

Graduate School 30th Anniversary Celebratory Alumni Award Recipient Sonja Garcia



August 19, 2010 (USF Tampa) – The Graduate School will be honoring Mrs. Sonja Garcia as a *Celebratory Alumni Award Recipient*. The Award, established as part of the Graduate School's 30th Anniversary celebration, honors graduate student alumni for outstanding professional accomplishments and service as a role model for present and future graduate students and scholars.

Sonja W. Garcia is a former University of South Florida (USF) Library Administrator and former member of the USF Board of Trustees. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and a Master of Arts degree in Library and Information Science from USF. She has completed numerous leadership, management and development training programs. Mrs. Garcia is the recipient of the Jean Key Gates Distinguished Alumni Award, presented by the USF School of Library and Information Science; and a recipient of the Kente Award presented by the President's African American Advisory Committee. She also received keys to four cities for her community building in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

An advocate for a broad range of educational initiatives, from Pre-K through College, Mrs. Garcia has led efforts for literacy programs among primary grades to women's leadership and empowerment programs at the college level, and self-actualization programs among community volunteers. Her service affiliations include:

- President, Board of Directors, St. Peter Claver Catholic School
- Vice President & Scholarship Director, Board of Directors, West Orange County Culture Keepers, Incorporated
- Winter Garden Heritage Foundation
- Board, Tampa Chapter of The Links, Incorporated
- Former member, USF Board of Trustees, 2003-2010
- Former South Atlantic Regional Director, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, 1998-2002 (Life member)

Mrs. Garcia is married to Rigoberto M. Garcia and has two sons, two daughters-in-law and six grandchildren. She resides in Tampa with her family.

The Graduate School is pleased to honor Mrs. Garcia for her outstanding accomplishments. Mrs. Garcia will receive her award at a presentation on September 9, 2010. She will be the second recipient of this award, with the first presented in May 2010 to Chief Gil Kerlikowske, graduate alum from Criminal Justice Administration who now serves as the Director for Drug Policy and Control for the Obama Administration. The Graduate School will recognize additional outstanding graduate alumni over the course of the 2010-2011 academic year, culminating on the official anniversary date of March 4, 2011.

For more information on this award or the presentation, contact Carol Hines-Cobb at 813-974-4239 or chines-cobb@grad.usf.edu.