



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## University Center Receives Educational Leadership Award

The Coalición Latinos Unidos de Lake County (CLULC) selected the University Center of Lake County to receive its 2009 Educational Leadership Award. The award was presented at CLULC's Fifteenth Anniversary Gala on September 25, 2009 in Grayslake. CLULC President Ennedy Rivera noted, "The Educational Leadership Award is given to an outstanding leader in the education and leadership promotion of Latinos by an individual or an organization."

Rivera cited three noteworthy achievements. The first was working with University Center member institution Illinois



State University to bring a five-year, grant-funded program that enabled 60 bilingual teacher aides from high need school districts to become full-certified elementary school teachers with bilingual endorsements.

“By ‘growing their own’ through this program, the partner school districts gained new bilingual teachers who were already very familiar with the Latino community in the district and with the districts’ facilities, staff, and policies and procedures. These new teachers were able to begin making an immediate difference in the lives of the students in their classrooms,” Rivera stated.

Also deemed meritorious was a program that provides bilingual guidance to students in navigating the financial aid application process, and the Center’s extensive outreach into the Latino community which begins by preparing elementary school parents to guide their children on a path that will prepare them for higher education.

Myra Gaytan-Morales, Director of the University Center at Waukegan; Lynne Reynolds, Director of the Educators’ Center;



and Judy Lorenz, Executive Associate for Financial and Administrative Management, accepted the award on behalf of the University Center. The handsome crystal tablet will be displayed at the University Center facility in Waukegan.

The University Center's member institutions are:

Benedictine University, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Concordia University Chicago, DePaul University, Dominican University, Governors State University, Illinois State University, Kendall College, National-Louis University, North Park University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Roosevelt University, Saint Xavier University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Illinois at Springfield, and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Each offers selected programs.

For more information about programs offered through the University Center of Lake County, visit its website

[www.ucenter.org](http://www.ucenter.org) or call 847/665-4000.

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