

Hispanic leaders to be honored May 22 by UCSD Hispanic Scholarship Council

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HISPANIC LEADERS TO BE HONORED MAY 22 BY UCSD HISPANIC SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL

Five Hispanic leaders who have contributed to the community in various arenas will be honored at a Fiesta de las Estrellas "Moondance" to be co-sponsored by the UCSD Hispanic Scholarship Council and UCSD's Student Affairs Development Office May 22 in the Price Center Ballroom at the University of California, San Diego.

The purpose of the gala dinner dance is to raise funds to support Hispanic student scholarships. "One of UCSD's highest priorities is to achieve a student body that reflects the diversity of the state," noted Joseph Watson, vice chancellor for student affairs.

The honorees and areas they represent include Rudy Castruita, Excellence in Education; Denise Moreno Ducheny, Excellence in Government; Cristina Salazar Flores, M.D., Excellence in Medicine; Enrique Morones, Excellence in Community Service, and Roger Talamantez, Excellence in Business.

Co-chairs for the event, which begins with a 6 p.m. cocktail hour, are Patricia Garcia, Esq., with the firm of Seltzer, Caplan, Wilkins & McMahon, and DeAnn Salcido, Esq., with the firm of Castillo & Associates. They also serve as co-chairs of the UCSD Hispanic Scholarship Council.

Castruita has been San Diego County's Superintendent of Schools since 1994 and in the field of education for over 30 years. He was recognized as California's "Superintendent of the year" in 1992 because of his many accomplishments, including increasing retention rates and doubling the number of San Diego students going to college. He is known for his enthusiasm, his genuine compassion for children, and his dedication to education.

Ducheny, 79th District Assemblywoman, is the first San Diegan, the first woman and the first Latino legislator to chair the Assembly Budget Committee. A Southern California native, she received her law degree in 1979 and was first elected to the State Assembly in 1994. She has held many leadership posts in state and community education associations.

Flores specializes in obstetrics and gynecology in Chula Vista, serving a predominately Hispanic clientele. She credits her father, a former migrant worker, for "relentlessly pushing" her and her nine siblings to become professionals. All of them attended UCSD. She received her M.D. from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in 1990, and has been seeing patients at the San Ysidro Health Center. She is currently starting her own private practice.

Morons is the vice president of Hispanic and international marketing for the San Diego Padres, the first such position in major league sports. He was the first member of his family born in America and the first U.S. citizen to apply and be granted dual nationality under Mexico's new law. He earned his International Marketing degrees from the University of San Diego and San Diego State University.

Talamantez is president and CEO of San Diego Data Processing Corp., a company which provides voice, video and data support to the City of San Diego and consulting services to other regional agencies. He attended San Diego City College and San Diego State University, where he earned his degree in Information Systems Management. He served for six years as assistant vice chancellor for administrative computing and telecommunications at UCSD before joining San Diego Data Processing.

Rosy Gonzales and Jose "El Gallo" Gadea, both deejays with radio station La Nueva, will serve as masters of ceremonies. Evonne Seron Schulze will officiate as auctioneer, and entertainment and dancing will be provided by Benny Hollman & The Caliente Brass.

UCSD and the UCSD Hispanic Scholarship Council hosted Fiesta de las Estrellas for the first time last year, creating scholarships for seven students chosen on the basis of academic achievement and financial need. The scholarships will provide each student with a minimum of \$1,000 per year throughout their enrollment. The 1999 event is expected to top this.

For information and reservations, call (619) 534-0263.

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