

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Kaitlin Archambault  
The Futuro Media Group  
361 West 125th Street, Fourth Floor  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: (646) 571-1220  
Email: [kaitlin@futuromediagroup.org](mailto:kaitlin@futuromediagroup.org)

**“GROWING UP LATINO AND SURVIVING TO 25”:  
NPR’S LATINO USA TO HOST PANEL AT UC DAVIS**

**(New York, NY – April 8, 2013)** Surviving the emotional rollercoaster of adolescence is a double and sometimes triple challenge for Latino/a youth. Culture and tradition complicate universal adolescent issues like anxiety, depression, peer pressure, and relationships. Youth in immigrant families often have difficulty navigating the different worlds of school and the streets, home and family. Family separations further compound the challenges for young people’s emotional and mental health. Where can these young people go for help? Do available counselors and mental health professionals understand cultural factors? Do they even literally speak the same language?

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, The Futuro Media Group, in collaboration with the UC Davis Center for Reducing Health Disparities and the UC Davis Cross Cultural Center, will present a panel of renowned experts and speakers, moderated by award-winning journalist and Latino USA executive producer and host Maria Hinojosa, exploring the challenges of growing up Latino/a. Dr. Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola and Dr. Lina Mendez of the UC Davis Center for Reducing Health Disparities will share key findings from a June 2012 study of the landscape of mental health services for Latinos in California. Dr. Luis Zayas, Dean of the School of Social Work and Centennial Professor in Leadership at The University of Texas at Austin, will share findings from his 25 years of research on Latina suicide and family separation. Three young people: a UC Davis student, an SFSU student, and the Youth Initiatives Coordinator for the Mental Health Association of San Francisco, will speak about their personal experiences coping with (mis)diagnosis, foster care, identity, family, and themselves. Excerpted recordings from Maria Hinojosa’s exclusive January 2013 interview with Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor for Latino USA will explore how Sotomayor dealt with her father’s death, her mother’s mourning, and became who she is today.

The panel will take place at the UC Davis Student Community Center, Second Floor, from 5:30PM-7:30PM PDT. The event will also be accessible to a national audience through live streaming at <http://www.futuromediagroup.org/lusa/growing-up-latino-and-surviving-to-25/>. A social media crowdsourcing campaign with the hashtag #whatmakesmecrazy will encourage youth across California to contribute through personal videos, photographs, and statements. More information on the campaign is available at <http://www.futuromediagroup.org/lusa/you-crazy-media-kit/>.

The event, organized by The Futuro Media Group, producers of the NPR program Latino USA, is made possible through the support of The California Endowment and The Marguerite Casey

Foundation. This event is part of Latino USA's California Endowment funded "Special Health Reports: The State of California" series, which brings national coverage to particular health challenges faced by an often impoverished and invisible Latino population in California.

Segments from the series are available online after they air at

<http://www.futuromediagroup.org/lusa/category/special-reports/special-health-reports-the-state-of-california/>.

Partners for the event include the Community Advising Network (UC Davis CAPS), Capital Public Radio, Sacramento Youth Empowerment Studios, and College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) at CSU Sacramento.

For more information, including presenter bios, directions, and related content, visit

<http://www.futuromediagroup.org/lusa/growing-up-latino-and-surviving-to-25/>.

The Futuro Media Group is an independent non-profit media organization dedicated to producing multimedia journalism that explores and gives critical voice to the diversity of the American experience, was founded in 2010 by award-winning journalist Maria Hinojosa. Based in Harlem, The Futuro is committed to sharing stories often overlooked by mainstream media, nurturing the development of a new generation of diverse journalists in America.

Latino USA, produced by The Futuro Media Group and distributed by NPR, is the foremost Latino voice in public media and the longest-running Latino-focused program on the radio. The program will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> year on air this year.

Maria Hinojosa is an award-winning reporter, news anchor, and author with more than 25 years of experience as an investigative journalist. Among Hinojosa's accolades are four Emmys, the 2012 John Chancellor Award for Excellence in Journalism, Robert F. Kennedy Award for Reporting on the Disadvantaged, and Chicago's Studs Terkel Community Media Award. Hinojosa is currently the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Chair of the Latin American and Latino Studies program at De Paul University in Chicago.

For more information or to arrange interviews with Maria Hinojosa, please contact Kaitlin Archambault at (646) 571-1220 or [kaitlin@futuromediagroup.org](mailto:kaitlin@futuromediagroup.org).

###