

## PRESS RELEASE

### For immediate distribution:

February 18, 2008

**Contact:** Aida McCammon, President/CEO  
Indiana Latino Institute, Inc.  
445 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 800  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 472-1055

[amccammon@indianalatinoinstitute.com](mailto:amccammon@indianalatinoinstitute.com)  
[www.indianalatinoinstitute.com](http://www.indianalatinoinstitute.com)



### Latina Women – INFLuence Indiana Female Leaders Unite

**Indianapolis, IN** – On the morning of Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library on St. Clair Street, twenty-seven Latina women from Indianapolis and surrounding counties, even as far as Ft. Wayne, IN attended the *INFLuence (Indiana Female Leaders Unite)* event sponsored by the Indiana Latino Institute, Inc and the Indiana Minority Health Coalition.

What is *INFLuence*: A women's health initiative created by the Indiana State Department of Health as an effort to incorporate the participation of influential women of Indiana who are leaders in government, business, health care, education, media, faith-based and community organizations. *INFLuence* provides an avenue by which powerful Hoosier women are educated regarding critical women's health issues and then given a charge to advocate for women's health in their own spheres of influence.

At this January 25<sup>th</sup> event, the women present heard from Dr. Jeannette Noltenius, Vice President of Strategic Solutions, an independent public health and public policy firm in Washington D.C. as she reviewed a critical health issue: Smoke Free Air policies. During the current legislative session there have been several bills drafted that would impact non-smoker rights. Dr. Noltenius educated the women on the harmful facts of tobacco use, second hand smoke, and how comprehensive (state) smoke free air policies would benefit themselves, their family and community at large.

Testimonials on how tobacco had affected the lives of those present and a feeling of empowerment to make a difference in the health of their communities resulted in 34 letters written to representatives in the House and Senate to support bills that improve health outcomes of their constituents as it pertains to tobacco related policies.

For years, the Indiana Latino Institute, Inc., has been committed to encouraging Latina Hoosiers to become more proactive in promoting health issues in their communities. For information on how to get involved in the Latino community and health advocacy contact the Indiana Latino Institute, Inc. at 317-472-1055.

###