

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Doral launches new program: *Mujeres d Éxito*
Boosts economic development of women with three
innovative initiatives

Will invest \$1 million in internships, micro-loans and entrepreneurial drivers for women in different stages of their professional development.

September 28, 2011—SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO—Doral Bank announced today its newly created program, *Mujeres d Éxito*, directed to propel the professional and economic development of the Puerto Rican woman.

The program will imply an investment of \$1 million during its first year of constitution and will have three principal components, each designed for women of various socioeconomic scales in different stages of their professional and entrepreneurial development:

- **Internado Doral-** Internship program for college students in alliance with the University of Puerto Rico at Bayamón and Universidad del Turabo. A total of ten students will participate of the internship each year. The first five students started their internships this week.
- **Fondo Doral-** Fund established in alliance with Fundación Comunitaria de Puerto Rico to support the development of micro-loan programs in nonprofit organizations specialized in aiding low-income women. The Fund begins the first year with Doral's endorsement of \$100,000.
- **Despegue Empresarial-** Entrepreneurial project to assign \$50,000 to five small businesses, all directed by women who demonstrate growth potential. From the total, \$25,000 will be granted; the remaining \$25,000 will be allotted in the form of a loan specially designed for the program,

with much more flexible terms than the ones prevailing in the market. Doral will relocate the repayment of these loans to Fondo Doral.

According to data provided by the economist Vicente Feliciano of the firm Advantage Business Consulting, quoting the Census and the Department of Labor, women constitute 54% of the Puerto Rican population and 45% of the Island's labor force. Likewise, the number of women as head of family has increased 475% since 1970; nowadays one in every three families is led by a woman.

“The female segment plays an increasingly important role in the Puerto Rican economy. For this reason, in Doral we are convinced that if their growth opportunities strengthen, the Island's economy will do so as well”, said Glen Wakeman, President and CEO of Doral Financial Corporation.

An external advising committee composed of widely recognized entrepreneurial women will be in charge of the selection of the businesses for Despegue Empresarial.

The committee will be composed by Hilary Hattler, President at Telemundo PR; Carla Haeussler, President at Carla's Sweets; Lic. María Teresa Szendrey, Partner at Fiddler, González & Rodríguez; CPA Dervin Cabassa, *Senior Tax Manager* at Scherrer Hernández & Co.; Ysa de Jesús, co-founder of Alive, Ileana Font, Founding Partner of LIH; and Lucienne Gigante, SVP of Marketing and Public Relations at Doral Bank.

These distinguished leaders, each with vast experience and key areas for the development of a business, including law, business, accounting, and marketing, will also offer mentorship to the selected women.

In addition to facilitating capital access, the Mujeres d'Éxito program pursues offering mentorship, experience and networking opportunities that will promote the professional enrichment of its participants. All the initiatives of the program will interact in the Women's Leadership Network, a social media outlet that facilitates valuable information and discussion forums about topics of interest to entrepreneurial women.

“Mujeres d'Éxito is a continuation of our commitment with the Puerto Rican Woman, expressed in the past through initiatives such as Pink, Ruta Pink and the Women Leadership Network, now enlarged to encircle the economic subject through a long term program that provides tangible tools to women and future entrepreneurs of all socioeconomic levels”, said Lucienne Gigante, SVP of Marketing and Public Relations at Doral Bank.

About Doral Bank

Doral Bank is a leader community bank in Puerto Rico, providing financial services throughout its 29 branches around the Island. Doral is well known for its innovative products, outstanding service and community service work, recognized locally and internationally.

For more information, go to www.doralbank.com/mujeresdexito
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