

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **UMOS HONORS OUTSTANDING HISPANICS**

UMOS held its 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Hispanic Awards Banquet on October 29<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the banquet was to recognize and honor outstanding Hispanics that have made significant contributions in the communities where they live and work. “This year’s recipients, as in past years, have lived up to the expectations of excellence of the UMOS Hispanic Awards Banquet,” states Lupe Martinez, President and Chief Executive Officer of UMOS.

This year’s award recipients included Martha R. Hernandez-Gomez, Hispanic Youth of the Year, Liz Claudio, Hispanic Woman of the Year, Dr. Enrique Figueroa, Hispanic Man of the Year, and Gus and Rebecca Ramirez Family, Hispanic Family of the Year.

**Martha R. Hernandez-Gomez** was determined to reach new heights at each stage in her life.

Growing up as a child of immigrant parents from Mexico shaped Martha’s perspective, sensitivity, goals and her dedication to reach new heights in education. Martha graduated from Brookfield Central High School with a cumulative grade point average of 4.01/4.0.

Martha’s intellectual capacity has driven her personal capacity to reach new heights in helping others. Martha was named volunteer of the year for the American Cancer Society in 2013 and volunteer of the year for Mexican Fiesta in 2014 and 2015.

Martha has received numerous awards and honors: United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Scholarship, HOPE Scholarship from Carroll University, Cultural Awareness Award, also from Carroll University, and the President’s Education Award. Many more are on the horizon.

Martha is enrolled at Carroll University where she is pursuing her studies in the medical field. According to one of her professors at Carroll University, Deirdre Keenan, Ph.D.,

“Martha will stand out in any class of medical students and bring a world of interest, intellect, talent and skill to everyone’s experience.”

**Liz Claudio**, RN is the Director of Clinical Operations at Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers. The Centers provide care to 40,000 patients each year.

Liz is the driver behind the quality and compassionate care at Sixteenth Street. She is influential behind the scenes. Liz organizes, innovates and guarantees our patients and community get the services they need and at the highest quality.

Liz is a proven and passionate leader. She oversees 200 clinical support staff and she hires the majority of her staff from the neighborhood, stimulating economic stability and vitality in the Latino Community. Liz brings out the best in all of her employees. She encourages them to strive for more, and to be more.

Due to her planning, training, direction and execution, Sixteenth Street was accredited by the Joint Commission, and this year, was certified by the Joint Commission as a Primary Care Medical Home.

Liz serves as Sixteenth Street’s operational leader with the Milwaukee Healthcare Partnership’s Specialty Access for Uninsured Program. Through this program and Liz’s efforts, uninsured individuals now have managed and timely access to much needed specialty medical care.

Liz Claudio’s work impacts thousands of individuals and families in the Latino Community. However, Liz has created an environment of excellence and warmth at Sixteenth Street so everyone in the community, not only has access to quality medical care, but has a place where they can feel at home.

**Dr. Enrique Figueroa** is a recognized national scholar, administrator, and leader in the Hispanic community. He is often times the “Ask Dr. Figueroa” go to expert when business executives, politicians, researchers, and the news media need information and data on important issues facing the Hispanic community.

Dr. Figueroa is an Associate Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. For 15 years, Dr. Figueroa was also the director of the Roberto Hernandez Center at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Many times students would ask Dr. Figueroa for advice on a multitude of issues.

Today, Dr. Figueroa is on sabbatical to develop a course on Urban Agriculture, and to analyze the Latino Non-Profit Leadership Program, which he directed, to make it even better when he returns.

Dr. Figueroa serves on or has served on a number of non-profit boards, university board of governors, government boards and national commissions and committees, including the White Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

From 1999 to 2001, Dr. Figueroa was appointed as Administrator of Agricultural Marketing Services by President Bill Clinton's Administration, and was later promoted to Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs at the United States Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Figueroa is the recipient of numerous national, state, and local awards, such as the President's 2012 Volunteer Service Award, the NFL/ Green Bay Packers Hispanic Leadership Award, and the Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee Hispanic Professional of the Year Award.

**Gus and Becky Ramirez** believe that education is essential and serves as the foundation of economic growth in the U.S.

Gus Ramirez, Executive Chairman of HUSCO International, with \$400 million in global sales, has degrees in aerospace from the Georgia Institute of Technology and an MBA from Harvard University. Becky is a graduate of Agnes Scott College and obtained an MS in Education from the National College of Education.

Their son, Austin, has an engineering degree from the University of Virginia and an MBA from Standard. Daughter Abby is also a graduate of the University of Virginia with an MBA from Stanford University and Anna graduated from Vanderbilt University.

Education has been the centerpiece of the Ramirez's philanthropic efforts. The Ramirez Family supported the construction of the elementary and middle schools at United Community Center. The Augustin A. Ramirez, Jr. Family Foundation provides college scholarships each year to over 100 students in the Greater Milwaukee area.

The Ramirez family is also committed to building Christian schools in Central America with a goal of "touching" 1,000,000 children. The family was also the initial funder of "Schools That Can Milwaukee," an organization dedicated to building excellent schools in Milwaukee.

Most recently, the Ramirez Family Foundation has committed to investing \$60 million to build a new K-12 school on Milwaukee's South Side. The St. Augustine Preparatory Academy will provide capacity to educate 1500 children. The second expansion, planned for 2022/2023, will double the capacity to 3,000 students.

Gus Ramirez has received numerous awards, including the 2015 Wisconsin Business Leader of the Year by the Harvard Business School Club of Wisconsin, the 2014 inductee into the Association of Equipment Manufacturers Hall of Fame, the Wisconsin Master Entrepreneur of the Year Award, the YMCA Key Leader Award, Hispanic Professional of the Year, and the Inaugural Friedlander/Ladky Award for philanthropic efforts.

*UMOS is a non-profit, advocacy organization that provides programs and services which improve the employment, educational, health and housing opportunities of under-served populations.*

