

PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL BACKGROUND OF DR. LAURA G. MURILLO



Dr. Laura G. Murillo has recently been named President and Chief Executive Officer of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce effective March 1, 2007. For the past 4 years she was Senior Executive Director at Memorial Hermann – Texas Medical Center where she was responsible for administrative and operational areas. The Memorial Hermann Healthcare System is the largest non-profit healthcare system in Texas; servicing over 5 million people.

This dynamic professional has had many achievements during her career. The **Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** awarded Dr. Murillo with the **2003 Senior Executive of the Year Award** for her many accomplishments. Additionally, Dr. Murillo was the recipient of the **1st Annual National Hispanic Professional Organization's Leadership Award** for her outstanding contributions as a Hispanic professional in November of 2004. **The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, Inc.**, chose her to be recognized as one of the recipients of the **2006 ABC Channel 13 Women of Distinction**, an honor bestowed upon only a select few women who have greatly impacted their community.

Prior to joining the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System as Senior Executive Director of the Memorial Hermann Foundation in 2003, **Dr. Murillo was employed at the University of Houston for 14 years.** During her last three years at the University of Houston, Dr. Laura Murillo worked full-time as a **Major Gifts Officer**; maintained an **"A" average** as a **full-time doctoral student**; was named **Education Advocate of the Year by the Houston Chronicle and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**; accepted the **Senior Executive Director** position with the **Memorial Hermann Foundation** and **gave birth to a second child.**

She began her career at the University of Houston in student services and was promoted to the position of Director for the Urban Experience Program sponsored by the **Office of the President and the Center for Mexican American Studies**, at age 23, which earned her the honor of being the **youngest person to hold the Director's position in the history of university.**

As the **Founding Director**, retention and graduation rates among Hispanics students at UH increased dramatically due to her efforts and the support she was able to generate from the Houston community where she served as a liaison. As Founding Director, she organized the first Center for Mexican American Studies Noche Cultural Scholarship Fundraiser, benefiting the Urban Experience Program, now in its 11th year.

She was also responsible for setting benchmarks in the area of recruitment and retention by securing program funding, scholarships, paid internships, mentors, residential housing and conducting seminars, which students develop student leadership, build self-esteem, explore career opportunities and improve public speaking skills. She loves mentoring others...

During her tenure at the University of Houston, she served as host and producer of **"Adelante," a bilingual television program**, which focused on Hispanic issues. Dr. Murillo served as a guest speaker at more than 200 schools and community functions per year.

Dr. Murillo is the **youngest person elected to serve as President of Hispanic Women in Leadership**, the largest organization of professional Hispanic women in the Houston area. She also became **the youngest person to be inducted into the Hispanic Hall of Fame** for her community and educational service.

Texas Executive Women and the Houston Chronicle honored Laura as a **"1997 Woman on the Move."** **Texas Hispanic Magazine** named Laura among **"Houston's Most Influential Hispanic Women."** She was

also honored as the **“Latina of the Month”** by the **Houston Calendar**. Laura is a **graduate of the United Way’s Project Blueprint**. She was selected as a member in the **Greater Houston Partnership’s 2005 Center for Houston’s Future** class.

Laura was named as the **UH College of Education’s Outstanding Alumni of the Year** and she received **Telemundo’s Excellence in Education Award**. She participated in the **Asian American Studies Doctoral Fellowship** held at the **University of Beijing in China**.

Dr. Murillo served on the **Women’s Leadership Forum** hosted by the **United States Department of Labor Women’s Bureau**, a federal Agency established by **Congress** to promote policy and develop programs, which benefit women in the workforce. She was chosen as one of the panelist of prominent executive women for the **Texas Diversity Council’s 2006 “Women in Leadership Symposium.”**

Other honors include the **Community Service Award** from UH’s Kappa Delta Chi Sorority, **Outstanding Young Professional Award** from the Houston Jaycees, the Good Citizen Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution, **UH’s George Magner Award**, and the **Volunteer Award** from the Houston Police Department among many others.

Laura serves on numerous boards and is involved in many community organizations including: Greater Houston Partnership’s Center for Houston’s Future – *2005 Class Member*; Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce – *2005 and 2006 Gala Auction Chair*; Annunciation Orthodox School Gala – *2004 Advertising Chair*; University of Houston’s Graduate School of Social Work – *Dean’s Advisory Council Member*; Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA) – *Board Member*, Mexican Women’s Initiative – *Vice President and Advisory Board Member*; Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce – *Board Member*; Latina P.A.C. – *Founding Officer*; National Hispanic Professional Organization – *Advisory Board Member*; UH’s College of Education’s Alumni Association; Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars; UH’s Mexican American Alumni Association; Texas Executive Women; Leadership 2000; Greater Houston Hispanic Coalition; L.U.L.A.C.; Houston Hispanic Forum; Kappa Delta Chi; East End Chamber of Commerce; Girls Inc.; Hispanic Women in Leadership; Girls Scouts; Hispanic Media Professionals; Austin High School Alumni Association; United Way; Association for Fund Raising Professionals; the Association for Healthcare Professionals; the Human Race Steering Committee and Channel 45’s Advisory Board and many others.

Many of these community organizations have benefited from her fundraising consulting services. Her **doctoral dissertation** entitled, **“Factors Which Impact Hispanic Philanthropy,”** has served as the basis for articles she has published. She earned a **Doctorate Degree in Education (Administration and Supervision)**, a **Masters Degree in Education**, and a **Bachelors Degree in Communications** from the **University of Houston**.

Dr. Laura Murillo is the **youngest of nine children born to immigrant parents, Jose and Tomasa Gonzalez**. She was born and raised in **Houston’s East End barrio**, Magnolia, and is an **honors graduate of Austin High School**. She and her husband of 15 years, Jose Luis Murillo, have **two daughters**, Marisa age 7 and Mia age 4.