



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CLUES Elects New Chair and Officers to the Board of Directors**

*Saint Paul, MN – May 31, 2016.* The Board of Directors of Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES), Minnesota’s largest Latino-led nonprofit, elected a new Chairman, Officers, and two new Members at its May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Gonzalo Petschen, Managing Director of North America Global Edible Oil Solutions for



Cargill, Inc., was recently elected by his peers as the new Chairman of the Board of Directors. Since 2012, he has been responsible for the Business Unit’s profitability and growth. Gonzalo was born in Chile, and lived in Europe and South America.

“CLUES is an important Minnesota institution and taking on a leadership role within the organization is an exciting opportunity for me as well. CLUES has represented the values and the legacy of Latinos in the State for the last 35 years and its ongoing success reaffirms where we’re headed as an economic force in this country”, stated Petschen.

The Board of Directors also elected a new slate of Officers for the 2016-2017 term. They include: *Vice Chairman* - Efrain Cardenas, Trade Director for the Snacks Operating Unit, General Mills; *Treasurer* - Jeff Savage, Senior Vice President and Controller, Xcel Energy Inc.; and *Secretary* - Lorena Hernandez, Business Operations Leader for Latin America, Ecolab.

In addition, two new members were elected to serve on the Board for a first three-year term: Lorena Hernandez, Business Operations Leader for Latin America at Ecolab and Miguel Ruiz Diaz, Regions Hospital.



New Officers (Left to Right) Efrain Cardenas, Vice Chair; Ruby Lee, President; Gonzalo Petschen, Chair and Jeff Savage, Treasurer. (Lorena Hernandez, Secretary – not available for the photo)

Lorena Hernandez has been a volunteer and youth mentor at CLUES since 2010. She has an Industrial Engineering Degree from Northwestern University and has received many honors and recognitions, including: representing Target Corporation for *Top 5 Employee Resource Groups in the Country Award* by Latina Style Magazine, *GE Corporate Citizenship Leadership Award* for building the trademarked healthymagination community service program, among many others. Lorena is daughter of Mexican and Nicaraguan parents and grew up in the U.S. navigating two cultures as a Spanish-speaking youth.

Dr. Miguel Ruiz Diaz is a physician at Health Partners Regions Hospital where he served as Chief of Staff during 2014-2015. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine (U of M), a lecturer, and an expert in Latino and cross-cultural health care issues. He was named among the “Top 100 Doctors, Hospital Medicine and Palliative Care” and “Top 100 Doctors for Women” by the Minnesota Monthly Magazine. He has received many awards, including: The *Faculty Teacher of the Year Award* by Regions Hospital and University of Minnesota, and the *Best Project Award* by Disparity Solution Center. He is originally from Spain.

“We greatly appreciate the outstanding leadership given by our outgoing chair, John Pacheco. During his leadership on the board, CLUES has grown and become a stronger organization”, stated Ruby Lee, President of CLUES.

“We are very grateful to these outstanding leaders for their commitment and service to our organization, and our Latino community. Their strong experience and leadership skills will be an asset to the future vision of the organization and to our commitment to making a larger print in the fabric of this State”. “This fall, CLUES will celebrate its 35 Years of Leadership and Legacy with the general community. We will begin with an outdoor ***Fiesta Latina*** in Saint Paul on September 10 and will conclude with our ***35th Anniversary Gala*** in Minneapolis on October 11. The Gala will bring together over 500 civic and community leaders thanks to corporate sponsors and the leadership of the General Mills Foundation,” concluded Lee.

### ***ABOUT CLUES***

CLUES was founded in 1981 and today serves over 12,000 individuals in direct services each year. Programs aim to move families forward in a two generation approach that connects parents and children to the skills and resources they need to thrive. CLUES’ health and family wellbeing services include mental and chemical health clinical services, family supports, elder care, and community health education. Economic prosperity programs include: employment and workforce development, children, youth, and adult education, homeownership classes, financial education, and free tax preparation. For more information about CLUES, please visit [www.clues.org](http://www.clues.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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