

Dear Houston Salsa Congress 2012 Participants,

The Houston Salsa Dancers, Inc. and Board Members would like to thank everyone who attended the 2012 Houston Salsa Congress at the Westin Houston Memorial City this past Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. We work year round in collaboration with Albert Torres Productions to reach out to as many dance and music lovers around the world as possible.

We would like to thank all the artists that wowed us on stage with their eye catching routines as well as their professionalism off stage. Many artists mingled with the crowd and created even more fans just by being themselves. We also want to thank those who are just beginning and had their very first performance at the Houston Salsa Congress. We know it's not easy to perform, but you did it and hopefully this will spark a new desire for you to continue to grow through dance and music.

The music drives the Congress and without it, we all would not be driving or flying hundreds of miles to meet in one place to have the ultimate amount of fun with others. The 3 bands, Tumbao Clasico, Grupo Latin Vibe from New York, and Son7 were all at our Congress for the first time and rocked our world with their tunes. Dee-Jays Edwin Gonzo, Hector Vazquez, Corwin Paul Jackson, Michael Angelo, Jorge Elizondo and DJ Colombiano took care of the Salsa and Bachata rooms at different times throughout the weekend.

We recognized some individuals for their dedication to the Houston Community:

Honorary Houston Salsa Community Dancers:	David and Jennifer Stein
Outstanding Dancer of the Year:	Kanosky Munoz
Houston Salsa Ambassador:	Michael Whitmire
Houston Salsa Community Musician:	Jairo Perea

The support came from other promoters, vendors, supporters, and of course our sponsors that help us year round such as Melody Club and Expert Computer Solutions.

Last but not least, we'd like to thank the volunteers that gave their time to work during the Congress to help us with whatever we asked of them. We, especially, want to recognize the hard work of the following volunteers: Sylvia Mendoza, Bonnie Mendoza and Junior Mendoza (Registration), Paola Martinez (Ballroom & Stage Director), Peter Robert (Video Stream) and Jonathan Lindee (Promotions/Transportation/Ballroom). Thank you all!

All of this work and dedication is to raise scholarship funds. This year we honored 5 deserving college/university students with scholarships Saturday night:

- Alejandra Hernandez
- Eduardo Valdez
- Heather Arnett
- Jennifer Lopez
- Krisztina Petho-Robertson

***"Dancing your way to College"*** occurs during the day on the Friday of the MLK, Jr. weekend. This year's speakers, Eduardo Valdez and Ike Ogbaa, spoke to the many high school and middle school teens about focusing and following their dreams. Going to college helps fulfill those dreams. Hopefully, we will have some of these same students listed as scholarship recipients in the future.

Southern hospitality is what drives our Congress. We had the support from the entire state of Texas and with them, we were able to welcome all of our out of town guests and performers. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did, and we look forward to your support in 2013!

We will post pictures from the following photographers on the Houston Salsa Congress 2012 FB Group Page and also on our website [www.HoustonSalsaCongress.com](http://www.HoustonSalsaCongress.com):

- Albert Smith
- Mauricio Brown
- Derek Garza
- Israel Torres
- Francisco Pena

Sincerely,  
Houston Salsa Dancers, Inc.