

PRESS RELEASE

## Gala to Benefit Latino Entrepreneurs and Professionals in Philadelphia

The Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce hosts the “Alegría Ball” to raise critical program funding and to celebrate outstanding Latino-owned businesses and Latino professionals in the region.

### January 8, 2019 - Philadelphia, PA. –

The Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GPHCC) has organized its signature fundraising event, “Alegría Ball,” to take place on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at “The Lucy,” located on Broad and Locust Streets, benefiting core chamber programs that provide critical support to emerging Latino owned businesses in the region. The 29th edition of the gala features the “Excelencia Hispanic Business Awards” to celebrate the growth and success of Latino owned businesses and Latino professionals in the region by recognizing those that have set themselves apart through their outstanding achievements and contributions.



The mission of the GPHCC is to develop, promote and advocate for Hispanic businesses in the Philadelphia region, while fostering the advancement and economic growth of the Latino community. “We are committed to eliminating barriers and driving solutions that will close the outcomes gaps for Latino businesses and Latino professionals.” said Jennifer Rodríguez, the president and CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. “Alegría Ball is our most significant platform for engaging and thanking our network of supporters “continued Rodríguez.

This year’s “Excelencia” awardees are:

**Keystone Award:** Awarded to an individual who has contributed in an extraordinary way to the Hispanic community during the course of his/her professional career. This year's honoree is Hon. Nelson Díaz, the first Latino to be admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar Association and later become the first Latino judge in the state. In the course of his career, he has helped to organize several institutions with the purpose of advancing the Latino community.

**Hispanic Business of the Year Award:** Awarded to the Hispanic business that has distinguished itself from the competition through overall excellence and high-quality standards. This year’s recipient is Marquis & Co., founded by Nicole Marquis. It is a group of vegan restaurants, including the popular Hip City Veg, created with the goal of showing that vegan food can be plentiful and delicious.

**Hispanic Professional of the Year Award:** Awarded to an outstanding professional in the Latino community for his/her career accomplishments. This award is given to Dr. Damian Fernandez, Chancellor of Penn State, Abington, who is among the 4% of Latinos who lead colleges and universities across the country.

To support the Latino community through the GPHCC or for more information about the event, you can call (215) 845-5456 or email [jsuarez@philahispanicchamber.org](mailto:jsuarez@philahispanicchamber.org)

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**Overview:** The Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GPHCC) is a not-for-profit organization devoted to promoting the advancement and economic growth of Hispanic businesses and professionals in the greater Philadelphia region. For more information about the GPHCC, please visit: [www.philahispanicchamber.org](http://www.philahispanicchamber.org).