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## KARLOS RAMIREZ NAMED CHAIR OF STL PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Executive Director of Hispanic Chamber is a valued voice in economic growth

**St. Louis, February 3, 2016**— Karlos Ramirez, executive director of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis, has been named the new chairperson of the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership board of directors.

"Karlos is a dynamic leader who brings fresh ideas to our organization. We are thrilled to welcome him as our new board chair," said Sheila Sweeney, CEO of the Partnership. "Karlos represents an important and growing part of our community. The Hispanic population is the fastest growing group in the St. Louis region. They are helping fuel job creation and economic vitality, our mission at the Partnership."

<u>St. Louis Economic Development Partnership</u> serves St. Louis City and County to create jobs and ensure the vitality of the region. The Partnership helps businesses of all sizes grow through a broad range of services including business expansion and retention, entrepreneurial support, real estate, community development and international trade support.

"I am honored to be serving as the chair of the Economic Development Partnership because this is such a prestigious organization that is making a difference in St. Louis and I am eager to start my new role on the board," said Karlos Ramirez, executive director, <u>Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis</u>.

Ramirez moved to the St. Louis area in 2011 to lead the Hispanic Chamber. Since his arrival, membership at the Chamber has grown 81% and corporate sponsorships are up 477%.

"The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is truly lucky to be a valued voice invited to the table of these necessary conversations, especially because the Latino population is the fastest growing in the city, county, state, and metropolitan area," said Ramirez.