

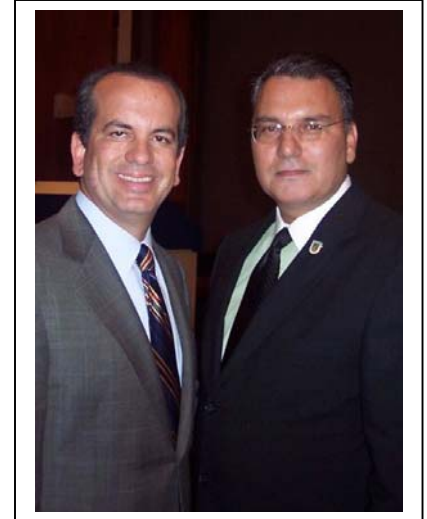
THE ASPIRANTE

Official Newsletter of ASPIRA of Florida, Inc.

September 21, 2006

CONECTANDO A PUERTO RICO CONFERENCE

By: Dr. David Rafky

Raúl A. Martínez (right),**President and CEO of ASPIRA of Florida, Inc.,****with Anibal Acevedo-Vila (left),****Governor of the****Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,****at the recent Conectando Conference****on the island.**

The ASPIRA Association's national office in Washington, DC, along with ASPIRA de Puerto Rico, La Alianza para el Desarrollo de Puerto Rico, PRMA, INDUNIV and the Instituto de Política Publica del SUAGM along with corporate sponsors IBM and El Nuevo Dia sponsored a conference at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan. The one day event, on September 13th was titled, "Hacia un Puerto Rico Digital: Encuentro entre Chile y Puerto Rico."

The conference brought together a select group of top leaders from the Commonwealth's business sector, state and local government, education and community-based organizations to help develop a common vision and understanding of a new economic development model for Puerto Rico. The strategy is to utilize information technology and assemble a broad coalition to create a knowledge-based economy on the island.

The economic development model –Conectando a Puerto Rico– developed by ASPIRA, is a roadmap to creating a technology-based economic sector in Puerto Rico, which will stimulate business and job creation and attract external investment.

The conference examined successful development models in other countries such as the Chilean experience in crafting a national consensus leading to a comprehensive national information technology development plan, *Chile Digital 2010*.

Raul Martinez, President and CEO of ASPIRA of Florida, Inc., represented the educational sector among the 150 invited guests. They were welcomed by the Honorable Anibal Acevedo-Vila, Governor of the Commonwealth. The keynote speaker was the Honorable Mariano Fernandez, Chilean Ambassador to the United States.

Ronald Blackburn-Moreno, President and CEO of the ASPIRA Association, helped plan the conference and provided introductory as well as concluding remarks where he outlined the next steps in modernizing the island's infrastructure.

Presentations covered: Chile Digital, Restoring Growth to the Economy of Puerto Rico, The Knowledge Economy, Educational Requirements for a Knowledge Economy, Emergent Information Communication Technologies, and The Knowledge Economy and Policy Making. dr