

Honoring Dr. Elena V. Rios

Insights

09.15.26

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, HLB honors Dr. Elena V. Rios (born 1955), a physician and public health leader dedicated to expanding health care access, improving health outcomes, and advancing Hispanic representation in the medical profession.

Dr. Rios began her advocacy work during her education and residency, where she established programs designed to connect Hispanic students with higher education and opportunities in the health professions. She then co-founded the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA), a nonprofit organization representing Hispanic physicians and dedicated to advancing health equity, where she served as its president for 25 years. She has also led the Chicano/Latino Medical Association of California and currently serves as president of the National Hispanic Health Foundation (NHHF).

A trusted advisor on health policy and government affairs, Dr. Rios has held key positions with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the White House National Health Care Reform Task Force, and the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. She has also served on numerous health-focused boards, committees, and organizations. In recognition of her valuable contributions and public service, Dr. Rios has received many awards and accolades.

Learn more about Dr. Elena V. Rios [here](#).