



**Urban League of  
Broward County**

**Empowering Communities  
Developing Children  
Changing Lives**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **American Express Leader Becomes New Urban League Board Chair**

FORT LAUDERDALE (January 28, 2011) -- The Urban League of Broward County's (ULBC) Board of Directors elected Doria Camaraza, Senior VP of Card Operations for American Express (AMEX), as new Board Chair at ULBC's Annual Meeting held on Thursday, January 27, 2011.

Camaraza has served on the Urban League's Board since 2008 and became 1st Vice Chair in 2009. Camaraza takes the reins from Dennis D. Smith, Vice Chairman of Tripp Scott, who has served on the Board for six years, two as Board Chair. "We were very fortunate and appreciative of Dennis' service to ULBC throughout the years," said Dr. Germaine Smith-Baugh, president and CEO of the Urban League of Broward County. "He spent countless hours serving the needs of the League and continues to be one of our most committed advocates."

Smith will continue to his service on the Board of Directors as Immediate Past Chair for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. "The collective leadership of the Urban League's Board of Directors and executive staff has made my job as Chairman a seamless and rewarding experience," says Smith. "I have full confidence that Doria will carry the torch to bring the Urban League to exciting new levels."

Camaraza has been with American Express for over two decades and manages the operations of AMEX's Fort Lauderdale Service Center. She also serves as the executive owner of the Dispute Resolution Network, Billing and Payment Services. Under Camaraza's leadership, American Express and its 3,000 dedicated employees in South Florida has been recognized for three consecutive years (2007, 2008, 2009) with the J.D. Power Award for service excellence. American Express ranks highest in overall satisfaction among 21 of the largest card issuers in the U.S. The J.D. Power and Associates 2009 Credit Card Satisfaction Study looks at six factors to determine overall satisfaction – Customer Interaction, Billing and Payment Process, Fees and Rates, Rewards Programs, Benefits and Services, and Problem Resolution.

Camaraza is actively involved in the South Florida community holding several board positions. While serving as the Urban League's 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Camaraza was also on the Executive Committee for the American Heart Association. She leads American

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Express' efforts to promote philanthropy and volunteerism and has funneled \$1 million dollars worth of grant funding to the South Florida community in 2008-2009.

Camaraza will lead a slate of ULBC Directors which include two new members: Sohail Kothari of Citibank and Yolanda Cash Jackson of Becker & Poliakoff. "I am humbled by the election as Board Chair and hope to capably follow the sense of collaboration and progress set forth by Mr. Smith during his term," said Camaraza. "I will work to ensure that the Urban League remains committed to its mission and that this organization is the agency of choice for children and families in Broward County."

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*The Urban League of Broward County is a not for profit, community based organization founded in 1975. We empower communities, develop children and change lives. Our mission is to assist African Americans and other disenfranchised groups in the achievement of social and economic equality. Programs/services include affordable housing development and redevelopment, youth development, diversion, employment and training, education and community empowerment, and civic engagement.*