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NEW LEADER FOR LATINO ENDOWMENT FUND AT HARTFORD FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC GIVING

Luis C. Cabán, an executive with more than 30 years of senior management experience in both the business and nonprofit sectors, is the new chair of the volunteer steering committee of the Latino Endowment Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

"There is a wide gap between meeting the needs of the Latino community and the community's participation in the world of organized philanthropy," said Cabán. "I am hopeful and encouraged, that working with the unique Hartford Foundation and the respected and accomplished leaders that make up the Latino Endowment Fund, we'll be able to make some headway in closing this gap."

The Hispanic community has a proud history of philanthropy within family and church, said Cabán, noting that nationwide more than 50 percent of Latino households regularly make charitable contributions. "But with Hispanics now comprising more than 40 percent of Hartford's population, this is an excellent time to encourage expansion of that natural generosity into the nonprofit sector, which does so much to serve the needs of our community."

A native of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, Cabán was raised in New York City and is a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam War. A former vice president of the National Hispanic Housing Coalition, he has provided community development services to government and nonprofit agencies in 14 states and Puerto Rico, has lectured at colleges and universities, and testified before Congress on housing and on voting rights legislation. Since 1996 he has worked with Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance, a neighborhood revitalization organization in Hartford, and currently serves as its executive director.

The Latino Endowment Fund was created in 2003 by individuals committed to investing in a better life for the region's Latinos. Annual gifts of \$250 or more are pooled in a permanent fund. Members learn about challenges and opportunities facing Latinos and recommend grants to organizations working for the benefit of the Latino community.

A grant from the Latino Endowment Fund is aiding a pilot project at Quinebaug Valley Community College and Eastern Connecticut State University to increase the number of Hispanic students who earn a four-year degree.

To learn more about the Latino Endowment Fund, visit <u>www.hfpg.org/latino</u> or call Maggie Willard at 860-548-1888.

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for the 29-town Greater Hartford region. For over 80 years, it has built successful partnerships with donors, nonprofits and community leaders to enhance the quality of life for people in this region. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.hfpg.org or call 548-1888.