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FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

PHOTOS ATTACHED

VIDEOS & ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

HISPANIC BUSINESS INITIATIVE FUND HOSTS ANNUAL CLIENT RECOGNITION EVENT

(ORLANDO, FL) September 18, 2013 – Three local Hispanic-owned companies were honored today at the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida’s (HBIF) Success Stories luncheon. The event is the organization’s yearly fundraiser to recognize the most successful entrepreneurs who received technical assistance from the Central Florida-based nonprofit organization.

The theme of this year’s event, *Partners for Growth*, focused HBIF’s role in helping small business owners. Nearly 450 Central Florida government, business and community leaders joined the volunteers and clients of HBIF for the event. Florida Governor Rick Scott, Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs, and City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer spoke during the event, as did representatives from event host sponsors Bank of America, CenturyLink, Florida Blue, Orlando Health, the Orlando Magic and Walt Disney Parks & Resorts, and Wells Fargo.

The businesses honored at the event were selected based on their growth and economic impact. “Assisting Hispanic entrepreneurs in becoming successful business owners is what HBIF is all about,” said Christina Pinto, Chair of HBIF’s statewide Board of Directors. “When you hear the stories of accomplished local entrepreneurs, you see the level of passion, commitment, hard work and resourcefulness that has enabled them to turn their dream into a thriving, successful business.”

The three local Hispanic-owned businesses recognized include:

- **DeLand Bakery Corp. (Owners: Alfredo and Irma Avila)**
Specialized in producing whole grain, organic and gluten-free products, their 42,000 square foot facility includes three semi-automated bakeries and a full-scale natural market with an organic café/deli restaurant on premise. (Based out of DeLand).
- **Galaxy Auto Service, Inc. (Owners: Lidia Paulino, Porfirio, Aidil, and Ana Estevez)**
Offers a broad line of used automobiles with in-house financing options and on-site repair services. (Located in West Orlando).
- **Power Grid Engineering (Owner: Andre Uribe)**
Specializes in electrical engineering consulting, offering custom solutions in protection and control systems for investor-owned utility companies across the United States and Puerto Rico. (Located in Winter Springs).

The 2013 Success Stories Luncheon was made possible thanks to these sponsors. **Host Sponsors:** Bank of America, CenturyLink, Florida Blue, Orlando Health, the Orlando Magic and Walt Disney Parks & Resorts,

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and Wells Fargo. **Champion Sponsors:** AT&T, , Darden, Florida Hospital and the University of Central Florida. **Honorary Sponsors:** Conrad Santiago & Associates with Ameriprise Financial, El Osceola Star, Popular Community Bank and Southwest Airlines.

The Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida (HBIF) is the leading Hispanic economic development, nonprofit organization specializing in providing free bilingual assistance to Hispanic entrepreneurs who are establishing or expanding their business in the state of Florida. For more than 22 years, HBIF has promoted the Hispanic entrepreneur, offering programs and creating partnerships to advance the region's economic development and foster job creation. HBIF is headquartered in Orlando and has offices in Miami, Tampa and Kissimmee. For more information, visit www.HBIFFlorida.org.

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