



News Release

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SBA Announces Appointment of Yolanda Garcia Olivarez As Region VI Administrator

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Small Business Administration announced the appointment of Yolanda Garcia Olivarez as a regional administrator for the SBA, overseeing Region VI, which is headquartered in Dallas and includes Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

“Both the SBA and small businesses of Region VI will benefit greatly from Yolanda’s business development and financial services background,” said SBA Administrator Karen Mills in welcoming Olivarez. “With her experience in both international business and community development, as well as her commitment to serving the community, Yolanda will be a tremendous asset and advocate for small businesses and entrepreneurs across the region, especially at this critical time when so many are facing tough challenges as a result of the recession.”

“I am honored to have this chance to put my lending and business background to work for our country and the tens of thousands of small businesses across this five-state region,” Olivarez said. “Small businesses represent the American spirit of entrepreneurship and are a key asset in driving job creation and our competitiveness in the global market, and I will work tirelessly to make sure they continue to have access to opportunities to help them grow, prosper and make our communities stronger.”

The five states of Region VI include more than 548,000 square miles. The regional office oversees district offices in Little Rock, Ark.; New Orleans, La.; Albuquerque, N.M.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Dallas/Fort Worth, El Paso, Harlingen, Houston, Lubbock, and San Antonio, Texas; and a branch office in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Olivarez has spent more than 35 years in the trade, commerce and financial services industries. Since 1995 she has been a senior vice president/commercial lender and business development officer at Wells Fargo Bank. She also served 12 years as a commissioner for the Port of Corpus Christi, where she led public finance bond projects for government entities on the state and federal level. Olivarez was the first woman to chair the commission in its 75 year history.

She has served as a member of several boards and commissions and for her service has been recognized by several organizations, including the National Museum of Mexican Art’s 2009 Sor Juana Women of Achievement Award, the Wall of Honor for Del Mar College, the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the Advance Selena Award. She has also been active in the March of Dimes, United Way, American Heart Association, Texas Tomorrow Fund, Coastal Bend

Bays and Estuaries, the Corpus Christi Community Development Housing Corporation, Christos Spohn Hospital Board and the Catholic Finance Diocese of South Texas. Olivarez and her husband, Ronnie, are the proud parents of daughter Sofia Anna.

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