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"Shaping the Bright Future of America: MBDA Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month"

WASHINGTON (**September 19, 2017**) — The U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency is proud to celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans as part of National Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 - October 15. This year's theme is "Shaping the Bright Future of America."

"This is a special time for our Nation and for the many generations of Hispanics and Latinos who have added so much to the fabric of America and to the forming of our national culture," said MBDA Acting National Director Chris Garcia. "Our diversity is one of the most beautiful things about America, and as a Mexican-American, I am especially proud to celebrate the numerous contributions of the Hispanic and Latino community. From government and education to business and entertainment and beyond, our culture is indeed helping to shape the bright future of America. I'm looking forward to a wonderful observance."

About the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

MBDA, www.mbda.gov, is the only Federal agency dedicated to the growth and global competitiveness of U.S. minority-owned businesses. Our programs and services better equip minority-owned firms to create jobs, build scale and capacity, increase revenues and expand regionally, nationally and internationally. Services are provided through a network of MBDA Business Centers. Established in 1969, MBDA continues to be a dedicated strategic partner to all U.S. minority-owned businesses, committed to providing programs and services that provide greater access to capital, contracts and markets. Follow us on Twitter @usmbda.

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