The Women’s Pipeline for Change is building a sustainable infrastructure to support progressive women of color as they enter, navigate, and move up the pipeline of public leadership. It aims to expand public expectations of who our leaders are.

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UMass Boston’s Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies works to advance women’s public leadership and promote equality for all through its academic programs, action-oriented research, and public events. All center initiatives and activities explore the impact of gender, race/ethnicity, and class on policy making and politics.

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The mission of UMass Boston’s Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy is to inform policy makers about issues vital to the state’s growing Latino community and to provide this community with the information and analysis necessary for effective participation in public policy development.

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LatinasRepresent is a joint initiative of Political Parity and the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda to call out the lack of elected Latina leaders and change the political landscape to reflect all Americans.

Monday
September 29, 2014
UMass Boston

Hosted by the McCormack Graduate School’s Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy and the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy at UMass Boston, Political Parity, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, and Women’s Pipeline for Change
12:00 Networking Luncheon

12:30 Welcome
Melissa Luna, Deputy Director, Political Parity
Ira A. Jackson, Dean, John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies
Ann Bookman, Director, Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy

12:40 LatinasRepresent: Key Findings
Marni Allen, Director, Political Parity

1:00 Conversation with Latina Candidates and Elected Officials
Introduction by Ambassador Swanee Hunt, Founder & Chair, Hunt Alternatives and Kerry Healey, Co-Chair, Political Parity
Moderated by Ileana Cintrón, Jobin-Leeds Partnership for Democracy and Education
Sonia Chang-Díaz, Massachusetts State Senator, 2nd Suffolk District
Nellie Gorbea, candidate for Secretary of State, Rhode Island
Ivette Hernandez, former candidate for Massachusetts State Representative

2:30 Break

2:40 Break-out Sessions
Planning to Run: For Aspiring Candidates and Their Supporters
Campus Center - Room 3545
Taylor Woods-Gauthier, Director, Emerge MA
Lisa Barstow, Leadership Team Member, Café con Leche Republicans

Identifying and Promoting Latinas for Appointed Positions
Campus Center Ballroom
Moderated by Melody Gonzales, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda
Delia Rodriguez-Masjoan, Director, Women’s Pipeline for Change
Daphne Griffin, Former Chief of Human Services, City of Boston
Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Telling Your Story: Developing Your Public Narrative
Campus Center - Room 3540
Celina Barrios-Millner, Immigrants’ Rights Organizer
Marta Rosa, former City Councilor-at-Large, City of Chelsea

3:55 Break

4:00 Next Steps
Introduction by Maria Idalí Torres, Director, Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development
Facilitation by Delia Rodriguez-Masjoan, Director, Women’s Pipeline for Change and Pipeline Fellows Elizabeth Cardona and Gladys Lebrón-Martínez

5:00 Dessert Reception and Networking Session
Alumni Lounge
Melody Gonzales, Director, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda
Georgianna Meléndez, Interim Chief Diversity Officer, UMass Boston
Elizabeth Cardona is director of Governor Patrick’s Western Massachusetts office. Cardona is a passionate Puerto Rican woman building grassroots power in her community while raising two sons and fulfilling career and community engagement goals. Elizabeth previously served as the regional coordinator for Democrat Suzanne Bump’s campaign for state auditor and she has also held several positions in the Springfield public school system. Through her service as a board member for ¿Oíste?, The Latino Civic Education Initiative, as well as an advisory board member for the Leadership Institute for Political and Public Impact (LIPPI), and as a mentor and Western Massachusetts chair for the CHICA Program, Cardona has been a champion of equality and social justice. Cardona holds an MPA and a certificate in conflict resolution from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

Sonia Chang-Díaz is the first Latina elected to the Massachusetts State Senate. She is serving her third term on behalf of the Second Suffolk District. Prior to attaining elected office, Senator Chang-Díaz served as a public school teacher in the Lynn and Boston school systems, where she learned first-hand the challenges facing our public school students, teachers, and parents and the role our state government can play in improving our educational system. Senator Chang-Díaz has also worked in public service as a Senior Legislative Aide to former state Senator Cheryl Jacques, as a key political adviser at the Barbara Lee Family Office, and as the Director of Outreach at the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, a non-partisan fiscal policy think tank.

Ileana Cintrón is a 2013 National Hispana Leadership Institute Fellow and a member of Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE). On the political front, Ileana is a member of the Massachusetts Democratic Party’s State Committee, where she is Co-Chair of the Massachusetts Latino Democratic Caucus. She is also a graduate of the Emerge Massachusetts Class of 2011 and until recently, a member of the Massachusetts Women’s Political Caucus’s Political Action Committee. Ileana works as Research Manager at the Jobin-Leeds Partnership for Democracy and Education, LLC in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Previously, she served as Special Initiatives Associate at Access Strategies Fund where she managed the Women’s Pipeline for Change.

