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AVANCE Holds Second Annual Economic Forum

For Immediate Release-October 26 2009 (Houston,TX): AVANCE Houston held its second annual Economic Forum on Thursday, October 22, 2009 at the Federal Reserve Bank on Allen Parkway. The luncheon event, which drew more than 100 attendees, was geared to business and industry leaders in the Houston area and offered them perspectives on the changing demographics of our city and the ways in which they impact us all.

Dr. Stephen Klineberg, Rice University professor and Director of the Houston Area Survey presented his most recent data and emphasized the astonishing changes in our city's racial composition over the past three decades. Although Houston is one of the first "majority minority" cities in the United States, Klineberg stressed that Houston mirrors the future of America. As the Hispanic sector in our community continues to surge, Klineberg stated that the major challenge facing all of our citizens is the transition to the "information economy" in which "what you earn will depend on what you learn". *"Gone are the days of blue collar careers, requiring minimal education"*, said Klineberg and he cited programs like AVANCE as absolutely critical in helping families assure both educational and economic success. How Houston handles this transition can be a model for the nation, Klineberg noted and he also cited numerous measures of assimilation to support the fact that Hispanics patterns of becoming "Americanized" are almost identical to all the previous waves of immigrants who have come to our shores.

Among those in attendance were Paul Murphy, President/CEO of Amegy Bank, Mexican Consul General Carlos Gonzalez Magallón, Texas State Senator Mario Gallegos, and creator of numerous innovative Houston restaurants, Michael Cordúa, who will be will be honored at AVANCE's Annual Celebration on February 12, 2010.

The Economic Forum was underwritten by the following companies: Centerpoint Energy, ICON Information Consultants, Walmart, Chevron, MFR, and Challenge Office Products.

AVANCE'S mission is to improve child well being through family learning and parental involvement in children's education. AVANCE, meaning "advance" has been serving the educational needs of thousands of lower income families since 1988.

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