



President's Letter
Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
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Greetings!

On behalf of the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GDHCC), I wanted to share some exciting new developments that I know will be of great interest to all of our members.

As you know, I have had the honor of serving since February 2011 as the President and CEO of this incredible seventy-two year old institution. Since that time, I have spoken with many of you about how the GDHCC can better serve your business needs and I am proud to announce that not only have we listened, but we are delivering against many of your needs as business entrepreneurs.

Additionally, your Chamber leadership has set a strategic path forward for the next several years to ensure that the GDHCC is both relevant to you in creating economic wealth but also vibrant as an institution for the next seventy-two years!

In the first of many letters, I am excited to share below some of the top headlines on the progress that has been made over the last several months:

The Greater Dallas Hispanic Chambers Announces the Small Business Center of Excellence (SBCOE) in Partnership with Citibank

Citi Community Development and the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce announced in April a new partnership to open the first-ever Small Business Center of Excellence serving companies with revenues from \$1 million to \$30 million in income within the business community of Greater Dallas. The Center will provide capacity-building products and services — including resources, training and networking support — to minority-owned businesses, with particular emphasis on small and medium-size businesses.

In addition, the Center will provide products and services that maximize the ability of GDHCC clients to access capital, locally and globally, as well as offer procurement and work force development opportunities. Volunteer business experts from Citi will also be available to mentor local entrepreneurs and provide training on financial products and access to credit, including the development of successful, comprehensive business packages. The Center will sponsor business development and best practices sessions, where GDHCC member business owners will learn from subject matter experts and from each other.

Citi and Citi Community Development are supporting this initiative with a three-year, \$480,000 commitment to the GDHCC.

The GDHCC Awards \$3.4 Million of Scholarships to 210 Students at *Stars on the Rise* Banquet



On June 10, 2011, the 28th Annual *Stars on the Rise* Scholarship Awards Banquet was held honoring 210 students who were the recipients of the *Stars on the Rise* scholarships and are attending over 27 national universities and institutions of higher learning. The celebration banquet was attended by over 800 students, family members and sponsors. The key note speaker was Nolan Ryan, CEO and President, Texas Rangers, who delivered an inspirational message that focused on the value of education and persistence as key life skills.

Since the creation of the *Stars on the Rise* program 28 years ago, the GDHCC has collaborated with the community, corporate donors, and educational institutions to assist more than 3,000 Dallas area students with their dream of pursuing a higher education.

Photos of this uplifting event can be seen on the GDHCC website.

Energy Future Holdings Corporation Joins the GDHCC as the Newest Corporate Partner

The GDHCC is excited to welcome as one of our newest corporate members, Energy Future Holdings Corporation (EFH). This Dallas-based, privately held energy company has a portfolio of competitive and regulated energy companies that serve the high-growth Texas electricity market, one of the world's largest and among the nation's most successful competitive markets.

As a strategic partner, EFH and the GDHCC will partner together in the areas of economic development of small businesses through procurement and supply chain management opportunities, as well as the areas of environmental advocacy and leadership development. Additionally, GDHCC will work with EFH to develop and promote the organization as the "Employer of Choice" for young professional Latino/Hispanic talent who are Chamber members.

We welcome EFH to the Chamber and its commitment to being a true strategic partner.

Board of Directors Approves the 2011 – 2012 Strategic Plan for the GDHCC

Yesterday, the Board of Directors approved the 2011-2012 Strategic Plan for the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. This comprehensive plan lays out three major objectives for the Chamber in the areas of Membership, Economic Development and Brand Building through critical community events.

Developed over the past several months, the process focused on the inclusion of key stakeholders of the Chamber including small business entrepreneurs, Chamber leadership as well as key corporate partners. Highlights include the following three objectives for the Chamber:

- Objective 1: Grow the GDHCC Membership Through Training, Support and Advocacy of Small Businesses
- Objective 2: Create and Sustain Innovative Programs and Opportunities that Establish the GDHCC as the "Center of Excellence" for Small Business Economic Development
- Objective 3: Drive the Brand Building and Critical Market Intelligence by Leveraging Key GDHCC Community Events and Establishing the Chamber of as the "Go-To" Authority for Consumer/Business Insights

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