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Session 2

CONVENTION CENTER | 12PM - 1:45pM

HIGHER EDUCATION: THE COST OF OPPORTUNITY IN NYS | RM NO. 209 A/B

Moderators: Assemblyman Victor M. Pichardo **Panelists:** Dr. Havidán Rodríguez, President of University at Albany | Dr. David Gómez, President of Hostos Community College | Lazar Treschan, Director of Youth Policy, Community Service Society | Eli Dvorkin, Editorial and Policy Director, Center for an Urban Future | Alithia Rodriguez-Rolon, Legislative Representative, NYSUT | Guillermo Linares, Acting President of the HIGHER education Services Corp. (HESC)

Although New York college enrollment rates amongst Latinos has increased, college completion rates remain the lowest of any other subgroup. Dropping out of college has extreme financial consequences, usually resulting in large student debt with no college degree to obtain high paying jobs. In New York State, efforts have been made to try and better support students financially through higher education. New York's Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other student financial aid programs, allows students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition-free. This workshop seeks to discover the needs of higher educational institutions within NY, the ways in which to expand the Excelsior Scholarship opportunity, and how students can access education without having to fall under the crushing weight of student loans.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF WOMEN HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD POST MARIA | RM NO. 208/C

Moderators: Assemblywoman Maritza Davila **Panelists:** Alejandra Y. Castillo, Esq. CEO, YWCA | Vilma González Castro, Directora Ejecutiva, Coordinadora Paz para la Mujer | Maria Tati Fernos, Nuestras Voces | Jessenia Vargas, Division Leader, Primerica

Hurricane María affected all of Puerto Rico and the women of Puerto Rico were overly affected. According to a recent study, women in Puerto Rico, regardless of all ages, have endured significant health and socio economic challenges, as well as faced impediments to access to services and recovery assistance. In particular, access to healthcare, employment and the rise of domestic violence have impacted women disproportionately. This all women panel will share their insights and approach to addressing the need of women and children throughout the hurricane's aftermath and highlight programs and efforts to support recovery and resiliency building among women and communities.

PROTECTING AND EXPANDING HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN NYS | RM NO. 208/B

Moderators: Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz **Panelists:** Rafael Salamanca Jr., New York City Council Member | Benjamin Dulchin, Executive Director, Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development | Annabel Palma, NYC Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives, Department of Social Services | Christie Peale, CEO & Executive Director, Center for NYC Neighborhoods | Eric Enderlin, President of Housing Development Corporation | Betsy Mallow, Executive Deputy Commissioner and COO, NYSHCR

The quest for affordable housing in New York continues amid rising rents, stagnant wages, new construction and declining availability of low-rent apartments. The current rent regulation legislation expires next year 2019. It is imperative that our elected officials protect and update the expiring rent regulation legislation in order to protect tenants and strengthen rent regulations in New York State. There is a real need for an affordable housing agenda that serves all. The new legislation must also focus on preventing homelessness, providing shelter and offering a path to home ownership for those that seek it. This panel will feature government, housing and community leaders who will discuss how the city and state can best meet the affordable housing needs, protection and goals of our working families and diverse communities.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN PUERTO RICO | RM NO. 208/A

Moderators: Edwin Meléndez, Ph.D, Director, Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College **Panelists:** Camille Collazo, President of Visit Rico and Co-organizer – Farmer's Fundraiser: Regrow Puerto Rico | Betty Enriquez, Director –NYS Office of Trade and Tourism | Archer Lebron, CEO – TRANXCEND Inc., PRMA | Javier De Jesús Martínez, Director of the Innovation Center at University of Sagrado Corazón. Nuestro Barrio: Distrito Cultural de Santurce

A diverse network of professionals with extensive policy knowledge and a vested interest in the prosperity of Puerto Rican businesses will come together for this workshop. The ultimate goal of this dialogue is to connect resources and discuss the many opportunities for business owners, investors and entrepreneurs in Puerto Rico, especially as they relate to business opportunities in partnership with stateside businesses.