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Press Release

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For immediate release

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Gov. Martinez to speak at Hispano chamber banquet May 6

Las Cruces, N.M. – Gov. Susana Martinez will be the keynote speaker during the Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces 19th Annual Banquet set for 5 p.m. to midnight Friday, May 6, at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave.

The theme for the 2011 banquet is “Somos Unidos,” or “We are United,” in the spirit of collaboration that continues to grow among economic development organizations in the community.

“We are honored and very excited to have the governor return to Las Cruces and be with us on this very special night for the Las Cruces business community,” said Hispano chamber board President John Munoz. “This promises to be one of the greatest banquets we’ve ever hosted.” The banquet will take place at the Convention Center with catering by Dickerson’s catering. Tickets will go on sale Wednesday, March 30, at Just Chillin’ Nutrition, 300 N. Main St., and the Hispano chamber offices, 1990 E. Lohman Ave., at the Atrium Suites.

The evening will begin with cocktails and informal networking from 5 to 7 p.m., featuring live Mariachi music, a cash bar, hors d’oeuvres and a cigar and martini bar on the patio. The main program begins at 7 p.m. with dinner by Dickerson’s, the governor’s keynote speech and the annual awards ceremony. The emcee for the evening will be local business consultant Steve Chavira of Success ... Inc!

“We have set a high bar for this event and we hope our members enjoy this momentous time of the year,” said Hispano chamber board member and Events Committee Chair Jeffrey Silva. “We are very excited to have the governor at the Hispano chamber’s annual banquet. This an exciting year for businesses and the community at large and we hope everybody joins us the night of May 6.”

The evening will conclude with an after-party fiesta also at the Convention Center, featuring live music, a cash bar, hors d’oeuvres and a cigar and martini bar on the patio. This will be the first year the Hispano chamber hosts its annual banquet at the Las Cruces Convention Center.

A record turnout of more than 400 chamber members and community leaders showed their support for the Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces during its 18th Annual Awards Banquet held June 25, 2010, at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. The award for Nonprofit of the Year was given to El Caldito Soup Kitchen. The Large Business of the Year award went to Hampton Inn & Suites. The Small Business of the Year went to a relative newcomer Buffalo Wild Wings. Michelle Estrada was honored as the Educator of Excellence. Kevin Horner, owner of PTS Office Systems, was honored as the Businessperson of the Year.

Tickets are \$75 for individuals. Call 532-9255 for table prices and sponsorship opportunities. More information will be available soon at www.hispanobanquet.com and www.hispanochamberdelascruces.org.

About the Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces:

The Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces, through its diverse membership, advocates for business growth in the community and promotes Las Cruces and Hispanic business owners through economic development, education, community service, and cultural awareness. The Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces was initiated in 1992 as the Hispano Chamber of Doña Ana County, and in 1994 incorporated as The Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces. The original founders consisted of a group of businesspersons interested in developing a support organization for small, Hispanic businesses. In November 2010, the board unanimously voted to increase its board member count to 15 in order to better serve its members and the community at large.