



## Media Advisory

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### **Hospital District CEO Listed among Nation's Top 25 Minority Executives in Healthcare**

(HOUSTON) April 10, 2006 – Harris County Hospital District President and CEO David S. Lopez today was named one of the nation's Top 25 Minority Executives in Healthcare by *Modern Healthcare* magazine. The publication's first-time list features individuals who exemplify outstanding leadership and the ability and desire to effect change within the healthcare industry.

Lopez joined the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD) in 2000 as executive vice president and chief operating officer. He served as the organization's interim leader in 2004 prior to his official appointment as President and CEO in 2005. Currently, he is the only ethnic minority serving as CEO of a major patient care institution within the Texas Medical Center.

Lopez is a firm believer in the hospital district's mission to care for the underserved, and is working daily to improve access to health care to meet the community's growing needs.

"The reason the Harris County Hospital District is moving from good toward great is in very large part a result of the leadership provided by our President and CEO David Lopez," said George V. Masi, HCHD's chief operating officer and administrator of Ben Taub General Hospital. "In collaboration with our medical school partners, we continue to develop a number of world-class clinical programs, and the Hospital District is moving forward with plans to expand its infrastructure so that we can provide more care for more patients."

Under Lopez' leadership, HCHD recently began offering Women and Infant health care at La Nueva Casa, a clinic facility owned by the City of Houston. The county-city collaboration, the first major healthcare collaboration in nearly 40 years, will allow the hospital district to increase patient capacity and expand services offered through its own Casa de Amigos Health Center. HCHD also plans to open the Riverside Dialysis Center in another city facility during early 2007 to meet a growing need within the hospital district to provide ongoing dialysis care for the Houston community.

"David took over as CEO at a very difficult time. He has done all that the Board could expect, creating a more efficient organization with a healthy fiscal year end result," said Carolyn

Truesdell, HCHD board member. "Because of this, the District can serve more of the County's uninsured and underinsured more effectively, which is our mission and the ultimate bottom line."

Among other accomplishments, Lopez brought service and efficiency to the forefront of the hospital district's operations. Through its customer service initiative titled ServiceFirst, HCHD has achieved a nearly five percent improvement in patient satisfaction scores during 2005, and has ambitious plans for even greater improvements in 2006. Additionally, the hospital district is striving to become a Most Efficient Organization, an industry catch-phrase used by organizations in pursuit of utmost efficiency in the way they do business.

According to Lopez, his proven career in health care is driven by a calling to care for others, particularly the impoverished and medically underserved. He attributes this to his father, a Pentecostal minister, who instilled in him a missionary purpose in life and taught him people can always use a helping hand during times of need. His work through the Harris County Hospital District, he says, has been a continuation of that philosophy.

Lopez earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in health care administration from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. He possesses more than 29 years of experience in healthcare administration.

The Harris County Hospital District is the public healthcare system for the nation's third most-populous county. It provides quality care for more than 1.1 million healthcare visits each year to residents of Harris County, Texas. The Hospital District operates Ben Taub General Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, Quentin Mease Community Hospital, 12 community health centers, a dental center, seven school-based clinics, 13 homeless shelter clinics and four mobile health units.

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