



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DESTINO FUND AT VCCF TO DISTRIBUTE \$57,000 IN GRANTS TO
PROGRAMS THAT BOOST COLLEGE SUCCESS FOR LATINO YOUTH**

CAMARILLO, Calif. (Feb. 18, 2011) – The Ventura County Community Foundation’s *Destino: The Hispanic Legacy Fund* is accepting proposals from local nonprofits that can deliver on programs to boost college preparedness for Latino youth in Ventura County.

The 2011 Destino grants committee will consider those proposals that expand opportunities for Latino students to succeed through college preparedness, specifically:

- Programs delivering curriculum that measurably increase academic achievement, college preparation and access;
- Programs educating Latino youth and parents about higher education requirements, financial aid, the college admissions process and self-advocacy within the educational system;
- Programs proven to increase access into advanced placement and college preparatory (CP) courses.

“A recent study by the Center on Education Policy showed Latino students are closing the education gap with their ethnic counterparts, but too slowly,” said Hank Lacayo, chair of the Destino Steering Committee and a VCCF board member. “Many efforts are underway in the county, including by the P-16 Council and in school districts across the region, to expand the number of Latino students who will be ready to attend

college, and the Destino Committee felt that was an important effort to support and extend.

Ventura County needs proactive programs to make sure young Latinos are prepared for success in college to compete effectively in the high wage job market, Lacayo added.

The deadline for applications is 3 p.m. April 29. Late and/or incomplete proposals will not be considered. Grants are expected to be distributed in September.

Those submitting a proposal are required to attend an informational meeting from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, or from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 5, in the Community Room at VCCF, 1317 Del Norte Road, Suite 150, Camarillo.

Those who plan to attend must RSVP to LaToya Ford at (805) 988-0196, Ext. 126, or at lford@vccf.org. To download the full request for proposals, visit <http://www.vccf.org/grants/index.shtml>.

Destino: The Hispanic Legacy Fund was established in 1996 by local residents as a permanent endowment at VCCF. Its mission is to expand opportunities for Latino youth to succeed, which it supports both through its grantmaking and through the Destino Scholarship Fund, which is focused on supporting first-generation Latino students attending college in California. Since its founding, Destino has awarded 110 grants totaling over \$766,000 to 45 nonprofit organizations.

VCCF is a family of charitable funds with combined assets of \$106 million. Its mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community for good for ever, which it does through managing long-term endowments to benefit the region and through its grantmaking, scholarships and leadership training programs through the Center for Nonprofit Leadership. VCCF has been certified in compliance with national standards by the Council on Foundations, the highest form of peer review in the United States. For more information, visit vccf.org or contact VCCF at (805) 988-0196.

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