

Contact:  
María Perez, Antonio Nadal, 718 951 5561  
Ernesto Mora, 718 951 5882

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CELEBRATING THE MANY FACES OF LATINO IDENTITY: *FIRST DON QUIJOTE AWARDS TO DAILY NEWS'* *JUAN GONZALEZ & CALPULLÍ MEXICAN DANCE CO.***

BROOKLYN, NOVEMBER, 2007 – The **Possible Dream: Latino Arts, Communities and Leadership Encuentro 2007**, an all-day event celebrating Latino cultures, will take place at Brooklyn College on Thursday, November 15, 2007. New York Daily News columnist Juan González and the Calpullí Mexican Dance Company will each receive a Don Quijote Award during an evening at the College's Bedford Lounge.

Already in its second year, Encuentro is sponsored by the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, the Latino Faculty and Staff Organization, and the students. This year's theme, "Las Caras Lindas: The Many Faces of Latino Identity," will address some of the most pressing issues facing U.S. Latino communities and will showcase artistic and musical presentations.

"Encuentro 2006 was a huge success because it brought together the College's students, faculty, staff and alumni, community artists and organizations, as well as CUNY associates to showcase the arts and leadership roles of Latinos in the U.S.," said Dr. María Pérez y González, the chair of the Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Department. "The Encuentro 2007 promises to be another exciting opportunity to celebrate Latino diversity everywhere," Pérez y González said.

In addition to celebrating the Puerto Rican Heritage Month and the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the College's Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, the event will feature the new Don Quijote Awards, presented for the first time to honor individuals or groups that provide exceptional leadership in the arts, education, or journalism and who are dedicated to social justice and to service the Latino communities.

#### **Other Activities**

Other activities will include two discussion panels, "What Does it Mean to be a Latino," and "Leveraging Bilingual and Bicultural Skills," a career strategy session at the Student Center that will be accompanied by networking tables with professionals from media organizations like NBC-Telemundo and *People* magazine, and grassroots organizations, such as SEIU Local 32BJ and Make the Road by Walking.

A piano recital by César Reyes, a musician who earned his masters degree in Music at the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music, will be held at the Woody Tanger Auditorium that afternoon.

Preceding Encuentro, an art exhibit of sculptures, oil paintings and photos by the students and curated by Maria Catalano Rand will open on Tuesday, November 13 in the College's Library.

**About the Award Recipients**

The *Calpullí Mexican Dance Company* was founded in 2003 by a group of artists that seeks to enrich and promote a diverse image of the Mexican cultural heritage in the U.S. By providing instructional sessions for parents and schools, Calpullí has a tremendous impact on the Latino communities.

*Juan González* is a renowned Daily News columnist and the winner of the George Polk Award for commentary and the 2004 leadership award of the National Hispanic Heritage Foundation at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. González was the 2001-2003 Belle Zeller Professor at the Brooklyn College Departments of Political Science and of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies.