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For Immediate Release

Providing HOPE, GSU Career Day Illustrates the Future

University Park, December 1, 2006 - Opening the door to the future, realizing there is opportunity beyond high school, learning what a college education can lead to is the purpose of the tenth annual Project HOPE Career Information Day at Governors State University in University Park on December 6.

"Project Hope's mission is to encourage and motivate Latino students to finish high school and pursue a college education," explained Jose Reyes, Director of Project HOPE, a community outreach program sponsored by GSU. "On Career Day, Latino students will learn how a college degree can lead to leadership positions that can make a difference in the community."

More than 160 students from Homewood-Flossmoor, Rich East, Rich South, Bloom and Bloom Trail High Schools and Garfield, Washington and Rickover Middle Schools will learn about the successful career opportunities continuing education offers through presentations and discussions with professionals from the Chicagoland area.

Keynote speaker Rafael Romo, reporter for CBS 2 Chicago, will illustrate the importance of education in the advancement of his career in broadcasting. Since leaving his home in Cananea, Mexico to earn his university degree in the United States, Romo has been a writer, reporter and news anchor in both radio and television.

In addition to Romo, students will also hear about careers in architecture, nursing, occupational therapy, telecommunications, marketing and the performing arts from professionals in those fields.

"One of the primary messages we seek to convey to our students is to help them understand that succeeding in school and completing college education can lead to many successful opportunities," said Reyes. "Project Hope offers an academic support program to a traditionally underserved group. Last year, 97% of our students were promoted to the next grade level. We teach independence and provide information and support so our students recognize their potential, learn to be resourceful and succeed in life."