

## **Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley names its first executive director**

**Long time community leader with family history of involvement takes helm of foundation on April 17**

**March 31, 2006** --- The Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley today announced it has reached a major milestone in its history by naming Teresa Alvarado its first ever executive director.

Alvarado, who was selected by the HFSV Board of Directors after a year-long national search, takes the helm April 17 of the five-year old foundation which has established a solid track record of grantmaking, volunteerism and leadership development in the Silicon Valley Latino community.

"The time was right to make a strategic investment and hire an executive director," said Ivonne Montes de Oca, HFSV board member and co-founder of the foundation. "Our foundation is at a point in its history when having someone with passion and a clear vision will help strengthen the critical role we play in harnessing the resources, enthusiasm and commitment of Silicon Valley Latinos to improve our community."

Alvarado, 41, brings a unique blend of corporate and nonprofit experience to her role as executive director. She joins HFSV from Pacific Gas and Electric Company where she spent seven years as a government relations representative for the San Jose region serving as the liaison between the utility company, elected officials, governmental bodies, and community leaders in Silicon Valley, as well as external stakeholder relations and corporate contributions to nonprofit agencies in the region. She also has served on the board of directors for the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley for six years, including two years as president.

"I am truly honored to be able to serve the community in this capacity," Alvarado said. "The Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley has developed a depth of knowledge and experience that makes it uniquely qualified to understand and respond to the key issues affecting the Latino community in this region."

Although the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley was officially established in 2000, it was born out of the long tradition and spirit of community building and grantmaking in the Latino community started by the Hispanic Charity Ball in 1989.

"The Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley plays an important role in showing how strong philanthropy within the Latino community really is," said Carmen Castellano, president of the Castellano Family Foundation. "HFSV provides an important link between individuals, corporations and foundations that want to contribute and the resources, knowledge and opportunities for them to take action."

Teresa joins a cross-section of community leaders who are committed to building upon the solid infrastructure of financial management, organizational efficiency, measurable community impact and mission-driven programs.

A strategic partnership with Community Foundation Silicon Valley over the past three years has enabled the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley to build its infrastructure and reach this turning point in its history.

"The Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley has a long tradition of understanding and supporting the needs of the Latino community in our region," said Peter Hero, president of Community Foundation Silicon Valley. "Teresa is a dynamic leader with deep roots in our community. Her experience and reputation are what an organization like HFSV needs at this moment to leap to the next level."

Alvarado said, "HFSV's long history and reputation are key factors that attracted me to this position and are critical to the future success of the organization."

Alvarado's life-long commitment to community involvement is a family tradition. She is the daughter of Santa Clara County Supervisor Blanca Alvarado and sister of Jaime Alvarado, executive director of the Mayfair Community Initiative and co-founder of Teatro Vision. Her father, Jose J. Alvarado, was a prominent radio program host and businessman in the 1940's and 1950's in San Jose.

Through her more than 20 years of involvement in a variety of nonprofit organizations in Silicon Valley, Alvarado has developed a keen understanding and grasp of nonprofit governance. She has played key leadership roles on boards of directors and committees, including as founder of the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley, and board member of CompassPoint Nonprofit Services, YWCA of Silicon Valley, Franklin McKinley Education Foundation, San Jose-Evergreen Community College District Foundation, and Rotary Club of San Jose.

Her involvement and commitment to the community has been recognized by California State Senator Elaine Alquist, who named her San Jose Woman of the Year in 2005, and by the NAACP of Silicon Valley which bestowed its Freedom Fighter Award to Alvarado in 2005. She was also named a Bank of America Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Local Heroes Award winner in 2005.

#### **About the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley**

The Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley (HFSV) cultivates philanthropy and inspires Hispanic children and families to achieve personal greatness. HFSV engages leadership and bridges resources to invest in a thriving Hispanic community. Resources are directed toward educational achievement, economic advancement and leadership development to create opportunities for Hispanic children and families. For more information, visit [www.hfsv.org](http://www.hfsv.org).

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