Melody Gonzales is the Presidential Appointments Program Director for the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda. In this role, she manages NHLA’s Latinas Represent partnership with Political Parity and NHLA’s Latino Appointment Program. She graduated from the University of California, San Diego and earned a Masters of Public Policy degree from Georgetown University. Prior to joining NHLA, Melody worked for President Barack Obama’s re-election campaign as the Latino Vote Director in the battleground state of Virginia. She served as Vice President of the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association, founded The New Latino Movement, and has been active in encouraging young Latino professionals to get involved in fundraising for charitable and political causes. Among her recent honors, Melody was selected for the National Hispanic Leadership Institute’s Executive Leadership Program in 2014. She has also been recognized as one of the “Top Latino Voices to Follow on Twitter” by The Huffington Post, a “GameChanger of 2012″ by Politic365.

Nellie Gorbea served as Deputy Secretary of State from 2002 to 2006 and former executive director of HousingWorks RI. She has tackled Rhode Island’s civic challenges during her years as a non-profit leader. She has worked with chambers of commerce and economic development groups on the challenges facing the business community. And she has worked to solve the challenges of government in Rhode Island since the 1990s when she participated in the Motor Voter Task Force – redesigning Rhode Island’s voter registration process to make it easier to register to vote at government agencies.

Marni Allen, Director of Political Parity, leads the team’s efforts to dramatically increase women’s political representation and provides strategic direction to Ambassador Hunt, including her partisan political activities. Prior to working with Hunt Alternatives, Marni was the Director of Policy and Research at the 21st Century School Fund, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit dedicated to building the public will and capacity to improve urban public school facilities. Marni has a background in urban policy, nonprofit management, and women’s political engagement. She has served in leadership roles on nonprofit boards in Boston, received her BA in political science from Swarthmore College and a Masters of Public Policy from Georgetown University.

Celina Barrios-Millner is an experienced Community Organizer, Leader, Trainer, and Teacher. She has worked to advance the immigrant rights agenda locally with the groundbreaking Student Immigration Movement, where she supported a team of undocumented immigrant students leading campaigns in their communities, and nationally with the Immigration Reform campaign where she led organizing efforts in the Northeast. She has also led initiatives to support progressive candidates of color, including Councilor Felix D. Arroyo, and to engage the Latino electorate, through Mi Familia Vota in Florida and here in Massachusetts with ¿Oíste?. Currently, she is a Trainer with the Leading Change Initiative out of Harvard University and an Adjunct Professor at Bunker Hill Community College where she brings 13 years of experience to teaching others how to organize. Celina holds a Masters in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School, and a BA from The American University.

Lisa Barstow is a media and political strategist whose experience spans branding and reputation management, government affairs, social media marketing, media planning and buying, and grassroots organizing. She is a frequent media contributor on timely issues and serves as a GOP spokesman as an elected member of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee. Lisa has worked with a number of non-profit organizations, from universities, health institutions, media organizations, small businesses, as well as campaigns and elections as Principal of Lisa Barstow Media.

Ann Bookman, PhD, a nationally known researcher and policy expert on women’s issues, work-family balance and community engagement, is Director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at UMass Boston. Dr. Bookman has over three decades of experience working in academia and in government. She was a Presidential Appointee in the first term of the Clinton administration and served as Policy and Research Director of the Women’s Bureau at the U.S. Department of Labor. She is author of several publications, her latest book, Starting In Our Own Backyards: How working families can build community and survive the new economy (2004), which has been cited as “paradigm-shifting” for bringing community organizations and civic engagement into the debate on the changing role of women in the workplace and family.

Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, PhD, is the Chief Executive Officer of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA). Dr. Calderón-Rosado has considerable experience with a wide range of community development issues and has several years of research experience managing a large multi-site longitudinal study on the health of women from diverse ethnic backgrounds. She has many years of teaching experience as Assistant Professor at the Boston University School of Social Work. As a Puerto Rican born on the island, Dr. Calderón-Rosado is committed to advance the policy issues affecting Latinos and other underserved populations. She received her doctorate in Public Policy on Aging at the Gerontology Center, University of Massachusetts at Boston. She lives in Milton with her husband and two sons.
Daphne Griffin is Project Manager for Suffolk Construction where she manages a broad scope of projects that includes community engagement, external relations and expansion of initiatives in other cities. She most recently served as the first Latino-American Chief of Human Services for the City of Boston appointed by Mayor Menino to continue as the Executive Director of Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) and was this agency’s first Latina to hold this title. She is involved in many local and national boards and currently serves as Chair of the Latino Institute, a national non-profit that focuses on educational policy.

Kerry Healey served as the 70th lieutenant governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from 2003 to 2007. As lieutenant governor, Dr. Healey combated drunken driving; addressed homelessness; and increased penalties for perpetrators of child abuse, gang violence, sexual assault, and domestic violence. After leaving office in 2007, Dr. Healey became a fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Institute of Politics and Center for Public Leadership. In 2008, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice appointed Dr. Healey to the Executive Committee of the US Department of State’s Public Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan (PPP) and was reappointed in 2009. Since 2009, Dr. Healey has co-chaired Political Parity.

