

Board Meeting
November 13, 2014

AWARD HONORARY DEGREE, CHICAGO

Action: Award Honorary Doctorate Degree

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Senate at the Chicago campus has nominated the following person for conferral of honorary degree at Commencement exercises in May 2015. The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois recommends approval of this nomination.

Maria Hinojosa, Executive Director of Latino USA and Anchor of the Emmy Award winning talk show Maria Hinojosa: One-on-One from WGBH/La Plaza -- the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

Maria Hinojosa has been instrumental in telling America's untold stories from traditionally overlooked or marginalized communities for more than 25 years. In 1992, Ms. Hinojosa helped launch Latino USA, one of the earliest public radio programs devoted to the Latino community. She has been the host of the show for its entire run, and since 2000 has also been executive producer.

In 2010, Ms. Hinojosa founded the *Futuro Media Group* with the mission to produce multi-platform, community-based journalism that respects and celebrates the cultural richness of the American experience providing a critical voice to the social and civic justice issues facing the diverse new American demographic.

In 2011, she became the first Latina to anchor a *Frontline* report. She has to date reported on hundreds of important stories, from the immigrant work camps in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, to stories of poverty in Alabama. As a reporter for National Public Radio, Ms. Hinojosa was among the first to report on youth violence in urban communities on a national scale. During her eight years as CNN's urban affairs

correspondent, she often took viewers into neighborhoods that had rarely been seen by the wider television viewing audience.

Ms. Hinojosa has won top honors in American journalism including four Emmys, the 2012 John Chancellor Award for Excellence in Journalism, the Robert F. Kennedy Award for Reporting on the Disadvantaged, the Studs Terkel Community Media Award, and the Edward R. Murrow Award from the Overseas Press Club for best documentary for her groundbreaking "Child Brides: Stolen Lives." In 2009, Hinojosa was honored with an AWRP Gracie Award for Individual Achievement as Best TV correspondent. In 2012 she was named among the top 25 Latinos in Contemporary American Culture by the Huffington Post, and gave the prestigious Ware Lecture.

Maria Hinojosa's exemplary work aligns with the Chicago campus' mission in countless ways. She provides an immensely important service highlighting the many problems plaguing immigrants and our economically challenged communities. As an urban journalist she parallels our own community engagement via our College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs and the Jane Addams College of Social Work to name two.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation.

The President of the University recommends approval.