



November 21, 2022

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## **HITN-TV Presents New "Voces" Series Honoring Puerto Rican Pioneers**

*Puerto Rican Heritage Month Debut Premiere Screening at  
'El Centro' at Hunter College on Nov. 17*

“Puerto Ricans have long been an essential part of America’s fabric, and their contributions span across every field. This year, we’ve chosen to honor the many contributions of the Puerto Rican people by recognizing pioneers who have made historical contributions to society and the communities they represent.” With this statement, Michael D. Nieves, President and CEO of Hispanic Information Telecommunications Network (HITN), opened the event, debuting the special “Voces” series featuring short clips that highlight the transformative success stories of Puerto Rican leaders and visionaries.

Thursday, Nov. 17th, over 50 elected officials, community leaders, activists, El Centro faculty and students, and local Puerto Rican organizations gathered for the premiere screening. MC Gerson Borrero began the program by underlining the significance of Puerto Rican Heritage Month. He introduced HITN President and CEO Michael D. Nieves, who welcomed guests, including New York Mayor Eric Adams and other elected officials and community leaders. Dr. Yarimar Bonilla Ramos, Interim Director of El Centro, gave greetings on behalf of Hunter College, President Raab. In her remarks, Dr. Bonilla Ramos thanked Mike and HITN for the invitation to collaborate on this special premiere screening. The audience then viewed the five video clips without interruption, pausing to punctuate the silence with applause after the end of each capsule.

In culmination, each pioneer received a special commemorative plaque from HITN, with a short bio of their achievements. They briefly spoke, thanking Mike and HITN for the honor. One of the pioneers, José E. López, made a statement in the presence of another pioneer, Assemblyman José Rivera, who was sitting in the back with his omnipresent video camera. Although he shyly waved at the audience at first, José was quickly forced to stand as the entire audience rose to their feet in applause and gave him a standing ovation at the mention of his name. Mike then assured guests that this would become an annual tradition, and everyone could look forward to a “save the date” for next year.

Timed to debut during Puerto Rican Heritage Month, the program showcased Puerto Rican pioneers and change-makers, both past and present.

### **ABOUT HITN**

HITN-TV is a leading Spanish-language media company that offers educational and cultural programming for the whole family. It reaches more than 44 million homes in the United States and Puerto Rico through DIRECTV, AT&T U-verse, AT&T TV, DISH Network, Verizon FiOS TV, Comcast Xfinity, Charter Spectrum, Mediacom, CenturyLink, Prism and Altice, Liberty Cable & Claro (Puerto Rico). Download the "HITN GO" Everywhere app available on Apple, Android, Apple TV, and Roku® with a wired subscription. For more information, visit: [www.hitn.org](http://www.hitn.org) and follow @HITNtv on social platforms.

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Through this series, HITN will generate inspirational conversations for Puerto Rican and Hispanic families across the U.S. Honorees featured in this series of “Voces” include:

**The Honorable Nydia Velázquez:** Rep. Velázquez has served New York in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1993. She was the first Puerto Rican woman to serve in the United States Congress and has been a strong advocate for Puerto Rican, human and civil rights.

**The Honorable Minnie González:** Rep. González serves as a State Representative for Connecticut and is currently the Deputy Speaker of the House. During her time in office, González has focused her efforts on improving quality of life for children and families in her community.

**Rev. Luis Cortés Jr.:** Rev. Cortés built Esperanza, one of the nation’s leading Hispanic networks, out of a desire to meet the needs of Philadelphia’s Latino community. This network now serves more than 13,000 Hispanic faith and community-based organizations nationwide. Rev. Cortés has also hosted the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast and Conference for more than 20 years.

**Prof. José E. López:** Prof. López is an author, college lecturer and community activist. He is also the co-founder and longtime executive director of The Puerto Rican Cultural Center Juan Antonio Corretjer in Chicago. He is a Puerto Rican thought leader, a leading member of the Puerto Rican independence movement and the editor of “Puerto Rican Nationalism: A Reader.”

**Arturo Alfonso Schomburg (posthumous recognition):** Schomburg was an Afro-Puerto Rican historian, writer and activist. During his lifetime, he dedicated his energy and resources to raising awareness regarding the contributions and culture of Afro-Latin Americans and African Americans. The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, part of the New York Public Library system, is named in his honor.

The series will be available on HITN-TV and on the HITN GO app.

For more information about the “Voces” Puerto Rican Heritage Month premiere and about the many Puerto Rican leaders profiled through this short-form series, please visit [www.hitn.org/pr-heritage/](http://www.hitn.org/pr-heritage/).

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