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HISPANIC MAGAZINE'S LATINAS OF EXCELLENCE 2007

THIS MONTH HISPANIC HONORS SIX WOMEN OF GREAT distinction who have not only made strides in their fields but have set the pace.

Profiles by Idy Fernandez

1 Mother's Day Gift Guide
Traditional presents are fine, but these new twists on some old favorites might put the spark back in her special day.

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2 The doctor is in
Former U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona takes on a new role as president of the Canyon Ranch.

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3 the next big thing
It's not enough that Mexican star Marlene Favela burns up the small screen in the telenovela Zorro; she's ready for the big time.

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4 banking on blondet
You see her face everywhere from Despierta América to the cover of her own book; it's no wonder Giselle Blondet is a hot commodity in every industry she enters.

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5 2007 Latinas of excellence
Six Latina leaders in such fields as education, entrepreneurship, leadership and more earn this year's distinction.

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6 one hot cat
Antonio Banderas returns to the role that made him a favorite with even the littlest Latinas: Puss in Boots in the new installment of Shrek.

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GOVERNMENT, POLITICS & CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARD



Patti Solis Doyle

campaign manager, hillary clinton for president

Patti Solis Doyle has earned a reputation in Washington as an adept fundraiser and effective strategist. As campaign manager for Hillary Clinton for president, she is the first Hispanic woman to lead a bid for the White House.

A longtime Clinton collaborator, Doyle met Sen. Clinton nearly 16 years ago, when she became her chief scheduler in Arkansas. When the Clintons moved into the White House, Doyle came, too, working as director of scheduling and advance for the first lady and later as an Assistant to the president of the United States. She went on to work for Sen. Clinton's 2000 election campaign becoming one of her most trusted advisors. She also served as executive director of HILLPAC and Friends of Hillary, the political action committee and the Senate re-election campaign of Sen. Clinton.

In addition to generating campaign donations and developing the next move with Sen. Clinton, Doyle is behind the expensive but potentially risky financial strategy that has made Sen. Clinton one of the top fundraisers on the campaign trail.

ENTERTAINMENT AWARD



Elizabeth Avellan

producer, vice president troublemaker studios

Working behind the scenes in the entertainment industry is in Elizabeth Avellan's blood—her grandfather pioneered commercial television in her native Venezuela and now she is infusing the same enterprising spirit into the American film industry with high-grossing productions like the Spy Kids series and Frank Miller's Sin City.

Currently Avellan, a mother of five, is the vice president of Troublemaker Studios, which she founded with Robert Rodriguez in 2000. Together they also

founded its predecessor Los Hooligans Productions, which released *El Mariachi* in 1991 and launched their careers into the mainstream. *El Mariachi* won the Audience Award at the 1993 Sundance Film Festival and paved the way for Avellán to produce films like *Desperado*, *From Dusk Till Dawn* and *The Faculty*. She was also an executive producer on the critically acclaimed Venezuelan indie *Secuestro Express*.

Avellán, who moved to Houston, Texas with her family at age 13, recently finished Troublemaker's project *Grindhouse* and is independently producing *The Truth in Terms of Beauty*, based on the life of photographer Herman Leonard.

EDUCATION AWARD



Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana

superintendent pomona unified school district,
california

Driven by her own hardships as a child of Mexican immigrants, Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana set out to level the field for all students. "It became my mission to break through institutional failures to provide all students with equal access to succeed," says Melendez de Santa Ana, who as a child was ostracized from the other students in her class because she did not speak English, and had a hard time learning how to read and write.

She rose through school ranks from a bilingual teacher to a school administrator to the first Latina superintendent of California's Pomona Unified School District. In 2006, she was selected for a coveted spot in The Broad Superintendents Academy, a 10-month executive management program to train executives from military, business, nonprofit, government and education backgrounds to lead urban public school districts.

A woman with guts and deep-rooted moral values, she is a breath of change in the school district, which is composed of more than 33,000 students and 40-plus schools. Her self-proclaimed personal mantra consists of "three R's:" respect, responsibility and results—the latter of which she has always resolved to achieve.

HEALTH AND MEDICINE AWARD



Dr. Antonia C. Novello

14th U.S. surgeon general and former new york state
health commissioner

A personal motto of "good science and good sense" has guided the distinguish career of Dr. Antonia C. Novello. Sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in 1990 as the 14th U.S. surgeon general, she became the first woman and the first Hispanic to serve in that capacity, where she distinguished herself for her fight against smoking and AIDS.

Soon after completing her tenure, she served as the U.N.'s Children's Fund special representative for health and nutrition, where she advised the executive director on issues regarding women and children. Her exceptional work with UNICEF then led to her appointment as the 13th New York State health commissioner in June 1999.

As state health commissioner, Novello led one of the largest public health agencies in the nation, and was responsible for a \$49.4 billion budget, the largest of any New York state agency and over one-third of the entire state's budget.

A native of Fajardo, Puerto Rico, Novello holds over 45 honorary doctoral degrees in addition to her board certification in pediatrics. She is a clinical professor of pediatrics at Georgetown University School of Medicine and at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION AWARD



Liza Gross

managing editor, presentations and operations, the
miami herald

In an industry dominated by men, Liza Gross has shattered news media stereotypes by joining the list of top ranking newspaper executives. As managing editor of presentation and operations for The Miami Herald, South Florida's oldest and largest newspaper, Gross is responsible for the paper's visual appearance, daily production and weekend news sections.

A native of Argentina, Gross is also making sure women continue to have a voice in the industry—both on the field and in the corporate setting—as one of the leading members of the board of directors of the International Women's Media Foundation. The foundation, which consists of a large network of female journalists in over 100 countries, was launched in 1990 with the aims of increasing the level and depth of women's role and coverage in the media.

Gross, who has over 22 years of journalism and communication experience, has held several management positions including serving as executive managing editor of El Nuevo Día, the largest circulation daily in Puerto Rico. She is also a former publisher of Exito, a Spanish-language daily of the Chicago Tribune and was an editor of the Associated Press' Latin America Desk in New York City.

BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD



Nina Vaca

chairman and CEO pinnacle technical resources, Inc.

From a very young age Nina Vaca developed the smarts and determination to succeed in business. At 17, she assumed responsibility of her family's travel agencies after the death of her father. That experience helped shape her into what she is today, one of the most influential Hispanic women in business and technology.

A native of Ecuador and a graduate of Texas State University in San Marcos, Vaca founded Pinnacle in 1996, an information technology services provider to

Fortune 500 companies.

Over the last three years she has grown the company 20-fold, employing about 700 consultants across 32 states and two countries. Pinnacle now ranks among the fastest-growing firms in America.

Vaca is the first two-time winner of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's prestigious Business Woman of the Year Award and was recently selected as one of the 50 Most Important Hispanics in business and technology by Hispanic Engineering and Technology Magazine as well as one of the Top 25 Women Business Builders in the U.S. by Fast Company magazine.