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San Antonio Housing Authority Wins National Excellence Award

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WASHINGTON, September 24, 2009 – The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) has won a national award honoring superior assisted housing and community development programs. SAHA won in the Administrative Innovation category for its employee development initiative, The Leadership Program.

The 2009 Award of Excellence comes from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), and will be officially presented on Oct. 6 at NAHRO's National Conference and Exhibition in Washington, D.C. SAHA is one of 18 programs nationwide to receive the 2009 award, out of an original pool of 212 merit winners.

“We are thrilled to receive recognition from our national housing peers for SAHA's Leadership Program,” said SAHA Board Chair Ramiro Cavazos. “This program is one of several initiatives recently undertaken to invest in and develop our internal skills and talents, and it's a great honor to have it selected for an Award of Excellence among so many worthy and admirable programs across the nation,” he added.

Employee development and retention can be a challenge, for any organization, and SAHA's leaders felt that it was important to offer a program that encourages employees to develop and become successful leaders. Nominations for the SAHA Leadership Program could come from an employee's supervisors, co-workers or him/herself. Initially, 14 employees were chosen to participate in the first 2008 class. Participation was limited because of the time commitment, the opportunities for one-on-one mentoring, and the selection of those whose capabilities stand out in the organization. Participants met for full-day sessions once a month for six months, and received detailed information regarding the critical aspects and challenges of SAHA's operations. Guest speakers, field trips and job shadowing also helped participants increase their knowledge of SAHA and develop leadership skills. SAHA has continued the program, with the current 12-member 2009 class currently underway.

“As NAHRO celebrates its 75th anniversary we are proud to recognize the achievements of our members who are committed to finding innovative solutions and groundbreaking programs that address local needs and opportunities that enhance the lives of families, operations and community development,” said NAHRO President Renée Rooker. “They are truly leading the way for a better America.”