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### **HISPANIC ENTREPRENEURS GRADUATE FROM CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

*Twenty-seven Entrepreneurs Complete HBIF Contractors' Academy*

**ORLANDO, Fla. (April 16, 2012)** – On April 16, a total of 27 entrepreneurs in the construction industry graduated from the HBIF Contractors' Academy, a program hosted by the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida. In a ceremony during the final class of the program, every participant received a graduation certificate.

The Contractors' Academy is a seven-week educational program conducted in Spanish, free of charge, to facilitate the development of Hispanic-owned construction businesses in Central Florida. The program was founded in 2002 as a result of a partnership between HBIF and the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority. The program is offered twice yearly with industry professionals serving as speakers during each session.

“We want each of our participants to graduate from the Contractors' Academy well-prepared to start or expand their business in the construction industry,” said Rosalina Stober, Vice President of HBIF. “The goal of our academy and all of our workshops is to ensure that each Hispanic entrepreneur has the resources necessary to operate a successful business.”

The sessions cover topics such as construction law, field management, costs and estimating, accounting, risk management and minority certifications, among others.

There is no cost to participate in the HBIF Contractors' Academy. The next academy will begin in September of 2012. Please call 407-428-5872 for more information.

#### **About HBIF**

The Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida (HBIF) is the leading Hispanic economic development, nonprofit organization in Florida specializing in providing free bilingual assistance to Hispanic entrepreneurs trying to establish or expand their businesses. 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](http://www.HBIFFlorida.org).

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