



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

OVER TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO AMERICA'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

News Advisory

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REP. ANTONIO CÁRDENAS HEADLINES DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Washington, D.C., August 31, 2018 — **Dialogue on Diversity** presents its twenty sixth Entrepreneurship/Information Technology Conference Friday, September 7, at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill. The title for the 2018 edition of the program is **STEAM: Power for the XXI Century**, underlining the theme of the conference are the essential STEM studies (the curriculum of Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) studies, now with an added A for Arts (STEAM!).

Key speaker for the Conference is **Rep. Antonio Cárdenas**, of the 29th District of California. Entering the national scene with his election in 2012, Rep. Cárdenas is surely the prophet and advocate par excellence of a robust entrepreneurial ethic in America. Having labored through arduous years building his own enterprise, he has now set about seeking to shape a public framework for the flourishing of this ethos. Rep. Cárdenas, having just entered his second term in the Congress, held a Dialogue on Diversity audience spellbound with his powerful account in the 2015 Entrepreneurship Conference at the **Microsoft Innovation Center** in Washington, of the genesis of entrepreneurial spirit and the benefits conferred on a consuming society through the effort, and indeed sacrifices, of an entrepreneurial vanguard.

An added highlight of the Conference is the presentation of the **Corporate Excellence Award 2018** to a high achiever in management and information sciences, **Ms. Laura Berrocal**, Senior Advisor, Policy and External Affairs, at the information technology giant **Charter Communications**. Ms. Berrocal in little more than a decade has compiled an enviable record of management successes in the IT industries, among her positions work with CTIA, Net Communications, MMTTC, and others. She has previously appeared as a speaker with Dialogue on Diversity in its Entrepreneurship / IT program for 2016.

The Dialogue's 2018 Conference features, among many others, **Hon. Gregory Rohde**, former Assistant Secretary of Commerce and NTIA head, on the information revolution in its technological and historical dimensions, **Hon. Luís Borunda**, Deputy Secretary of State for Maryland, **Sharon Pinder**, President, Minority Supplier Development Council, on supplier diversity, the versatile **Bacilia Angel**, a Lead Systems Engineer at Mitre on a set of health care issues, **Brenda Leong** of the Future of Privacy Forum on the technical intricacies and privacy quandaries of IoT (Internet of Things), **Alicia C. Lane** of TechBridge Girls, and **Dwight Barbour**, coding technology expert.

Recognition is also in order for leading participants in the STEAM / Business Fair coordinated with the Conference. These represent the leadership of numerous groups of educators, business organizations, and interested persons from the public who have dedicated efforts to encouraging STE(A)M learning among the generations soon to arrive at the country's leadership roles.

Registration for the September 7th Conference, which is offered free, can be made at **www.dialogueondiversity.org**. The Conference program runs from 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. with a reception following.