, Travis County District Clerk

-Corporation of the Year: Wells Fargo

-Volunteer of the Year: Luke Martinez, Bank of America

-Ambassador of the Year: Sahabel Porto, El Mundo Newspaper

-Chair's Award Selected by 2014 Chair Thomas Miranda: Mark Masten, Wells Fargo

"Our 2014 award winners," remarked GAHCC President and CEO Mark L. Madrid, "represent the best in us. They walk the talk. They give from the heart, while doing so with consummate professionalism and a standard of excellence."

CELEBRANDO Austin's VIP Investors include Seton Healthcare Family, Emmis Austin Radio, and Harutunian Engineering, Inc. St. David's HealthCare is the Silver Sponsor. Bronze Sponsors include Aeromar; Agua Hispanic Marketing; AT&T; Capital Metro; Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado Acosta LLP; BonusMX; Central Health; El Rey Network; Freescale Semiconductor; GarzaBury LLC; IBC Bank; Market Mail Print; *Sign Depot* ATX; State Farm Insurance; The University of Texas at Austin Division of Diversity and Community Engagement; Univision Communications Inc.; Wells Fargo; Western Governors University-Texas ("WGU Texas"); and Winstead PC. Special Appreciation Sponsors include Brown Distributing Company, H-E-B and Today's Business Solutions.

About the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GAHCC):

Established in 1973, the mission of the GAHCC is to increase its members' personal, business, educational and financial wealth. The GAHCC vision is to be the Center of Excellence for businesses and entrepreneurs in the Central Texas Hispanic market. The Chamber continues to stand by its mission to build its members' wealth through comprehensive economic development, business education, advocacy, education and networking. For more information, visit [www.gahcc.org](http://www.gahcc.org).

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**WHERE :**

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