



**Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute  
Graduate and Young Professionals Fellowship  
Graduation Ceremony  
Library of Congress-Madison Hall  
Washington, DC  
May 14, 2009**

Buenas noches a todos. Welcome to the Public Policy Fellowship Graduation. For the past 27 years, hundreds of students have applied to CHCI for the unique opportunity to work in our nation's capital. I congratulate you on being the latest class in this wonderful program.

Last fall, the twenty-two of you arrived in this city ready to begin a new adventure and to undertake a new challenge. You came from across the nation -- from sunny California, to the heartlands in Iowa, to the neighboring state of Virginia. You come from a variety of backgrounds and embody the richness and diversity of our Hispanic culture.

Over the past nine months, you have worked with our nation's leaders to improve our country for your generation and for the generations to follow. I hope and trust that you had a rewarding experience and that you leave this program with a desire to continue to serve our country. I urge you to take advantage of this experience and the lessons you have learned. You have the talent and the work ethic to be our future leaders.

I congratulate you for your achievement and hope you continue to work to improve our nation's future. Muchas felicidades y siempre adelante.