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February 6, 2012

Dear Colleague:

The Latino Commission on AIDS (the Commission), is pleased to invite you to the ***Dennis deLeon Sustainable Leadership Institute***. Named after Dennis deLeon, former president of the Commission and a tireless advocate on behalf of Latinos, people of color, LGBT and other marginalized populations, The Dennis Deleon Sustainable Leadership Institute is a space for emerging community leaders to enhance and develop leadership skills in order to impact HIV/AIDS local, state and federal health policy affecting Latinos in the Deep South.

In its second year, this institute aims to become an ongoing initiative in the Deep South, happening yearly with a different set of emerging leaders each year. The 2012 Dennis Deleon Sustainable Leadership Institute will take place from March to September 2012 and will focus on leaders in the states of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The Commission is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting and addressing the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Hispanic community. Through its extensive network of community-based allies, the Commission works to mobilize an effective Hispanic community response to the health crisis created by HIV/AIDS and is dedicated to ameliorating the HIV crisis in the Hispanic community, where social stigma, poverty, language barriers, immigration status, and access to care deter testing and increase the infection rate.

Registration for ***Dennis Deleon Sustainable Leadership Institute*** is free of charge. To apply or to nominate applicants please review the enclosed invitation packet. If you have any questions please contact Yanira Arias via email at yarias@latinoaids.org or by telephone at (212) 675-3288 ext. 344.

We hope you will join us for this important effort.

Best,

Yanira Arias
Director of Community Organizing
Latinos in the Deep South

Miriam Y. Vega, PhD
Vice President