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Mesa Latino Entrepreneurs Recognized

During this year's 2008 Valley Toyota Dealers' Avanzando Confiado Latino Entrepreneurs awards presented by the Latino Perspective magazine, six Mesa businesses were recognized for their entrepreneurial successes.

The awards event, held on Dec. 4 at the Toyota Club in downtown Phoenix, is in its second year. The program honors 12 up and coming Latino small business entrepreneurs each year who have made significant contributions to Arizona's economic viability. The winners are also featured in the Latino Perspective publication.

The six Mesa recipients were Rosa Cantor, Creative Human Resources Concepts, an innovative, full-service Human Resource services firm; Gloria Guerra-Leyva, Third Party MVS, an authorized third party provider for the Motor Vehicles Division (MVD); Levi Leyba, 142 Now Packet, a business starter kit that contains 142 home-based business ideas, along with basic forms and advisory materials needed to start a company; Dr. Luz Angela Lopez, Kids Kare Pediatrics, a local chain of urgent-care clinics that cater to Latinos; Hilda Peña, Botas Juarez, a western wear clothing store; and Laura Rodriguez-Verbera, Marina Tours & Travel, a full-service travel agency.

"We are excited that so many of this year's recipients have businesses in Mesa," Bill Jabjiniak, Director of Economic Development for the City of Mesa said. "During these difficult economic times, it is important that small businesses continue to have success. Many of these businesses, in particular, cater to a specific, underserved population in our community."

For more information about the award recipients contact Cathy Ji with the City of Mesa Office of Economic Development at catherine.ji@mesaaz.gov or (480) 644-3457.