Ivette Hernandez works for the community as a social worker serving low-income families. For the past seven years, Ivette has worked to support troubled families and protect at-risk children throughout Springfield. She has held several leadership positions as Vice President in Voices for the Community; in the Health & Housing Committee of Springfield No One Leaves; as an Executive Committee Member, Jobs with Justice; Executive VP, Pioneer Valley Central Labor Council; Board Member, Women’s Institute for Leadership Dev; Member Organizer, SEIU Local 509; Member, United for Transit Equity and as an organizer with the Community Gardens & Food Justice Initiatives.

Ambassador Swanee Hunt is the founder of Hunt Alternatives and the chair of Political Parity. She is the Eleanor Roosevelt Lecturer in Public Policy, founder of the Women and Public Policy Program, and senior fellow at the Center for Public Leadership, all at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. Ambassador Hunt served as President Bill Clinton’s ambassador to Austria, where she hosted negotiations and symposia to stabilize the neighboring Balkans. She is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. The ambassador is a widely published columnist and has authored three books: This Was Not Our War: Bosnian Women Reclaiming the Peace; her memoir, Half-Life of a Zealot; and Worlds Apart: Bosnian Lessons for Global Security.

Ira Jackson has a distinguished history of public service and both executive and academic leadership. He has held senior positions at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, MIT, and the Drucker School at Claremont Graduate University. Jackson also served as the executive vice president and executive director of external affairs at BankBoston and revenue commissioner for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Jackson has earned numerous awards for outstanding public service and leadership including the Big Citizen Award from City Year.

Gladys Lebrón-Martínez is a respected woman of color leader recognized for fostering the civic engagement and responsibility needed to expand opportunities for her community. She provided exemplary service to her community of Holyoke as an elected School Committee member from 2003-2011. In 2011, she ran a successful campaign moving up the political pipeline to represent Ward 1 on the Holyoke City Council. Councilwoman Lebrón-Martínez has also been an active leader on many community boards and organizations such as the Holyoke Community Land Trust, the Holyoke Redevelopment Authority, and the Baypath College Advisory Board.

Melissa Luna is the Deputy Director of Political Parity and joined the team in spring of 2014. She joins the Parity team with more than 10 years of experience in developing and leading community organizing and advocacy campaigns in education reform, community development, and public health. Melissa is a graduate of Boston University’s Institute of Nonprofit Leadership and Management Program, and brings expertise in strategic planning, program evaluation, and performance management to the Parity team. Melissa graduated cum laude with a concentration in Government from Harvard University.

Georgianna Meléndez serves in a dual role as UMass Boston’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion Interim Chief Diversity Officer and the Executive Director of Commonwealth Compact, an initiative to establish Massachusetts as a leader in diversity and inclusion. She brings to these positions 20 years of leadership experience in non-profit and public administration positions impacting various Massachusetts communities. In 2006, she was named one of the Boston Business Journal’s 40 under 40. The following year, she was appointed to Governor Patrick’s anti-crime council. Georgianna is a doctoral student at UMass Boston’s College of Management’s Business Administration program with a focus on Organization and Social Change; has a master’s degree in public affairs from UMass Boston’s McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies where she also was recognized for Distinguished Public Service. She earned a bachelor’s degree at Bentley University studying English and cultural studies.

Delia Rodriguez-Masjoan is Director of the Women’s Pipeline for Change. Raised in Argentina, she developed her professional career in Rhode Island where for the past 20 years she has worked to empower women of color to move up the pipeline of leadership in government. Delia is an appointed Commissioner of the Board of Licenses for the City of Providence and was the first Latina to run for the Rhode Island State Senate in the 1990’s. Delia participated in the first Women’s Policy Institute at the Women’s Fund of RI and has also served as a member of the Rhode Island Redistricting Commission, as Chair of the Providence School Board Nomination Commission, and as a Board Member of the United Way in Providence, among others. She has produced and hosted two weekly radio shows that have served as a vehicle for community organizing and education among the Latino and immigrant communities for over 15 years.

Maria Idali Torres is the director of the Gastón Institute and an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She obtained a PhD from the University of Connecticut and a MS in Public Health from the University of Massachusetts. Prior to her current position she spent 17 years as a professor of public health at the UMass Amherst campus, and another 15 years practicing health education in community and school settings. Dr. Torres’ research and publications have focused on the promotion, protection, and maintenance of health in Puerto Rico and Massachusetts. Most recently, she has been working on Latino youth sexual health disparities and the prevention of teenage pregnancy. She has received numerous grants and awards for her work at the local, state, and national levels.

Taylor Woods-Gauthier joined Emerge Massachusetts as executive director in January 2013. Taylor previously served as deputy director and founding staff member for Political Parity where she guided the inception of the project, drove the program’s strategic planning process, built and managed Parity’s bipartisan Leadership Team of 50 women leaders, and oversaw the launch of two national projects. Prior to her work with Parity, Taylor served as a partisan political advisor to Ambassador Swanee Hunt.