



COMUNIDADES LATINAS  
UNIDAS EN SERVICIO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) Integrates Its Adult Education, Parent Mentoring, Youth Leadership, and Early Childhood Education Programs into Education Enrichment Services**

*Saint Paul and Minneapolis, August 30, 2011* – CLUES is pleased to announce that it has combined its adult education, parent mentoring, youth leadership, and early childhood education programs under the aegis of a dynamic and integrated service model now known as Education Enrichment Services. Clients benefit from innovative, coordinated services that help them to set long-term goals in order to further their educational achievement and economic advancement.

CLUES' family-centric approach to education, now under the umbrella of Education Enrichment Services, translates into a wide range of services provided to individuals and families throughout their lifespan. For starters, CLUES administers a daytime and evening early childhood program for children of parents enrolled in adult education classes. Youth ages 13-18 participate in the Youth Leadership Initiative, which provides adult mentors, academic support, and leadership development opportunities. For their part, adults can enroll in English as a Second Language (ESL) 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. Latino parents and youth at area schools also benefit from the Learning Together Program, which provides knowledge, resources, mentorship, and services that help parents successfully support their children's healthy development and educational achievement.

“The objective of Education Enrichment Services, to empower individuals and families to further their education and help them to achieve long-term self-sufficiency and economic success, isn't a new proposition,” says Jesse Bethke Gomez, President of CLUES. “Our cutting-edge educational programs have always delivered high-impact results to the community. In 2010, for instance, CLUES served 568 adult clients in English, computer skills, citizenship, and work readiness classes. Fifty-three percent of those participants who attended at least twelve hours showed improvement on a standardized English test. Additionally, over eighty percent of participating Latino parents increased the daily time spent reading books with their children and reported an increased ability to support their children's academic achievement, literacy, and extended learning at home. This new and integrated service model ensures that our clients receive cohesive, client-centered 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.

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**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.