



COMUNIDADES LATINAS  
UNIDAS EN SERVICIO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Contact:

Kathleen Westerhaus

Sr. Vice President, Resource Development and  
Contract Compliance

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio

651-379-4257 / [kwesterhaus@clues.org](mailto:kwesterhaus@clues.org)

[www.clues.org](http://www.clues.org)

**Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio's (CLUES) Adult Education Program Recognized as  
PEGASUS Program of Excellence by Minnesota Department of Education**

*Saint Paul and Minneapolis, September 2, 2011* – The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and Literacy Action Network have selected CLUES' Adult Education Program as a PEGASUS (Program of Excellence: Guaranteeing Addult Students Unlimited Success) Program of Excellence for CLUES' cutting-edge work and commitment to creating a transition to employment for its adult students. CLUES' involvement and leadership in the adult basic education (ABE) community through its presentations at ABE conferences and participation in the St. Paul Community Literacy Consortium also impressed the PEGASUS selection committee.

The PEGASUS Program of Excellence recognition is granted annually to an ABE program or consortium by the State of Minnesota (MDE-ABE) and the Literacy Action Network, Minnesota's ABE professional organization. The award recognizes superior program quality and excellent adult student achievement. Selection criteria are based on the ABE Quality Indicators and additional criteria unique to the type of ABE program.

“Through both the application and the site visit, CLUES demonstrated its excellence through its adult programming and transitions emphasis. The reviewers were extremely impressed with the program, the sites and (most of all) the students and staff!” says Brad Hasskamp, Adult Basic Education Policy and Operations Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Education.

CLUES' Adult Education Program offers English as a Second Language classes, basic computer skills classes, U.S. citizenship exam preparation classes, financial education classes, and Customer Service for a Diverse World trainings, as well as other employment skills certification and work readiness classes, to adults in the community.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, clients, volunteers, friends, and supporters of CLUES, we are deeply honored by this most prestigious recognition from the Minnesota Department of Education,” states Jesse Bethke Gomez, President of CLUES. “This recognition is an affirmation of how our innovative adult education program helps adult students further their educational achievement, thereby building bridges to success and eliminating disparities in education.”

CLUES' Adult Education Program falls under the umbrella of Education Enrichment Services. Education Enrichment Services is a part of CLUES' Economic Advancement Services Division (EASD). Nationally recognized by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the National Council of the Raza (NCLR), CLUES' Economic Advancement Services Division consists of Employment Services, Education Enrichment Services, and Financial Empowerment Services. EASD employs a linguistically appropriate and culturally proficient, family-centric program model to assist individuals and families in overcoming barriers to family stability and economic prosperity. Families enjoy improved parenting, financial stability, increased educational levels and improved English language proficiency, healthier home environments, and academically and socially successful children who pursue educational goals, careers, and economic independence to build stronger communities.

###

**About CLUES**

CLUES is in its 30th year of service to the community and has been among the top twenty-five Hispanic non-profit agencies in the United States, as ranked by Hispanic Business Magazine. The agency provides a family-centric, coordinated care model of linguistically appropriate and culturally competent services to Latino and other diverse communities in Minnesota. The divisions of CLUES include: Mental Health Services; Chemical Health Services; Family Services; Economic Advancement Services; Aging Well Services; and Community Health Worker Services.