



Media Contact:
Maria Yabrudy
Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of
Florida
407-428-5870, ext. 207
Cell: 407-970-5591
MYabrudy@hbifflorida.org

HBIF of Florida Represents Hispanic-owned Businesses at White House *HBIF President Augusto Sanabria to Attend Florida Business Leaders' Briefing*

ORLANDO, FL (March 15, 2012) - Business leaders from the Orlando, Tampa and Jacksonville areas will be participating in a briefing with Senior Administration Officials at the White House on Mar. 19 at 2 p.m. Augusto Sanabria, President of the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida, will be attending Monday's Florida Business Leaders' Briefing at the White House in representation of Hispanic entrepreneurs from the State of Florida.

"I am honored to have been invited to represent our business community and, in particular, Hispanic entrepreneurs," said Augusto Sanabria. "This is a great opportunity for our business leaders to provide direct input to policymakers. I look forward to learning more about how the U.S. Administration can help Hispanic businesses, as well as sharing Florida Hispanic entrepreneurs' accomplishments and needs with White House Officials."

This event is part of the White House's Business Leader Briefing Series. The Florida representatives will interact with Senior Administration Officials in a two-way dialog about important issues such as trade, travel and tourism, infrastructure development, financial regulations, and housing and neighborhood stabilization, among others. The briefing will be preceded with a luncheon and presentation by Dr. Rebecca Blank, Acting Deputy Secretary of Commerce, who will set the tone for the day's conversations.

The briefing series is conducted by Business Forward, an organization that works with leaders in 31 states to address concerns of the business community. In the first half of 2012, Business Forward is supporting a series of fly-ins and forums that will bring more than 2,000 business leaders from across the country to share their ideas with White House officials.

About HBIF of Florida, Inc.

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 trying to establish or expand their businesses in the state of Florida. For more than 20 years HBIF has promoted the Hispanic entrepreneur, offering programs and creating partnerships to advance 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.

About Business Forward

Based in Washington, D.C., Business Forward was founded in 2009. The organization believes business leaders play a particularly important role in policy debates because they understand the importance of looking at the long-term – and because employers are among the first to suffer from the competitive challenges that face America's economy today. For more information, visit <http://www.businessfwd.org>.

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