



## MEMORANDUM

Date: April 3, 2009

To: UA Community

From: Rosie Garcia, UAHA Special Events Committee Chair,  
The University of Arizona Hispanic Alumni Club

Subject: Celebration of Excellence – Friday, May 8, 2009

The University of Arizona Hispanic Alumni (UAHA) Club is proud to invite you to the 2009 *Celebration of Excellence*. This annual event is a celebration of achievement and service, and provides an educational presentation on topics that impact Hispanics.

Distinguished student scholars will be awarded the 2009 Outstanding Hispanic Senior and Outstanding Hispanic Graduate Student Awards. UAHA will also acknowledge the service and commitment of Socorro Carrizosa, Director of Chicano/Hispano Student Affairs (CHSA) and Richard Ruiz, Professor of Language, Reading and Culture and Faculty Fellow for CHSA.

This year's celebration features a presentation by Richard Fimbres, Governing Board Member of Pima Community College and National Vice President for the Elderly for LULAC, *Building Coalitions in the Community*. The presentation is based on more than 25 years of dedicated service and coalition building that Mr. Fimbres has used to effect change on behalf of citizens across the nation.

The UAHA Club was founded in 1982 to promote academic excellence among Hispanic students at the University. UAHA provides financial and mentoring support to qualified and deserving students, and develop linkages with alumni and supporters in the professional and business community. Since 1986, The UAHA Club has awarded 1,769 scholarships totaling over \$4,012,944!

Don't miss the *Celebration of Excellence*, Friday, May 8, 2009. The reception begins at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:00 p.m., and the presentations begin at 12:30 p.m., at the Marriott University Park Hotel Canyon Ballroom, 880 East Second Street, in Tucson Arizona. Lunch is \$30 (not tax deductible). R.S.V.P. to Oscar Lujan at 626-9327, e-mail [lujano@email.arizona.edu](mailto:lujano@email.arizona.edu)



**Richard Fimbres**, the keynote speaker for the event is a Governing Board Member of Pima Community College and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) National Vice President for the Elderly. Mr. Fimbres is a graduate of Pima Community College, The University of Arizona, and Northern Arizona University. He served in the Pima County Sheriff's Department for 20 years and is a United States Army Vietnam-era veteran. Governor Napolitano appointed Richard as Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety where he served for almost seven years. Mr. Fimbres is known for his strong advocacy and unending dedication to advancing the education and prosperity of Latinos. He is the immediate past National Vice President for the Farwest Region of LULAC. Mr. Fimbres serves as a Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Council Board Member. He has also been a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus and was part of the Knights of Columbus Security Team for a Pope John Paul II visit in Arizona on September 1986. His national service includes driving in the Presidential motorcade for President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore and introducing Dr. Richard Carmona, the U.S. Surgeon General at the U.S. National Hispanic Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. Mr. Fimbres has received numerous awards and recognitions both locally and nationally. In 2002, the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce named Fimbres as its Man of the Year. In 2001 Richard received Valle del Sol's Exemplary Leadership Award and was the National Man of the Year for the League of United Latin American Citizens. In 2000, Tucson Citizen Newspaper named Richard one of Pima County's most influential individuals. Other awards Mr. Fimbres has received are the 1998 Jefferson Award for his community service efforts, as well as the 1985 Pima County Sheriff's Department's Officer of the Year Award.

**Socorro Carrizosa** will be recognized for more than 25 years of service to students at the University of Arizona. She currently serves as the Director of Chicano/Hispanic Student Affairs, but has a long history as an educator and retention specialist. Ms. Carrizosa is known for her kind heart and hard work advocating for students and creating a home away from home for Latinos at UA. Socorro and the staff at Chicano Hispanic Student Affairs have developed innovations that have catapulted retention rates for Hispanic Alumni scholars along with other students who have taken advantage of the Chicano Center and its retention programs. Socorro has developed meaningful relationships with leaders within the university and in the external community for the benefit of students. Her active community and university service has included assignments to the President's Taskforce on Hispanic Student Issues; the President's Hispanic Advisory Group; UA Retention Coordinating Group; UA Academic Advising Taskforce; the Athletic Department's Hispanic Advisory Group; the College Academy for Parents; and was a founding board member of the Media, Democracy and Policy Initiative. She has also been an active member of many community service groups and organizations such as the UA Hispanic Alumni Association; the Cesar Chavez Coalition; the Tucson Hispanic Coalition; as well as a board member of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation; and the Board of the Brewster Center Against Domestic Violence.

**Richard Ruiz** will also be recognized for his unwavering advocacy, support and dedication to student success at the University of Arizona and across the nation for more than 23 years. Dr. Ruiz is a professor in the Language Reading and Culture department at the UA and has served as the Faculty Fellow for CHSA for the past seven years. As a partner in the growth and achievement of students at the Chicano Center, Richard is known for his innovative ideas, procurement of resources and uncompromising devotion to students. Dr. Ruiz is recognized internationally for his research and scholarship in language planning and policy development. He has been a consultant to the governments of Mexico, Australia, Guatemala, Bolivia, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Netherlands Antilles (Aruba and Curaçao), Israel, South Africa, and native communities in the United States and Canada. In recognition of his expertise in educational policy studies, he was named to the Clinton-Gore Education Transition Team. He serves on numerous committees and task forces within the UA and at a national level with the goal of advancing equity, social justice and multiculturalism. Some examples of his service and recognitions include: Member of the National Planning Committee for the Brown Plus 50 Conference; Member of the Executive Board of the National Latino Education Research Agenda; Chair of the Publications Committee of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education; Director of Social Justice of the American Educational Research Association; Distinguished Visiting Professor by the Mexican Academy of Science; Maria Urquides Laureate in the College of Education for his work in the benefit of children; Chair of the Standing Committee on the Role and Status of Minorities in Educational Research and Development; and Chair of the Social Justice Action Committee of the American Educational Research Association (AERA).