



JOSÉ HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER OF THE FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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COUNCILMEMBER JOSE HUIZAR TO BE INDUCTED INTO HISPANIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND NATIONAL HALL OF FAME

Huizar recognized for Latino educational achievements, promoting higher education

LOS ANGELES — Councilmember José Huizar, District 14, will be inducted into the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Alumni Hall of Fame and honored with the organization's "Optimista," (the Optimist) award for Huizar's success achieved through persistence in the face of adversity.

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund's Alumni Hall of Fame, celebrating its sixth anniversary, will present the award to Huizar at its annual gala in Washington D.C. on October 17, 2007. A total of five extraordinary Latinos will join a select group of professionals who have been recognized for their achievements, contributions and service to America, including former Surgeon General Richard Carmona and U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Tony Garza.

"I am honored to be inducted into the Hall of Fame and to receive this prestigious award," said Councilmember Huizar. "I believe that with a college education, we break the cycle of under-education among Latinos."

Councilmember Huizar was born in Zacatecas, Mexico and raised in Boyle Heights. He was recently re-elected to his second term as in the Los Angeles City Council. Prior to serving as a councilmember, he was a member and then President of the Board of Education for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

"It's the lack of financial resources that contributes toward the leading cause for college drop-out rates," added Huizar. "The Hispanic Scholarship Fund provides financial aid to thousands of Latino students allowing them to continue their education."

As both School Board President and City Councilmember, he has fought for educational justice and spearheaded the effort to ensure that all children in Los Angeles complete all courses necessary to be eligible for admission at a California public university. Huizar is the first Latino to serve on the Princeton University Board of Trustees and is Los Angeles' first Latino immigrant Councilmember. He has also been named by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* as one of the 25 local figures who "stand out for their potential to shape lives and by *Hispanic Business* magazine as one of the "100 most influential Hispanics" in the United States."

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“Education was the key to my success and I figured the best thing that I could do to give back to my community was to open the doors of higher education to as many young people as I could. I wanted to create policies that would provide the thousands of students of LAUSD real educational opportunities that would allow them to go to college. I think I have accomplished that,” he added.

In addition to supporting many community organizations and programs in the greater Los Angeles region, Councilmember Huizar encourages others to give back to the communities where they live and work through a range of City-sponsored programs.

In its 32-year history, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) is the nation’s leading organization supporting Latino higher education, which aims to inspire future generations of Latino college graduates by honoring Latinos who have excelled in their fields. The HSF Alumni Hall of Fame was created in 2002 to honor Hispanics who demonstrate the power of higher education and to highlight how attaining a college degree can change individual lives and society as a whole for the better. During the 2006-2007 academic year, HSF awarded nearly 4,200 scholarships exceeding \$26.5 million. HSF has awarded more than 82,000 scholarships worth more than \$221 million to Latinos from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands attending nearly 2,000 colleges and universities.

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