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**NHLI'S EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM GRADUATES 16 FELLOWS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Hispana Leadership Institute (NHLI), the nation's premier organization for Latina leaders, selected 16 Latina leaders from the public and private sectors to participate in its award-winning Executive Leadership Program. The program fellows will graduate in a celebration to be held Thursday, September 13, 2012 in Washington, D.C.

The Executive Leadership Program (ELP) is held in conjunction with Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Center for Creative Leadership.

The program consists of a four-week training curriculum that spans nine months. The intensive learning experience addresses skill development and cultural application through a female and a Hispanic lens. ELP includes training in cross-cultural communication, strategic management, public policy and leadership skills building. In addition, emphasis is placed on mentoring and the implementation of a leadership project. The impact of the program transcends well beyond the duration of the training. Upon graduation, each participant mentors two young Latinas and completes a leadership project in her community that impacts at least 25 Hispanics.

"I am thrilled to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year by graduating another group of talented Latinas. This program really challenges women to grow in their professions and as respected leaders, and we look forward to seeing their long-term contributions to their communities," said Barbara DesMarteau, NHLI President.

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The National Hispana Leadership Institute (NHLI) is a national leadership development organization focused on Latina leaders. Founded in 1987, NHLI has trained and empowered more than 10,000 Latina leaders from the public and private sectors who have been appointed to leadership positions in government, corporate America, nonprofits, foundations or have started their own businesses. NHLI's mission is to develop Hispanas as ethical leaders through training, professional development, relationship building, and community activism.