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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CHAMBER'S "INTERNATIONAL TRIBUTE DINNER" CELEBRATES BINATIONAL LEADERS**

*Ambassador Marcela Celorio, San Diego Padres, and UC San Diego receive awards for work to strengthen cross-border relationships*

**SAN DIEGO (October 25, 2017)** – The Cali-Baja region plays a pivotal role in the evolving relationship between the U.S. and Mexico and is a national model for productive and collaborative cross-border trade and commerce. Tonight, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce celebrated the region's outstanding commitment to binational collaboration and honored those who are leading the way at the International Tribute Dinner.

"Our region's close cross-border relationships shape our communities, culture, and economy," said Jerry Sanders, President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber. "We here in the Cali-Baja region are an example to the rest of the country and the Chamber is proud to honor those who are committed to enhancing our region's position in the global economy and helping Cali-Baja reach its greatest potential."

During the Tribute Dinner, awards were given to three trailblazers whose efforts have helped define the region's cooperative spirit. The awardees also shared their perspectives from government, academia, and the private sector in a panel discussion on our region's most pressing issues. This year's awardees are:

- Leader of the Year – **Ambassador Marcela Celorio**, who serves as Mexico's Consul General in San Diego. Ambassador Celorio has been one of the strongest advocates for the U.S.-Mexico relationship. Among her many efforts to support the binational community: she has created programs to offer language lessons, school certification, and immigrant support services.

- Binational Business of the Year – **San Diego Padres**, for their investment in the community and the region’s young people through partnerships with the Boys and Girls Club of Tijuana, support of Little League in San Diego and Tijuana, and creation of the first cross-border Major League Baseball All-Star Community Legacy project.
- Cross-Border Collaboration Award – **University of California San Diego**, for their efforts and leadership incorporating the Latino community through programs that foster opportunity, open dialogue, and cross-cultural collaboration. This includes various exchange programs and development of resources that help increase student access and success as well as the research initiatives led by the University’s Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies which inform the creation, implementation and evaluation of public policy.

Held at the Omni San Diego Hotel, the Tribute Dinner brought together nearly 200 business, government, and community leaders from San Diego and Baja including San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer who also addressed attendees.

For highlights from the 2017 International Tribute Dinner, search the hashtag #ChamberTribute17 on social media.

#### **About The San Diego Regional Chamber**

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community, and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is fighting to make San Diego the most business-friendly region in California. For more information, please visit [SDChamber.org](http://SDChamber.org) or call 619-544-1300.

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