

There is nothing more exciting than to spend a South Florida afternoon honoring 12 Latinas who have contributed to the south Florida communities and a special award, The Latina Pioneer for 2014. The Hispanic Women of Distinction Charity luncheon to be held on August 15th at Signature Grand in Davie, Florida is expected to be another sell-out of philanthropists, business leaders, elected officials as well as socialites in attendance to pay tribute to Latina professionals who are strengthening the social fabric of this country and making inroads in the leadership pipeline for a growingly diverse America.

Presented by **Bank of America** in partnership with **Latina Style Magazine**, and co-sponsored by **Baptist Health South Florida**, the honorees will strut the 120 foot runway and where guests can listen to the success and community activism of all the women. The cocktail hour will begin with a complimentary "mojito", great Latin entertainment, silent auction and raffles, as well as a sponsor business exhibit presented by WFTL Radio 850 AM, who airs programming live from the venue and conducts interviews with guests all day.

A silent auction will raise funds for the Light of the World Clinic, a free volunteer medical facility since 1989 founded by the late Dr. Erwin Vasquez. Added once again this year in his honor is the **3rd annual Erwin M. Vasquez, M.D. Scholarship for a Latina** presented by **Mercedes Benz of Fort Lauderdale**. The contributions of this humble and passionate physician who came to the U.S. from Venezuela in the early 1970's and who gave his time, resources and money to help anyone in need will remain a strong legacy at the Clinic.

What the women have in common and is a major part of the judging process, is their American entrepreneurship intertwined with their values and traditions. They represent a cross-section of creative disciplines that are changing the face of American culture. More than 50 nominations were received this year for the award.

More than 30 sponsors, media partners and corporate partners are eager to benefit from the unique bilingual and bicultural dynamic this event brings. The former honorees will meet and greet the 2014 winners at a reception to be held this summer at Signature Grand. This annual get-together named, DOS CULTURAS, is a way to share this unique award and keep all the women together in a social and business development environment.

For more information, visit www.wedoevents.net or by calling (954) 822-7879. A Facebook page, HISPANIC WOMEN of DISTINCTION displays past celebrations in colorful photos.

2014 HISPANIC WOMEN OF DISTINCTION:

- MARIA MERCEDES BECERRA** – President, Fundacion Entre Nosotras, Miami, Florida.
- DIANA BROOKS** – Managing Partner, VSBrooks Advertising, Coral Gables, Florida
- ANA M. CEDENO** – Chief Executive Officer Big Brothers Big Sisters, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- LOURDES MARTINEZ COWGILL, PhD** – Sr. Dir. of College Counseling, International College Counselors, Ft. Laud.
- GLORIA M. GARCES** – Co-owner, Eventers LLC & Director of Community & Public Affairs MIRA TV.
- MARIA HERNANDEZ** – Chief Innovation Officer-Latin America IBM Corp; Boca Raton, Florida
- ANELE RAMIA MANFREDINI, M.D.** - Physician, Women's Health, Holy Cross Hospital – Fort Lauderdale
- ANA MURILLO** – Deputy Sergeant, Broward Sheriff's Office – Sunrise, Florida
- SANDRA MUVDI** – President, Founder Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation – Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- ANA MARIA PUGA, M.D.** – Medical Director, Comprehensive Family AIDS Program, Broward Health Children's Diagnostic Center – Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- MONICA RABASSA** – V.P. Marketing, Corporate Communications & Public Affairs, Univision Radio – Miami
- REV. DR. ELIZABETH D. RIOS** – Executive Pastor-Save the Nations Church & Founder, Center for Emerging Female Leadership/Latinas of Legacy - Miramar, Florida

LATINA PIONEER of the YEAR 2014

HELEN AGUIRRE FERRE – Award winning, bilingual journalist who maneuvers through various media platforms to deliver the news and analysis in print and broadcast media for more than 2 decades. She hosts a daily political talk show with Univision radio, is a political analyst for Univision Network, an English moderator for WPBPT2 public affairs and Opinion Page Editor for *Diarios Las Americas* newspaper. Helen is also the first woman to chair the Board of Trustees of Miami Dade College and serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges in the U.S.

Helen joins former Latina Pioneers – Columba Bush, Maria San Juan, Caridad Asensio, Joyce Kaufman, Aida Levitan and Maria Elena Torano.

HWOD HONOREES

						2014 Latina Pioneer  HELEN AGUIRRE FERRE
MARIA MERCEDES BECERRA	DIANA BROOKS	ANA M. CEDENO	LOURDES MARTINEZ COWGILL, PhD	GLORIA M. GARCÉS	MARIA HERNANDEZ	
						
ANELE RAMIA MANFREDINI, M.D.	ANA MURILLO	SANDRA MUVDI	ANA MARIA PUGA, M.D.	MONICA RABASSA	REV. DR. ELIZABETH D. RIOS	