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Media Contact: Jamie Floer, APR, CPRC  
407-244-3685  
jfloer@wraggcasas.com

**FORMER CONGRESSMAN RECEIVES HIGHER EDUCATION AWARD**

**Lincoln Diaz-Balart Honored with Award Named for Community Leader  
from the Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges**

**MIAMI, FL** – Aug. 10, 2012 – Former U.S. Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, who served two decades in public office before retirement, accepted top honors as the recipient of the Community Leader Award from the Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges (FAPSC), a statewide organization representing more than 200 career-oriented schools.

The first-ever award, named in memory of Florida National University founder the late Jose Regueiro of Hialeah, who was instrumental in career education and a leader in the community, was presented at the FAPSC Annual Conference in July.

Diaz-Balart, a long-time friend of the award's namesake, accepted the award noting that it held a special significance because of the lasting legacy Regueiro left on the South Florida community.

He was chosen for the award because he consistency supported postsecondary education opportunities for all Americans, including immigrants, to this country. He co-authored and sponsored the American Dream Act and other legislation during his tenure.

“Former Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart has a longstanding history of service, which is what this award named for a Florida higher education pioneer represents,” said Kathy Mizereck, executive director of FAPSC.

Fifteen annual awards were selected by a panel and handed out during the FAPSC Annual Conference in South Florida attended by administrators and faculty members from across the state.

The Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges (FAPSC) works on behalf of all Florida's degree granting and non-degree granting career schools and colleges. Licensed by the state, these schools educate and prepare more than 379,000 students each year for employment in more than 200 occupational fields.

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