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LATINO MEMPHIS LUNCHEON SHEDS LIGHT ON
IMMIGRANTS' EVERYDAY STRUGGLES & HOW EMBRACING DIVERSITY MAKES US STRONGER

MEMPHIS, TN — The Latino Memphis Leadership Luncheon, happening on Tuesday, August 29, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Ballroom at the University of Memphis is the largest luncheon in the Bluff City dedicated to creating a space for leaders, community members and politicians to join the conversation on issues impacting the Latino community.

The luncheon will open with a heart wrenching act causing guests to reflect on our nation's broken policies and setting the tone for the fundraiser, an annual event which celebrates diversity and brings awareness to the importance of working together for change. Attendees will take an eye-opening journey and experience the unimaginable struggles that immigrants face day-to-day, struggles which often end in families being ripped apart while trying to reach the American Dream.

In an effort to make Memphis a more welcoming city, luncheon guest speaker, founder and Executive Director of Welcoming America, David Lubell will share insight on how embracing diversity can help us move forward as a country. Latino Memphis Executive Director, Mauricio Calvo, will give a first-hand look into the work of Latino Memphis and give an in-depth look into the hardships immigrants in our community face.

"People constantly ask me 'what can I do' [in light of the current climate many immigrants live under]. The Leadership Luncheon is an opportunity and a space where one can learn, network and support the work of Latino Memphis while celebrating the diversity that makes us stronger," said Latino Memphis Executive Director, Mauricio Calvo.

The luncheon is guaranteed to be a culturally enriching experience, showcasing talented young performers and revealing the 2018 Latino Memphis Festival honored country. Attendees will enjoy inspiring performances by up-and-coming local Latino artists like 15-year-old pianist Christopher Rodriguez. Guests will also witness a nontraditional opera performance by 19-year-old Mississippi State University music major Ana Ponce and Opera Memphis' Bethania Baray.

The annual gathering will close with the organization's Alma Latina Award which promotes Latino advancement and transformation. This award honors Latinos and non-Latinos who have paved the way for minorities to advance in the U.S. More importantly, it celebrates diversity and inclusion of all people. This year's recipient will demonstrate the importance of unity and highlights the struggles that many in our community continue to face.

Following the luncheon, David Lubell will meet with local leaders in a private event to share how he has successfully helped cities around the world become welcoming places for immigrants, and what it will take for Memphis to become a more welcoming city.

Photo 1 attached: David Lubell, founder and executive director of Welcoming America.

For more details about the conference visit www.latinomemphis.org/luncheon. Reporters/Photographers who want to cover the luncheon can contact Fabiola Cervantes at fabiola@latinomemphis.org.

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About Latino Memphis

Latino Memphis is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Since its beginning in 1995, Latino Memphis has become the go-to organization for issues impacting the Hispanic community in the Mid-South and the largest

Latino-serving nonprofit in West Tennessee, connecting thousands of clients each year to needed services in the areas of health, education and justice. The work of Latino Memphis is a collective approach that aims to create a vibrant Latino middle class in Memphis; a concept that will not only impact Latinos, but the entire community. Latino Memphis is committed to raising the voice of Latinos in our region and working toward building a vibrant middle class.

