

PREPARING A COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Keynote

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Margarita H. Colmenares is Director of the Office of Corporate Liaison at the U.S. Department of Education, a position to which she was appointed by the Clinton Administration in 1993. As Director, she is an advocate for the formation of public-private partnerships that leverage federal dollars to accelerate education improvement and our future ability to provide a prepared and competent workforce.

Before her current appointment, Ms. Colmenares was an international marketing advisor for Chevron International Oil Company and has over ten years experience managing a wide range of environmental projects for the Chevron Corporation.

Her work as an environmental engineer inspired a lesson plan in a 4th grade elementary textbook, *Science Anytime*, "*Margarita H. Colmenares, She Helps Keep the Environment Clean.*" As a national engineering leader, Ms. Colmenares is a past member of the *All-Star Team* convened during *National Engineer's Week*. In public television programming targeting teenagers on career choices, she was profiled in the *PBS Series: "Choices for Youth."* In a publication targeting young women and their parents, she will be profiled in "*No Universal Constants: Journeys of Women in Science and Engineering*" by Temple University Press scheduled for release in Spring, 1997.

Ms. Colmenares graduated with an engineering degree from Stanford University. In 1991, she was selected as a White House Fellow and served as a Special Assistant to former Xerox CEO David T. Kearns at the U.S. Department of Education.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Ms. Colmenares has over twenty years of community service with non-profit organizations. In 1989, she became the first woman elected National President of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), a national non-profit volunteer organization.

