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**Robert D. Ramirez, President/CEO of Vantage West Credit Union named
Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce *Man of the Year***

TUCSON, AZ - The Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce announced that Robert D. Ramirez, president/CEO of Vantage West Credit Union, is their 2009 *Businessman of the Year*. Ramirez has worked in the credit union industry since 1985, and has served in his current position since 2000. Prior to taking the reins as President/CEO of Vantage West (formerly DM Federal Credit Union), Ramirez filled the positions of vice president & chief financial officer and executive vice president for the credit union.

The *Businessman of the Year* honor is based on hard work, business achievements and dedication to the community. Ramirez is very active in the credit union movement and the community at large. He is a member of the Credit Union Executives Society (CUES) board of directors, a member of the National Credit Union Roundtable Advisory Council, the vice chair for the Arizona Credit Union League (ACUL) board of directors, chairman of the ACUL legislative committee, treasurer for the DM-50 Club, board treasurer for FirstCorp, and a board member for Credit Union Financial Network, LLC, an investment CUSO for Arizona credit unions. Ramirez is also a member of the Southern Arizona Leadership Council, the Arizona Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Ramirez was born and raised in Nogales, Arizona. He is a graduate of Nogales High School and earned his Bachelor's of Science Degree in Accounting from the University of Arizona in 1976, and in 1983, he was admitted to the State Board of Accountancy to practice as a Certified Public Accountant. Ramirez is also a graduate of the Financial Management School at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Additionally, Ramirez earned the designation of Certified Chief Executive (CCE), from the Credit Union Executive Society's CEO Institute, which integrates the instructional expertise of three of the most highly respected business and financial management educational institutions in the world— The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University's Johnson Graduate School of Management and the University of Virginia's Darden Graduate School of Business Administration.

Playing an active role in the Southern Arizona community is very important to Ramirez. He is vice chair & treasurer of the Pima Community College Foundation. He serves on the advisory board for the University of Arizona's Eller College and was named Eller College Associate of the Year Award, for contributing a considerable amount of time and commitment to the goals and purpose of the University of Arizona's Eller College. In addition, he was inducted as an honorary member to Beta Gamma Sigma, the national honor society of AACSB accredited business and management collegiate schools. Ramirez also serves on the Ronald Mc Donald House board of directors, and supports numerous other nonprofits.

Ramirez will celebrate the *Man of the Year* honor with family and friends, including his wife Katharine, and daughter Gabriella, to whom he credits much of his success.

Vantage West Credit Union is southern Arizona's largest credit union, with more than \$1.1 billion in assets and over 100,000 members. Ramirez will be honored at the 15th Annual Gala-*Noche de Exitos* on September 19, at the Skyline Country Club in Tucson. Tickets for the Gala can be purchased online at: www.tucsonhispanicchamber.org for \$85 per person. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

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