

PURPLESTRIDE HOUSTON 2012 EMCEE: MINERVA PEREZ

Minerva Pérez is an award-winning Broadcast Journalist; former TV News Anchor and now a Co-Host, Executive Producer and Partner of the new Multimedia (Cable, Internet and PBS show), LATINA VOICES: Smart Talk. She is also Owner/President of Minerva Pérez Media, LLC, a Video Production/Communications firm.

Previous to Latina Voices, Ms. Pérez was known as a trendsetter and became the first Latina News Anchor at KTRK TV/ABC 13 in Houston, Texas, where she spent 15 and a half years. She was already a highly respected and experienced Anchor/Reporter at the number one rated Peabody award-winning TV station, KTLA TV in Los Angeles, where she also was the first Mexican American News Anchorwoman on the News At Ten Weekend Edition. During her five and half-year tenure at KTLA, she was recognized with many awards for her reporting and community involvement. There, she covered such notable stories as Pope John Paul II's visit to Los Angeles' Live 48 – hour coverage; the Whittier Earthquake; the notorious Rodney King beating, the Hollywood scene; Presidents Reagan and Bush (41).

Her reporting lead to two (2) Golden Mike Awards; a Cesar Award; a Los Angeles Press Club Award and three (3) California Emmy nominations, several AP awards and countless accolades from community organizations.

Ms. Pérez has always been involved in her community. She has served on the boards past and present of the Mayor's Council on Literacy: The Houston Read Commission; The Harris County Children's Assessment Center; The Advisory Council of the Women's Resource Center of Greater Houston; The Morales Foundation, a non-profit educational organization; Honorary Board Member of the Puente Learning Center of East L-A., a literacy program; Honorary Board member of the Montebello Hispanic Coalition; Past President and Lifetime Member of the Houston Association of Hispanic Media Professionals (HAHMP); a Lifetime Member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ); Advisory Board member of the Education for the 21st Century: The Bilingual Spelling Bee. She is also a Lifetime Member of the University of Texas at Pan American (UTPA) Alumni Association and serves as an officer on the board of the UTPA Houston Alumni Chapter.

Ms. Pérez also serves as Board Member of the Furniture Bank in Houston, TX. She is Past member of Texas Advisory Board/Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF). She also serves as Advisory Board Member of the Susan G. Komen Foundation's Houston Chapter. She was one of 20 women journalists selected to participate in the International Women's Media Foundation – U.S. Leadership Institute in July, 2009. Also in 2009, Ms. Pérez was recognized by the Hispanic Women in Leadership organization as one of 100 Women in Leadership. In 2011, Ms. Perez became Board of Trustee of the University of Texas-Pan American Alumni Association. And she was the Commencement Speaker of the UTPA Winter Commencement Class of 2011. In 2012, Minerva was named to the 2012 Class of Women on the Move, by the Texas Executive Women.