



December 3, 2009, Atlanta, Georgia – After a lengthy and thorough selection process, EARTH University Foundation has named Ms. Liliana Grip as its new Director of Development.

Ms. Grip will be responsible for leading United States fundraising efforts on behalf of EARTH University and managing daily operations of EARTH University Foundation.

EARTH University administrators and faculty, as well as Foundation staff and trustees who were involved in the interview process overwhelmingly expressed their confidence in Ms. Grip based on her extensive experience and her identification with EARTH's mission. "Liliana's background in the corporate and non-profit sectors and her commitment to issues affecting the environment and international development make her an ideal candidate for this position," said EARTH University Vice President of Development, David Walker.

EARTH University, a private, international, non-profit undergraduate institution based in Costa Rica is dedicated to the sustainable development of the humid tropics. EARTH's educational program focuses on the agricultural sciences and the rational use of natural resources.

EARTH University has relied on the support of generous donors from a variety of countries throughout its 19 years of history. This support has enabled EARTH to provide higher education opportunities to young leaders from around the world. The University has granted partial or complete scholarships to over 1,500 students since 1990. EARTH University Foundation, a registered public charity based in Atlanta, Georgia conducts a significant portion of the University's fundraising.

Ms. Grip will be coming to EARTH University Foundation from SABEResPODER, where she was Executive Vice President of Marketing and Corporate Affairs. She brings over 25 years experience in marketing, sales and business development and more than ten years experience in Hispanic marketing in the financial services industry. Her prior experience includes positions as Director of Corporate Responsibility and Reputation at BBVA Compass and a variety of senior management positions at Wells Fargo.

Ms. Grip holds a degree in Business Administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, Summa Cum Laude, and is a graduate of the University of Washington Executive Management Program. An active member of the community, Ms. Grip currently serves on the Board of Directors and the Development Committee of the National Hispana Leadership Institute, is a board member of The Women's Network Service Organization, and has held a variety of volunteer positions in several other organizations.

A native of Cuba, Ms. Grip and her husband Tom are the proud parents of four children and grandparents of eight. For her new position, she will relocate from Birmingham, Alabama to Atlanta, where she will lead the current staff of eight at EARTH University Foundation.

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