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Latino Policy Forum Fourth annual *Latinos on the Move* Policy Breakfast series highlights the power of Latino leadership

CHICAGO— October 29, 2014 —Latinos are in the vanguard of shifting leadership paradigms in an Illinois that continues to grow increasingly diverse. They are becoming an economic, cultural, and political force with important implications for the region, state and country. Against this backdrop of shifting demography and looming midterm elections, the Latino Policy Forum hosted its fourth annual *Latinos on the Move* policy breakfast. The nation’s foremost author on Latino leadership, Juana Bordas, provided the keynote to the event with a discourse on how Latinos are transforming America—with their inclusive values, political engagement and entrepreneurial spirit.

Held the morning of October 29 at the Union League of Chicago, “Latino Leadership: Building and Inclusive, Involved and Informed America” featured U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn and Chicago’s Mayor Rahm Emanuel as honorary co-chairs.

“Juana has a keen understanding of the cultural attributes Latinos possess,” said Sylvia Puente, executive director of The Forum. “She taps into these unique attributes in her teachings, readying a new generation of Latinos for leadership in 21st Century America.”

An award-winning author of *The Power of Latino Leadership: Culture, Inclusion, and Contribution* and *Salsa, Soul and Spirit: Leadership for a Multicultural Age*, Bordas has been heralded as a “highly credentialed champion of diversity in leadership and organizational change.” She received the International Latino Book Award for leadership in 2008 and 2014, and the Nautilus Book Award in 2014.

The event informed hundreds of key civic and corporate leaders about the importance of Latinos in the state of Illinois. Latinos now account for the largest minority group in the state at *16 percent of the total population*. In turn, they are significantly contributing to Illinois economy as they are responsible for all of the state’s homeownership—and most of the labor market— growth.

They’re also an increasing presence felt at the ballot box with their share of election-day voters rising in Illinois from 6 percent in 2008 to 12 percent in 2012. As of this week, more than 264 thousand Latinos are registered to vote in Chicago, with more than 17 percent of the city’s electorate. Overall there are nearly 800 thousand eligible Latino voters in Illinois.

“As we look to November 4, it’s important to recognize the work of all those that have come before us and helped us get where we are today,” said Bordas. “Voting is a civic duty today’s leaders can do to honor past generations and to ensure our continued progress as a people and nation.”

The Forum thanks champion-level sponsors Allstate, Crains Chicago Business, Wintrust Community Banks, iHeart Media Chicago; change agent-level sponsors The Boeing Company, ComEd, Steelbridge Capital, Kraft, Walgreens, Pritzker Children’s Initiative, Bruce and Diana Rauner, SPLASH—a Chicago Sun-Times Publication, State Farm Insurance, and Western Union; and ally-level sponsors ABC7 Chicago, Ancora Associates, Inc., American Medical Association, Bank of America, BMO Harris Bank, Franczek Radelet, Healthcare Alternative

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About the Latino Policy Forum

The Latino Policy Forum is the only organization in the Chicago area that facilitates the involvement of Latinos at all levels of public decision-making. The Forum conducts analysis to inform, influence and lead. Its goals are to improve education outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote just immigration policies, and engage diverse sectors of the community, with an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future. For more information, visit www.latinopolicyforum.org.

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