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Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley Awards Three \$1000 College Scholarships

San Jose, CA – March 26, 2007 -- The Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley (HFSV) on Friday awarded three academic scholarships to Santa Clara County women as part of the organization's annual Silicon Valley Latina Scholarship Fund.

Joceana Ribeiro-Wai, Rozella Rodriguez and Xochitl Gonzalez, all South Bay college students, were selected from among 16 applicants and were presented with a \$1,000 scholarship to assist in their pursuit of college degrees. In addition to maintaining high grade point averages, all three women are either working full-time, raising a family and/or volunteering in their communities.

"These women exhibit tenacity, drive, and commitment to continuing their own education, despite significant obstacles and hardship. They serve as positive role models for their families and the community," said Teresa Alvarado, HFSV Executive Director.

Joceana Ribeiro-Wai is a Junior at San Jose State University, seeking her BCLAD teaching credential, a multiple subject credential program with a bilingual emphasis. The multiple subject credential is a license to teach in California schools. Ms. Ribeiro-Wai is a dedicated and passionate person, with a powerful drive to assist and motivate Latino parents and children. She plans to graduate in May 2008 and has two children: Leonardo, age 8, and Lucas, age 6.

Rozella Rodriguez is a Junior at West Valley College. She wants, above all else, to set a strong foundation and be a good role model for her eight-month old daughter, Mariah. She is awaiting a response on her application to attend Santa Clara University in the fall.

Xochitl Gonzalez is an articulate and poised Senior at the National Hispanic University. She is very close to achieving her goal of graduating with her BCLAD in September 2007.

In order to qualify for a scholarship, Latina applicants must be attending, entering, or re-entering a community college or four-year college or university in Santa Clara County and meet at least one of the following eligibility requirements:

- _ Had children prior to or while attending college
- _ Has proclaimed through her college institution that she is pursuing teaching credentials
- _ Has been previously enrolled in higher education and has returned or is attempting to return after having taken 3 or more years off from school.

Funding for the scholarships was made possible through the Hispanic Women's Council of Northern California which donated over \$18,000 to establish the Silicon Valley Latina Scholarship Fund in 2004 with the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley. The scholarship aims to assist Latinas who are taking a non-traditional path to achieving a college degree.

About the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley

The Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley (HFSV) cultivates philanthropy to inspire Hispanic children and families to achieve personal greatness. HFSV engages leadership and bridges resources to invest in a thriving Hispanic community. For more information, visit www.hfsv.org.

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