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****For Immediate Release****

The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Sylvia Acevedo recipients of the USHCC 2004 Hispanic Leadership and Business Excellence Awards

Austin, Texas, August 19, 2004— The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has been selected as the Large Hispanic Chamber of the Year for the 2004 Hispanic Leadership and Business Excellence Awards by the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) for Region III. Additionally, Silvia Acevedo, a GAHCC member and Austin business owners, was named the Business Woman of the Year, Region III, by the USHCC. The USHCC will present the awards during its National Convention in Austin on September 16, 2004.

The GAHCC was honored by this distinction because it is not only the oldest and most prominent Hispanic organization in Austin, but it is the only organization dedicated to the development and growth of the Hispanic business. Throughout its 32-year history, it has consistently provided Hispanics in the area opportunities in the development of leadership and business skills.

During the past 12 months, the GAHCC has experienced growth in its corporate members, increased and diversified its sponsors for events and expanded opportunities to its membership via new business services and education of contracting opportunities. GAHCC has expanded its technology training for members and non-members as a result of a grant awards from the City of Austin. Its training track includes training in Spanish for the newly arrived resident, making the GAHCC one of the few organizations to do so.

Acevedo, President and CEO of CommuniCard™ LLC and a bi-lingual industrial engineer, grew up as a first-generation American in a Spanish-speaking home. Her creation, CommuniCards, have been developed to effectively reduce the language barrier between Spanish and English. CommuniCards require no translators, reference books or knowledge of pronunciation. The laminated passport-sized guides unfold accordion-style revealing step-by-step illustrations of tasks and tools for construction, lawn care, and housekeeping tasks. Acevedo also developed CommuniCards for police departments to use during traffic stops. For more information or to purchase CommuniCards visit www.thecommunicard.com.

The Regional Awards will be presented at the Opening Breakfast on the USHCC 25th Annual National Convention and Business Expo on Thursday, September 16, 2004 at 7:30 am. The USHCC represents the interests of more than 1.2 Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States and Puerto Rico. It serves as the umbrella organization for more than 130 local Hispanic chambers nationwide, and it actively promotes the economic growth and development of Hispanic entrepreneurs.

"USHCC Convention and Business Expo Opening Breakfast"

September 16, 2004

7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

The Nominees for the 2004 Hispanic Leadership and Business Excellence Awards were evaluated on the basis of their accomplishments achieved in the areas of business, economic development,

procurement, and access to capital; on their leadership and quality of service provided to the Hispanic community; on their practices and the innovation of programs or services that promote the growth of Hispanic business; and on measurable results and the effective communication of outcomes to the Hispanic business community.