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**RECOGNIZED AND CHARITABLE AUTHOR, BETTY MARTINEZ LOWRY, TO
SPEAK AT ANNUAL ACHIEVING THE DREAM SCHOLARSHIP EVENT**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. August 2010– The First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (FCHCC) and the Mayors Hispanic American Advisory Board (MHAAB) announce Betty Martinez Lowery as keynote speaker of the “Achieving the Dream” scholarship luncheon due to her success and recognition around Florida.

The FCHCC and MHAAB are teaming up to award 16 \$2,000 scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students of Hispanic descent in the First Coast counties. Lowery will speak to scholarship recipients at the “Achieving the Dream” luncheon, Friday, September 17, at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront. With Lowery’s achievements and experience over the past 20 years, she is a perfect role model for the students.

“We are honored to have such an experienced and successful keynote speaker,” Betzy Santiago, president of FCHCC said. “Betty Lowery’s journey from refugee to recognized author and humanitarian is sure to inspire students to follow their dreams.”

Lowery is currently a senior manager for Minority Business Development at Walt Disney World Resorts and acts as the secretary of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She has served on the advisory boards for Florida’s Early Learning Coalition under Governors Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist.

Lowery is the published author of a Spanish language textbook, *El Arco Iris de la Amistad*, and is currently writing a semibiographical novel about her family’s immigration into the United States.



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Being such an active member in her community, Lowery is no stranger to recognition. She was named one of Orlando's Top 25 most influential Hispanics by *Ahora Orlando Magazine*. Her work to better diversity and education in Florida makes her an inspired authority.

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