

**MEDIA ALERT**

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: October 19, 2011

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## **LAA Announces Organizational Change**

ATLANTA (October 19, 2011) The Latin American Association (LAA) today announced a restructuring move to meet the immediate needs and strategic goals of the organization by eliminating the CEO position and making Jeffrey Tapia, Chief Operating Officer, responsible for leadership of the Association. She has been working with the LAA and other organizations serving the Latino community for more than 30 years.

"We are appreciative of the leadership that former CEO Millie Irizarry has provided the LAA during these last three years," said Carmelo Alvarez, board chair of the nonprofit organization and State Farm Agency Field Executive. "With the economic challenges facing nonprofits, including the LAA, the Board of Directors has formed a committee to assist Tapia and the leadership team in addressing these challenges, while actively continuing to serve our community."

"I will continue to serve the LAA and the community in this new structure. We have talented employees who are dedicated to providing the best possible services to the Latino community. It is through their efforts that we are able to assist 52,000 individuals and their families each year," said Tapia.

"I look forward to expanding LAA's relationships with the community at-large," she continued. "Without the support of individuals, corporations and foundations we would not be able to serve this fast growing population in the manner that we do."

As Atlanta's largest, most comprehensive nonprofit service provider, the Latin American Association's mission is to help Latino families achieve their aspirations for academic, social and economic advancement. The LAA helps Latinos integrate fully into the community through direct programs and community partnerships that focus on youth academic achievement, services for families with urgent needs, employment and educational programs, victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and immigration legal services.

For more information, contact Board Chair, Carmelo Alvarez at 770-298-5927 between 4 and 5 p.m. today, Oct. 19, 2011 or Sarah Marske at (404) 471-1892.

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About The Latin American Association:

The Latin American Association helps Latino families achieve their aspirations for academic, social and economic advancement. We accomplish this through direct programs and integrated community partnerships that focus on youth academic achievement, education and prevention, and services to families with urgent needs. The LAA offers employment, immigration and translation services, as well as programs for youth, computer classes, parenting classes, and English and Spanish language classes. Visit [www.thelaa.org](http://www.thelaa.org) for more information.