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## **NY State Senator Trunzo and HITN TV Unveil Exclusive Community Based Telecommunications Platform and Television Studio for Long Island**

*Community-based organizations will bridge digital divide and optimize services for underserved communities through multimedia platform.*

**NEW YORK, NY** — New York State Senator Caesar Trunzo and the Hispanic Information Telecommunications Network (HITN TV) unveiled an exclusive telecommunications platform designed to help a network of five community-based organizations optimize their services for underserved Latino communities in the Long Island region. The platform, called CBO Connect™, will help community-based organizations better utilize limited resources for client-service delivery through a telecommunications infrastructure to enable the exchange of important information including distance education and virtual networking. CBO Connect™ will allow partner organizations to quickly disseminate timely and crucial information to community-based organizations (CBO's) through a multimedia platform including, voice, email, internet access and broadcast services. HITN will also establish a TV production studio that can be utilized by participating CBOs to produce content for themselves and other CBOs or to strengthen community connections and client services.

“Latino community-based organizations need to have access to the information revolution to help strengthen Latino communities across the country,” said New York State Senator Caesar Trunzo. “Our local community organizations are effective venues for community and economic development in underserved neighborhoods, and CBO Connect will provide valuable technology to support their work.”

HITN TV's CBO Connect™ network of community-based organizations provides services to thousands of Latinos throughout New York. The CBOs provide a myriad of services ranging from extra curriculum activities, family services, financial literacy, career and health services.

“HITN TV's alliance with the CBOs is an important step in a comprehensive campaign to enable Latinos to realize their full potential in a digital world,” said José Luis Rodríguez, President, CEO and Founder of HITN TV. “CBO Connect will provide its community partners the capacity to offer new services in multiple areas to address local needs utilizing an advance technology platform. Services include distance learning, e-learning programs in English as a second language, GED and information that helps their clients with issues like the mortgage crisis, foreclosure, finances and health. Thanks to Senator Trunzo's support, this initiative is a reality.”

HITN TV will provide selected CBO Connect™ members with the equipment infrastructure needed to participate in the proprietary CBO Connect network. Members will be offered packages that include satellite antennas, video conference devices, and content receivers. Members will also have access to computers, IP phones, and monitors. Participating organizations include Adelante, Circulo de la Hispanidad, Hispanic Counseling Center, La Fuerza, Pronto, and The Workplace Project.

CBOs in Long Island benefitting from this project are part of the first phase of CBO Connect™ collaboration and experience. The program will scale to cover the State of New York, and the nation.

“As the nation’s first non-commercial Latino television network, HITN TV is leading the effort in helping Latino community members access educational programming,” said Mr. Rodríguez. “Thanks to Senator Trunzo’s leadership and our community partners, together we will embark on meeting the technology challenges faced by Latino community-based organizations, and help better their services to low-income and underserved communities throughout the country and help the community advance and close the digital divide.”

Additional information about HITN TV can be found online at [www.HITN.TV](http://www.HITN.TV).

#### **About HITN**

The Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network, Inc. (HITN) was established in 1983 as a private non-profit organization to create a network of non-commercial telecommunications facilities to advance the educational, social, cultural, and economic aspirations of Hispanics. Today HITN-TV remains the first and only media conduit offering educational, enriching and empowering content to our nation’s fastest growing ethnic group. HITN is available on Dish Network; DirecTV; Time Warner Cable (NY, NJ, and TX); Comcast (IL, CO); Charter (CA, NV, WA, GA); AT&T U-verse and Verizon FiOs nationwide. For more information please visit [www.hitn.org](http://www.hitn.org).

*HITN: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS AS AMERICA'S FIRST PUBLIC TELEVISION NETWORK  
FOR LATINOS  
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#### **For more information, press only:**

Noemi Perez, Desert Runner LLC for HITN TV, (703) 270-9254,  
[noemi@desertrunner-llc.com](mailto:noemi@desertrunner-llc.com)

**Note to editors:** If you are interested in viewing additional information about HITN TV, please visit the HITN Web page at [http://www.hitn.org/index\\_en.php](http://www.hitn.org/index_en.php). Web links, telephone numbers and titles were correct at time of release, but may since have changed.