

For Immediate Release

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Dare to Dream: Get Educated! (Atrévete a Soñar ¡Educate!)

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Subject:

**Dare to Dream: Get Educated! Conference for Latina Middle School Girls, April 24, 2010**

The Dare to Dream: Get Educated! Conference on Saturday, April 24 from 8am to 4pm at Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Illinois offers DuPage Middle School Latina girls an inspiring opportunity to hear Latina role models in successful careers talk about how they dealt with obstacles to achieve their dream of a better life. Women role models will represent careers in medicine, engineering, education, law, business and media.

Dr Lourdes Ferrer, specialist in Hispanic academic achievement and parental involvement, will talk about transferring dreams into reality in her keynote speech. Dr Ferrer is a riveting speaker who weaves state-of-the-art research into concrete discussions of how to be successful. Dr Ferrer will also lead workshops on "Marianismo," a Hispanic cultural ideal for women, and how it plays a role in adjusting to life in the United States. Mothers, who are also invited to the Conference, will learn ten skills to help their daughters find success in the American educational system.

Members of Teatro Luna, Chicago's All Latina Theatre, will give a dramatic performance and share their personal stories about how they managed to get through high school and college and into theater. The York High School steel drum band, the Iron Dukes, will also entertain the girls, the girls' mothers, mentors, and any school teachers and counselors who are present.

Following last year's Dare to Dream: Get Educated! Conference, alumnae of the Conference organized clubs in their schools to support their aspirations and to mentor younger Latinas. In January, Dare to Dream: Get Educated! alumnae attended a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Conference sponsored by Elmhurst College and Dare to Dream: Get Educated!

In DuPage County, Hispanic girls drop out of school at a rate that is more than four times higher than non-Hispanic white peers according to Illinois school report card data. Nationally, the dropout rate is more than six times higher, according to the AAUW Study, "Where the Girls Are."

DuPage Middle School Latinas will be registered on a first-come basis because there are a limited number of places available at the Conference. It is free to attend and free breakfast and lunch are provided. Girls and their mothers who are interested in attending should call (630) 808-3533. Additional information is available at [www.latinconference.org](http://www.latinconference.org).

The Dare to Dream: Get Educated! Conference is made possible in part through grants from the American Association of University Women (AAUW), AAUW-Illinois, Inc., The DuPage Community Foundation, Elmhurst College and the DuPage Regional Office of Education. For anyone interested in helping to change the lives of these aspiring young women, details of how to donate are given on our website.

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