

**Clara Carter, MCCSN President, Named Meeting Planner of the Year  
by the International Association of Hispanic Meeting Professionals**

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*San Diego, CA., December 12, 2007* - The International Association of Hispanic Meeting Professionals (IAHMP) presented the Meeting Planner of the Year Award to Clara Carter, President/Founder of the Multi-Cultural Convention Services Network (MCCSN). The ceremony took place at its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on December 7, 2007. Ms. Carter was honored during the Diversity Awards Gala for her trailblazing diversity leadership work in the hospitality industry. She was recognized for helping cities nationwide realize and harness the benefits of the \$100 billion multicultural hospitality and tourism market by strategically attracting multicultural conventions and leisure travelers.

"What an honor it is to be recognized by a prestigious organization such as the IAHMP and to know that others appreciate the hard work that goes into making this industry more diverse globally," stated Ms. Carter upon receiving the award. "I saw a niche market that was being underserved and decided to bring attention to it, one city at a time."

Over 120 national and international planners and suppliers attended the conference themed, "Bridging Borders in the Meetings and Hospitality Industry." Attendees included representatives from countries such as Portugal and Mexico. National planners represented cities such as Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, Portland, Denver, Houston and Washington, D.C.

A San Diego based corporation, MCCSN's mission is to increase a city's share of the multicultural convention and tourism market, while ensuring the inclusion of people of color in every aspect of the hospitality industry.

MCCSN is fulfilling its mission of inclusion by building strong strategic alliances that extend to the international Hispanic hospitality and tourism market. As a result of these efforts, Ms. Carter has been invited by representatives from Portugal and Mexico to participate in their 2008 multicultural programs.

Ms. Clara Carter is on the advisory board of the Association of African American Meeting Professionals (AAAMPRO) and is a member of the Urban League of San Diego County, San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and San Diego Meeting Professionals International.

To interview Ms. Clara Carter, please call 619-265-2561 and for more information about MCCSN visit the website at [www.mccsn.com](http://www.mccsn.com).