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**Media website:** <http://newsdesk.si.edu>

## **Smithsonian Latino Center Announces Summer Leadership Opportunity**

### ***Young Ambassadors Program Fosters Next Generation of Latino Leaders***

The Smithsonian Latino Center is accepting applications for the 2011 Young Ambassadors Program being held June 19 through July 29. The deadline for all applications is Friday, April 8, before 5 p.m. EDT. For information on the application process, visit [www.latino.si.edu/education](http://www.latino.si.edu/education).

The Young Ambassadors Program is a national, interdisciplinary leadership development program for graduating high school seniors aimed at fostering pride in Latino culture and promoting higher education while exposing students to the arts, sciences and humanities via the Smithsonian Institution and its resources. Up to 24 students are selected for a weeklong seminar in Washington D.C., followed by a four-week internship in a museum or cultural institution in their community. Students meet and work with experts in the fields of history, science and the arts. The program also gives them practical and transferable knowledge and skills that can be applied to their education and future careers.

“We feel that the Young Ambassadors Program provides a unique and important opportunity for young people to further their understanding and instill pride in their Latino heritage,” said Eduardo Díaz, director of the Latino Center. “At the same time they are able to gain knowledge about future careers they might pursue. I am happy that the Smithsonian, with the support of Ford Motor Company Fund, continues to support this project.”

Selection is based on demonstrated interest, commitment and excellence in the arts, sciences and humanities as well as academic record, leadership experience and dedication to education and community service. The Young Ambassadors Program is underwritten by Ford Motor Co. Fund, and includes meals and accommodations for the duration of the one-week training seminar, round trip travel to Washington, D.C., and a program stipend. “Education is one of our top priorities, which is why we are proud to support the advancement of young Latino leaders and provide them with this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity through our nation’s museum complex” said Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Co. Fund and Community Services.

The Smithsonian Latino Center is the division of the Smithsonian Institution that ensures that Latino contributions to art, science and the humanities are highlighted, understood and advanced through the development and support of public programs, scholarly research, museum collections and educational opportunities at the Smithsonian Institution and its affiliated organizations across the United States and internationally. Website: <http://latino.si.edu>.

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