

Our Vision

Hermanas Latinas Productions presents the first Freshmen-to-Freshmen Latina Reception. It is essential that every young Latina have a mentor that can help and talk to them about life decisions. This evening will provide an opportunity for College and High School Latina freshmen to network with faculty, staff and student Latina role models. They will further establish community and develop lasting connections.

Thank you for joining us.
It will be an evening to remember.

Special Thanks

Multicultural Student Affairs
Coca-Cola
Underrepresented Student Advisory Council
Alcohol & Drug Resource Center
Texas State University Bookstore
Law Firm of Joe Flores
John Singleterry - Freelance Artist

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Notable Hispanic Women

Sonia Sotomayor (born June 25, 1954)

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. She was nominated on May 26, 2009, by President Barack Obama. She is only the third woman to serve on the Supreme Court. Sotomayor has the distinction of serving as the first Hispanic Justice. She was raised in the Bronx in a housing project. Her parents were born in Puerto Rico, and came to New York during WWII. She excelled in school, and finished her undergraduate study at Princeton with honors. She earned a law degree from Yale Law School in 1979.

Frida Kahlo (born July 6, 1907-1954)

She is one of Mexico's most famous artists and also something of a feminist icon, celebrated for her passionate indomitability in the face of life's trials. She was born to a Hungarian-Jewish father and a mother of Spanish and Mexican Indian descent. She's best known for her self-portraits. As a child she had polio, at 18 she broke her right leg and pelvis in a bus accident, leading to a lifetime of chronic pain. Today her paintings fetch more money than any other female artist. In 1983, Hayden Herrera wrote a book, *A Biography of Frida Kahlo*, and was recently the subject of a 2002 film entitled *Frida*. The film was nominated for six Academy Awards.

Selena Quintanilla (born April 16, 1971-1995)

She was considered the "Queen of Tejano," a type of Mexican music that incorporated other styles, such as country. She started performing at age 6, won her first music award at 15, and signed with a major record label at 18. Selena won Best Female Vocalist of the Year and Performer of the Year at the 1987 Tejano Music Awards. Her album *Ven Conmigo* (1990) was the first Tejano record to achieve gold record status. Selena died on March 31, 1995, in Corpus Christi, Texas after being shot by Yolanda Saldivar, the founder of the Selena fan club. Since her untimely death, her story was the subject of a 1997 film starring Jennifer Lopez and Edward James Olmos.

Sandra Cisneros (born December 20, 1954)

She is an American novelist, short-story writer, essayist, and poet. Cisneros is one of the first Hispanic-American writers who has achieved commercial success. She is lauded by literary scholars and critics for works which help bring the perspective of Chicana (Mexican-American) women into the mainstream of literary feminism. She is best known for her acclaimed first novel *The House on Mango Street* (1984). In her poetry and stories she writes about Mexican and Mexican American women who find strength to rise above the poor conditions of their lives. In 1991 she received a major publishing contract for a work about Chicanas. Cisneros received her B.A. from Loyola University in 1976 and her M.F.A. from the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop in 1978.

Did You Know

The Pew Hispanic Center did a study on Latinos and Education and here's what they found out.

- "Nearly nine in ten (89%) Latino young adults ages 16-25 say that a college education is important for success in life, yet only about half that number (48%) say that they themselves plan to get a college degree."
- "Among foreign-born young Latinos ages 16-25, nearly three in ten (29%) say they plan to obtain a bachelor's degree or more. However, a higher share (36%) of foreign-born young Latinos say they do not want to continue their education."
- "Latinos ages 18-24 are less likely to say they are currently enrolled in school than all young adult ages 18-24 – 33% versus 42%."

Lead your own life!

According to Caliper, women have qualities that make us unique leaders.

- Women leaders are more persuasive, assertive and willing to take more risks than male leaders.
- Women leaders also were found to be more empathic and flexible, as well as stronger in interpersonal skills than their male counterparts.
- "Strong leadership starts with being able to pull together a group of people – who may not have anything in common – and getting them to buy into a vision of themselves as a collective group who can achieve uncommon results."
-Connie Jackson

Think about this...

- Only 53% of the total Hispanic population finishes high school
- 8% of Latinas have a Bachelor's degree
- 2.9% have an advanced degree
- In 2004 61% of all Latinos who earned their Bachelor's degree were women.

