



El Pueblo, Inc.

4 N. Blount Street, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27601
Tel. 919-835-1525 - Fax. 919-835-1526
www.elpueblo.org

*Civic Participation • Cultural Program • Leadership Development
Advocacy • Education • Health • Public Safety • Youth Program*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 14, 2007

Contact:

M. Zulayka Santiago (919) 621-5990
Peter J. Morris (919) 250-3813

Leadership Transition at El Pueblo, Inc.

RALEIGH, NC— After nearly two years of dynamic leadership, Zulayka Santiago will leave the position of Executive Director at El Pueblo, Inc. in September. Santiago will champion Latino rights and social justice in other venues, continuing to further El Pueblo's mission of strengthening North Carolina's Latino community.

"We are grateful for Zulayka's strong leadership and wish her well in her new role" said Dr. Peter Morris, President of the Board of Directors. "For 13 years, El Pueblo has been known for building bridges between the Latino community and government, media, foundations, and other leadership organizations. Zulayka's gift has been to help our organization and community acknowledge the tremendous change and influence of our increasingly diverse Latino communities over this decade. Because of her leadership, El Pueblo is better positioned to continue our role as a collaborative leader."

During Santiago's tenure, El Pueblo strengthened grassroots connections and built new community champions, said Hilton Cancel, past president of the board. "We are especially proud of Zulayka's work in bringing about our recent Latino Day at the NC General Assembly, and her leadership in developing our progressive legislative agenda and our growing partnerships with the NAACP, the NC Latino Coalition and other grassroots organizations across the state," he said.

El Pueblo will continue its work seamlessly, with operations overseen by an internal management team. The internal team will also oversee El Pueblo's comprehensive succession plan for this leadership transition. "El Pueblo will continue its work and community leadership during the transition," said Santiago, noting the upcoming annual events: the Latino Issues Forum in June and El Pueblo's signature event -- La Fiesta del Pueblo -- in September.

"This is a pivotal time for North Carolina's immigrant communities. With our strong staff and experienced board, El Pueblo's organizational and my personal commitment to social justice is unwavering."

###

About El Pueblo, Inc.:

El Pueblo is a North Carolina non-profit statewide advocacy and public policy organization dedicated to strengthening the Latino Community. This mission is accomplished through leadership development, proactive and direct advocacy, education, and promotion of cross-cultural understanding in partnerships at the local, state, and national levels. For more information, please visit our website: www.elpueblo.org