

Release at Will
Media Contact: Lisa Desatnik, 513-984-5474



NKU's Leo Calderón Serving As Co-Chair For YMCA Salute Gala

Leo Calderón, director for Latino student affairs at Northern Kentucky University, is serving as co-chair for the 2009 Salute to YMCA Black & Hispanic Achievers Gala.

The Gala, which will recognize regional professionals of color for their career accomplishments and volunteerism, will be held November 20 at the Duke Energy Center. CSI NY star Hill Harper will be the featured speaker.

Honorees will demonstrate their commitment to giving back through their involvement as mentors in the YMCA Black & Hispanic Teen Achievers Program. Since its beginning That Program has awarded more than \$150,000 in scholarships, and engaged more than 3,400 adult volunteers through a network of corporate and community partners. The Program includes college prep and leadership development activities focusing on study skills/time management, interviewing techniques, financial management, team-building field trips, community service-learning projects, college tours and more. It strongly incorporates the Abundant Assets – 40 critical factors for the successful growth and development of young people – and centers around the relationships of adult professional mentors and teens. The 2009 to 2010 goal is to serve over 500 students in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky communities.

Mr. Calderón has over twenty four years of experience at Northern Kentucky University and is a valuable asset to the Program as it expands to serve more Hispanic teens. Mr. Calderón has a master's degree in public administration from NKU, a bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice, and an associate of arts in psychology from Thomas More College. He is a board member of the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati and has consulted with major corporations, schools and other non-profit organizations on building relationships with the growing Latino community.

About the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati: As the area's largest youth and family-focused not-for-profit, the YMCA reinforces character values through assets-based programs and services to more than 143,000 individuals, kids and families annually. Adult mentors encourage young people to be caring, responsible, respectful, and honest through sports, summer camps, structured child and afterschool care, and leadership building programs. Branches offer quality time for families, resources for parents, and a variety of opportunities for seniors to be active. The Membership for All sliding scale fee structure means everyone, no matter their ability to pay, can always benefit from the YMCA. Last year alone more than 17,400 families and individuals enjoyed healthier and happier lives because generous partners helped the YMCA in its vision to be accessible to all.

###