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## **Smithsonian Latino Center Accepting Applications for 2015 Young Ambassadors Program**

### *Summer Leadership Program Celebrates Its 10th Year*

The Smithsonian Latino Center is now accepting applications for the 2015 Young Ambassadors Program June 21 through July 31. The application deadline is April 6, before 5 p.m. EDT. The Young Ambassadors Program is a national program for graduating high school seniors aimed at fostering the next generation of Latino leaders in the arts, sciences and humanities via the Smithsonian and its resources. The program is made possible by the Ford Motor Company Fund.

Students interested and committed to the arts, sciences and humanities, as it pertains to Latino communities and cultures, are selected to travel to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong seminar at the Smithsonian. The week consists of visits to the Smithsonian's Latino collections and one-on-one interaction with experts from various fields, including museum professionals. Following the week in Washington, students participate in a four-week interdisciplinary internship in museums and cultural institutions in 19 cities across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, including Smithsonian-affiliated organizations.

Student 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 program includes meals and accommodations for the duration of the one-week training seminar, round-trip travel to Washington, D.C., and a program stipend following the four-week internship.

"We are excited to celebrate the 10th year of this signature leadership program at the Smithsonian," said Latino Center Director Eduardo Díaz. "Each summer a talented group of graduating high school seniors gets to experience the Smithsonian in an up-close and personal way. They leave here better connected and more inspired to serve their communities and work on behalf of our shared culture."

“Education is a top priority for Ford, and we are proud to continue our partnership for eight years with the Smithsonian Latino Center Young Ambassadors Program,” said Joe Avila, community outreach manager at the Ford Motor Company Fund. “Through this program we are making an impact by helping to create the next generation of committed Latino leaders who will make a difference in their communities.”

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 U.S. and internationally. For information on how to apply, visit [www.latino.si.edu/education](http://www.latino.si.edu/education).

Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services work with community partners to advance driving safety, education and community life. The Ford Motor Company Fund has operated for more than 60 years with ongoing funding from Ford Motor Company. Innovation in education is encouraged through national programs that enhance high school learning and provide college scholarships and university grants.

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