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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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October 31, 2007

**Findings from the Gender and Multicultural Leadership Survey: The Future of Governance**

*Who are this nation's Black, Latino, Asian, and American Indian elected officials?  
Are their stands on key policy issues similar or quite different?  
What paths did they take to reach public office?  
Who and what do they see themselves as representing?*

WASHINGTON—On **Wednesday, November 7**, the Gender and Multicultural Leadership Project will hold the public presentation of findings from a national telephone survey of 1,354 elected officials of color. The GMCL Survey, funded by a major grant from the Ford Foundation, is the most comprehensive multiracial national study of Black, Latino, Asian, and American Indian elected officials holding positions at multiple levels of office, particularly at the state and local levels.

The face of leadership is changing the political landscape of the United States. However, the nation knows relatively little about elected officials of color. This groundbreaking study redefines what we think of as leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The survey shows that people of color – especially those serving at the grassroots level – are the pipeline to the future of governance. The survey examines the personal backgrounds, paths to public office, representational roles, and policy stands on key issues of pressing importance to state and local elected officials. Speakers will present a comprehensive portrait of elected officials of color including: where they govern; how and why they ran for elected office; and the similarities and differences by race and gender.

Panelists include: **Christine M. Sierra**, Professor of Political Science, University of New Mexico, an expert in Latina/o politics and editor of *Chicana Voices: Intersections of Class, Race, and Gender*; **Dianne M. Pinderhughes**, Professor of Political Science and Africana Studies, University of Notre Dame, an expert in African American politics and author of *Race and Ethnicity in Chicago Politics: A Reexamination of Pluralist Theory*; **Carol Hardy-Fanta**, Director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston, an expert on women in politics and author of *Latina Politics, Latino Politics: Gender, Culture, and Political Participation in Boston*; **Pei-te Lien**, Professor of Political Science, University of California, Santa Barbara, an expert in Asian American politics and author of *The Making of Asian America Through Political Participation*.

Other invited and confirmed guests will include elected officials at the national, state and local levels of government, who will discuss their paths to elected office.



**PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

**When:** Wednesday, November 7, 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
**What:** Findings from the Gender and Multicultural Leadership Survey: The Future of Governance  
**Where:** Woodrow Wilson Center, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Flom Auditorium  
The Woodrow Wilson Center is located in the Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Media planning to cover the public presentation, **Findings from the Gender and Multicultural Leadership Survey: The Future of Governance**, should contact Sharon McCarter at (202) 691-4016 or [sharon.mccarter@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:sharon.mccarter@wilsoncenter.org).

**MORNING PRESS INTERVIEWS WITH PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS**

**When:** Wednesday, November 7, 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
**What:** One-on-one interviews with Principal Investigators of the Gender and Multicultural Leadership Survey (*by appointment only please*)  
**Where:** Woodrow Wilson Center, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, The Moynihan Board Room  
The Woodrow Wilson Center is located in the Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
**Who:** **Principal Investigators:** Christine Sierra, Professor of Political Science, University of New Mexico; Dianne Pinderhughes, Professor of Political Science and Africana Studies, University of Notre Dame; Carol Hardy-Fanta, Director, Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston; Pei-te Lien, Professor of Political Science, University of California, Santa Barbara.

**To make an appointment to interview one or more of the principal investigators regarding this survey on Wednesday, November 7, between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. please contact:**

Sharon McCarter, Director of Outreach and Communications  
Phone: (202) 691-4016  
Email: [sharon.mccarter@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:sharon.mccarter@wilsoncenter.org)

**Special Advisory:** If you are unable to schedule an appointment between 9:00-11:00 a.m. and would like to schedule an alternative time to interview a Principal Investigator, please call (617) 515-3298.

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is the living national memorial to President Wilson established by Congress in 1968 and headquartered in Washington, D.C. It is a nonpartisan institution, supported by public and private funds, engaged in the study of national and world affairs.

The Center establishes and maintains a neutral forum for free, open, and informed dialogue.



### Principal Investigators



**Christine Marie Sierra** is Professor of Political Science at the University of New Mexico. She received her B.A. with honors from the University of Texas at Austin. Her M.A. and Ph.D. are from Stanford University. Sierra teaches and researches in the field of American politics with a focus on race, ethnicity, and gender. Her publications include work on Latino political activism on immigration policy, Hispanic politics in New Mexico, and Latina women in the United States. She co-wrote and co-produced the highly acclaimed video documentary, *This Town Is Not For Sale!: The 1994 Santa Fe Mayoral Election*, portraying the stunning electoral victory of Chicana activist and city councilor, Debbie Jaramillo, as the first woman mayor of Santa Fe, New Mexico. She is the lead PI of the Gender and Multicultural Leadership Project, a multi-year national study of elected officials of color in the United States. Sierra lectures at college campuses around the country and has been a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., the University of Arizona, and Rutgers University. She frequently appears as an expert in American and Latino politics for local, national, and international media outlets.



**Dianne M. Pinderhughes** is Notre Dame Presidential Faculty Fellow, and Professor in the Departments of Political Science and Africana Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Previously she was Professor of Political Science and African American Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. Pinderhughes is President of the American Political Science Association and a member of the Board of Governors of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Pinderhughes studies inequality with a focus on racial and ethnic politics and public policy. She published *Race and Ethnicity in Chicago Politics A Reexamination of Pluralist Theory* (1987). Pinderhughes has also published numerous articles including several for the National Urban League's *State of Black America*, as well as book chapters addressing issues of race, public policy, and electoral politics. Her research project, *The Evolution of Civil Rights Organizations in the Twentieth Century: Voting Rights and African American Politics*, explores the creation of American civil society institutions in the twentieth century and analyzes their influence on voting rights policy.



**Carol Hardy-Fanta** is Director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at UMass Boston's John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies. She received her Ph.D. in Public Policy from Brandeis University's Heller School, an MSW from Smith College, and a B.A. from Occidental College. Dr. Hardy-Fanta is author of two books: *Latina Politics, Latino Politics: Gender, Culture, and Political Participation in Boston* (Temple University Press, 1993) and *Latino Politics in Massachusetts: Struggles, Strategies and Prospects* (Routledge Press, 2002). She is a nationally recognized scholar on Latina/o politics and has published widely on the intersection of gender, race and ethnicity in politics and public policy. Carol Hardy-Fanta is co-editor of the *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy* and also serves as Director of the Graduate Certificate Program for Women in Politics and Public Policy at UMass Boston's McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies.



**Pei-te Lien** is Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her primary research interest is the political participation of Asian and other nonwhite Americans. She is the author of *The Making of Asian America Through Political Participation* (2001, Temple), which received the 2002 best book award on political participation, voting, elections, and political behavior from the American Political Science Association, Division on Race, Ethnicity, and Politics. Coauthored with M. Margaret Conway and Janelle Wong is *The Politics of Asian Americans: Diversity and Community* (2004, Routledge), which is based on her National Science Foundation-sponsored Pilot National Asian American Political Survey. Lien publishes widely on issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and political behavior in professional journals and edited book volumes. Her latest book chapters appear in *Chinese Transnational Networks* (Rutledge, 2007) and *The Voting Rights Act: Securing the Ballot* (CQ Press, 2006). Lien is recently published in *International Migration Review*, *American Politics Research*, *Journal of Chinese Overseas*, and *PS: Political Science and Discipline*.