

Media Release

FIU Metropolitan Center to Co-Host Symposium on Latino Political Engagement on Capitol Hill

Miami (June 5, 2006)—The Tomas Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI) in conjunction with Florida International University's Metropolitan Center will host a symposium entitled New Dimensions of Latino Participation on June 7th, 2006 from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill (400 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001).

The FIU Metropolitan Center and TRPI hope the symposium will explore the current dynamics of Latino political engagement, such as recent immigrant protests, and the impact on immigration policy. The forum and discussions will also focus on the 2006 and 2008 Latino vote.

“Latino voters obviously are of great interest right now, because it is a very close Presidential election,” said Ramon Flores, FIU Metropolitan board member and Area Director of Regulatory and External Affairs for BellSouth. “Our interest goes beyond the political moment, and goes beyond this election to explore a new growing force on the political scene; its makeup, its character and its impact, all of which are evolving and changing from one election cycle to another.”

Presenters at the symposium will include: Robert DePosada, The Latino Coalition; Maria Echaveste, Nueva Vista Group; Joe Garcia (NDN); Mark Krikorian, Center for Immigration Studies; Clarissa Martinez de Castro, National Council of La Raza (NCLR); Roberto Suro, Pew Hispanic Center; and Ruy Teixeira, Center for American Progress; and other select panelists.

Sponsorship for this event is provided by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Additional funding will be provided by Comcast and the Latino Policy Coalition.

Following the symposium will be a Congressional Reception hosted by the c2 Group, LLC to celebrate the 20th anniversary of TRPI. Special guests invited to attend include Senator Mel Martinez, Senator Ken Salazar, Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, and Congressman Grace Napolitano.

The **Metropolitan Center at Florida International University** is engaged in the study of the demographics, economics and politics of South Florida. The overall goal of the Center, as an “applied research” institute, is to provide decision-makers with the best possible information to forge solutions to the problems confronting South Florida's urban areas. The Center provides research, training, and technical assistance to governmental and nonprofit institutions in South Florida. The Center provides usable knowledge to inform decision-makers on economic development, land use, housing and public opinion. It also provides organizational management planning and development to strengthen local area organizations' ability to serve their client

basis. To learn more about the FIU Metropolitan Center, visit the Center's website at <http://metropolitan.fiu.edu>.

Founded in 1985, the **Tomas Rivera Policy Institute** advances critical, insightful thinking on key issues affecting Latino communities through objective, policy-relevant research and its implications, for the betterment of the nation. TRPI is an affiliated research unit of the University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning, and Development, and is associated with the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy at Columbia University. To learn more about the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute, visit the Institute's website at <http://www.trpi.org>.

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