



# NEWS RELEASE

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## U.S. Hispanic Chamber Of Commerce Honors SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto

### Administrator Receives Chair's Award at Chamber's Legislative Conference

**WASHINGTON** –The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce today honored Administrator Hector V. Barreto of the U.S. Small Business Administration with its Chair's Award at the USHCC's 14th Annual Legislative Conference. The award recognizes national leaders who have helped advance the progress of the Hispanic business community.

"I would like to thank the Chamber for this honor," Barreto said. "I am proud of our record on behalf of our nation's small business community, and also on behalf of Hispanic entrepreneurs. But I am more proud of those entrepreneurs themselves. Like all Americans, they are striving to achieve the American Dream – it is their accomplishments that we truly honor."

"I would also like to thank President Bush and my colleagues at the SBA and throughout the administration," Barreto added. "The President made it very clear when he addressed the Chamber yesterday that he believes the American Dream belongs to everyone. His goal for America's entrepreneurs is simple and powerful: create an environment in which all of America's small business owners can grow, prosper and create jobs. And from tax cuts to regulatory reform to health care to SBA loans, we are working to make that goal a reality."

The SBA has been very successful in its outreach to the Hispanic business community. In fiscal year 2003, the SBA provided almost \$1 billion in financing to Hispanic entrepreneurs through its two primary loan programs. During the same period, the number of SBA loans to Hispanics increased by 43 percent.

In 2002, the SBA launched [www.negocios.gov](http://www.negocios.gov), the SBA's Spanish language portal. The site contains information on SBA's programs and services plus many resources for aspiring entrepreneurs. Since its launch, the portal has been enhanced with the addition of a series of online courses titled "My Own Business." This year, regular, live Web chats have been added in which invited experts answer questions from the public on small business topics. To date, [www.negocios.gov](http://www.negocios.gov) has received over 2 million hits.

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*For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, visit the SBA's extensive Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*

*The SBA, in co-sponsorship with Staples, has introduced an online newsletter **SBA Solutions**. For a free subscription, go to <http://web.sba.gov/list>, and select New **SBA Solutions Newsletter**.*

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