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forecast of the
future.

REFLECTIONS FOLLOWING THE 2010 PIN ANNUAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON, DC

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In June 2033, my granddaughter, the mayor of a US city, will be making a speech to welcome the President of the United States, who also happens to be a former schoolmate of hers. Here is what she might say in her speech to the leader of her nation.

MI MÁS DISTIGUIDA SEÑORA PRESIDENTE, bienvenida a nuestra comunidad, su presencia es un honor. We are honored by your joining us today and look forward to actively engaging you in understanding our community, our assets, our hopes and our needs. We know that working together, we can all do better.

Su toma de posesión en enero de 2033 es de gran significado personal a nuestra generación, la comunidad Latina y nuestra nación. In 2010, my grandfather articulated his commitment to create a world of experience and access to prepare someone like you to be the first Latina nurse to be elected President of the United States. He said the idea came from a meeting where nurse leaders and nursing funders met and engaged in an aspirational view of the future....a vision realized today with your presidency.

Se de enfermeras que en el 2010 articularon esta visión que, la cual es una realidad hoy día. To those nurses who participated in defining the vision then, and all those who stepped up and supported that vision these past years, you embody achievement of a generation of hopeful Americans.

Today, America is a welcoming country sustained by the talents of newcomers. We expect from your leadership a deeper fulfillment of the promise of America where social justice and equity flourish as intended by our founders and articulated in the Declaration of Independence. We have come a long way and we still have work to do.

How we got here is an important lesson from the past and message to the future. What were the specific steps that were intentionally put into place 23 years ago by a committed group of individuals, who all aspired to the vision, realized today, of our first Latina, nurse President?

It was hard work with committed leaders from a diverse set of backgrounds all ready to move forward with a powerful agenda.

Now I wish to reflect on some of what I have learned from listening to these elders.

1. En primer lugar, la aspiración de esos líderes, su visión, y el trabajo que llevaron a cabo, y hoy es una realidad con su presidencia. First, they had an aspirational vision of nurse leaders; an aspirational vision that has come true with your presidency. One point where it began was with my grandfather's organization, Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF), which in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) created the Partners Investing in Nursing's Future (PIN) program that built new models of community leadership in nursing and supported new thinking about nurses

in the future, including in political service. These efforts were able to project and magnify the voices of nurses, support their good ideas, and commit to creating an environment where it was expected that a talented Latina nurse would be President of the United States.

Some worked from the belief that nurse leaders would bring a unique perspective that would result in increased influence in the world by nurses in all elements of society. I am now so proud that our country truly, and finally, demonstrates a commitment to using the talents of everyone, drawing on the strengths of many cultures to make a fully American society.

2. La educación bilingüe. Madam President, you and I both grew up in an environment of total bilingual education. We attended the Oyster-Adams Schools and the International High School in Washington, DC. Together, we represent the value that comes from an America that embraces a multifaceted culture in order to achieve the greatest benefits to our society. Now that our public education systems have been finally enhanced, more Americans have had an education experience that demonstrates commitment to the “whole person.” This experience truly represents American values. Multiculturalism is necessary for the profession of nursing and for our political leaders to effectively represent the interests of all Americans.

3. Facilitar el acceso a privilegios que la gran mayoría de nosotros tenemos, y la eliminación de barreras organizativas y estructurales presentes en nuestro país. Pero todavía tenemos que trabajar juntos para derrumbar estas barreras y proporcionar acceso a estos privilegios. But we still need to work together to remedy unequal starting positions for our people. Our American society has begun to move upstream to assure that everyone has a good education, that jobs are open without prejudice, and to bring people out of poverty with living wage jobs. Equidad Económica. Economic Equity is a huge issue in the life of our people and without equity we will not have the privilege of helping people advance to use their full talents. And, we need the talent of everyone for our society to flourish.

4. Igualmente, debemos continuar abriendo puertas al acceso al proceso político de nuestro país, mediante la creación y el apoyo a posiciones en el Congreso, en el Senado de funcionarios elegidos reflexionando la diversidad en nuestra nación. Líderes que son modelo para nuestra juventud. We’ve made great progress, but we need to continue to open the doors of access to the American political process by creating and supporting more congressional and staff positions with elected officials for our diverse youth, so that those who follow us will have the same experiences that we were fortunate enough to receive. We know that politics is an art learned at the feet of experienced leaders, and we know that access to these opportunities in the context of creating talented and experienced political leaders is essential. Those nurses in 2010 knew that they needed to step outside of the profession of nursing and into new worlds of leadership including political skill development. They saw to it that there were opportunities for Latinos and others to see, feel and live in the previously exclusive world of political power. Breaking

down those barriers were difficult but essential for us to be here today.

5. Hemos visto una generación de enfermeras dirigentes y defensores del liderazgo de la profesión. Y quienes han abierto el camino, abogando para que estos líderes tengan acceso a Escuelas de Derecho, solidificando los rasgos de liderazgo que han llevado y preparado este momento. We have seen a generation of nurse leaders and advocates speaking out for the idea of nurse leadership and encouraging those who are interested in attending law school, so they are as prepared for leadership as anyone else. In 2010, there was very little support for nurses expanding their skills with law degrees and taking public roles.

With the wise support from our visionary leaders in 2010, nurses were encouraged to connect their work with policy advocacy, and civic engagement, recognizing that this is a critical part of advancing the health of our nation.

My grandfather asked, “What would it take to be intentional about our commitment to fostering a nurse to become President of the United States?”

Today we see the answer and we have arrived. Thank you, Madam President, for your hard work, diligence and determination in a world that often disappointed you.

Thank you for making this moment happen.

Madam President. Hoy es su día... hoy es nuestro día. To fully experience the promise of America, by Americans, and for Americans, we all stand with you behind the contributions of American Latinos and the American nurses with full hope for the future that continues to advance the common good of all who live in this great nation.

PIN Point Readers: Tell us what else you think we need to do to get to this aspirational view of the future and what you think you can commit to in making it happen. Visit the PIN Community WIKI to continue the conversation.