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Texas Secretary of State Esperanza “Hope” Andrade Named Latina Trailblazer *Statewide Latina Organization Hosts Conference in Austin, Texas*

Austin, Texas, October 13, 2009 – Texas Secretary of State Esperanza “Hope” Andrade has been named Latina Trailblazer by the Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas (HWNT).

“HWNT’s mission is to promote the advancement of women in the public, corporate and civic life. This year, we are pleased to award Secretary Andrade from the public sector for her outstanding leadership and significant contributions to the community” States Rita Utt, HWNT State Chair.

A special reception will be held on Friday, October 23rd at the Crowne Plaza Hotel honoring Secretary Andrade for her leadership and monumental contributions to the State of Texas. Recognizing Secretary Andrade will be 2009 Honorary Conference Chair Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza.

Southwest Airlines, the Official Airline of the 2009 State Conference

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About Texas Secretary of State Esperanza “Hope” Andrade

Appointed by Governor Rick Perry and sworn in on July 23, 2008, Esperanza “Hope” Andrade is Texas’ 107th Secretary of State and one of six state officials to form the Executive Department of the State of Texas.

Secretary Andrade, a successful entrepreneur and leader in the San Antonio business community for more than three decades, serves as Texas’ chief elections officer, chief international protocol officer and the Governor’s chief liaison on border and Mexican affairs.

Previously, Andrade served as chair of the Texas Transportation Commission. Her civic service has included leadership roles with the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Free Trade Alliance of San Antonio, United Way, the San Antonio Symphony and the board of trustees for Our Lady of the Lake University.

In recognition of her service to Texas, Secretary Andrade has received a number of accolades including the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s Lifetime Achievement Award, the Hope for Children Esperanza Award, and the San Antonio Leadership Hall of Fame Award. Additionally she has been named the Woman of the Year by the Houston Chapter of the Women’s Transportation Seminar, Mother of the Year by Avance and Small Business Advocate of the Year by the Small Business Administration.

About Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas:

Established in 1987, HWNT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to promoting the participation of Hispanic women in public, corporate and civic arenas. HWNT seeks to advance the educational, cultural, social, legal and economic well-being of Hispanic women through a broader awareness of their role in society, business and family. HWNT Members strive to celebrate the positive image and values of the Hispanic culture.