



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MEDIA ALERT**

Contact: Liliana Osorio
Tel: 619-692-550
losorio@berkeley.edu

**Binational Health Week Celebrates 16 Years of Delivering Culturally-Competent
Health Education and Services to Vulnerable Populations**
October 3-21, 2016

WHAT: **Binational Health Week** (BHW) is celebrating its 16th anniversary. Federal and state government agencies, community-based organizations and thousands of volunteers have come together during the month of October to help improve the health and well-being of the underserved Latino population. Activities include workshops, insurance referrals, health fairs and medical screenings.

WHEN: BHW will take place on **October 3-21, 2016** in the U.S. and Canada. This year the main health topics that will be addressed are Infectious Diseases, Chronic Diseases, Access to Health Insurance, Mental Health, and Women's Health.

Previously, the annual policy forum, a conference that offered a space for participants to share recent research, propose policy recommendations, and develop bilateral working strategies, served as the launching event of Binational Health Week. Beginning in 2016, BHW will be launched by an inaugural event in which key stakeholders and policymakers will be invited. This year's Inaugural Event will take place in Mexico City.

WHO: BHW main partners include the Secretariats of Health and Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, and Peru, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, several Departments of Public Health, the Council of Mexican Federations in North America, and the Health Initiative of the Americas, a program of the University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health.

IMPACT: In 2015, thanks to the leadership and coordination of the consulates of the participant Latin American countries, **1,780** were organized, including health fairs, conferences, classes, and sports events. Approximately **325,600** people attended those events (65% female, 35% male). Close to **4,000** organizations and **11,000** volunteers joined this efforts and about **60,000** health screenings and services were offered, including glucose, cholesterol, BMI, blood pressure, HIV, mammograms, breast exams, PAP smears, dental check-ups, vision check-ups, bone density, flu shots and other vaccinations, mental health screenings, health insurance enrollments and referrals, among other health related services.

WHERE: **Inaugural Event:** Mexico City, Mexico

Local and Regional Events: in more than 300 cities and towns in 40 U.S. states and 3 provinces in Canada. For more information, please visit: <http://www.binationalhealthweek.org>