

New America Media Convening  
**STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATIONS: A Summit of Ethnic Media and Immigrant Rights  
Groups From the South**

Forty ethnic media practitioners and 30 immigrant rights activists from Southern states gathered on July 12, 2007 at the University of Georgia Alumni Center in Atlanta to take part in New America Media's Summit on Strengthening Communications in the Immigrant Rights Movement. They were joined by representatives from the mainstream media, Washington policy advocates, and professors and staff from the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, NAM's partner in the event. Two weeks after the collapse of national immigration reform, and with new anti-immigrant legislation going into effect in states like Georgia and Tennessee, the July 12th Summit took on an urgency for Southern ethnic media who play an essential role as messengers to the community in a growing climate of fear and isolation. Teodoro Maus, an immigrant rights activist with the Atlanta-based Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, said, Ethnic media is the grapevine to the community, and complimented summit organizers for creating a great opportunity for us to network and build more networks. I made contacts with media representatives I don't always get to meet. It's also important for us to meet as we plan to build and improve the work in the future.



Catherine Montoya with National Council De La Raza speaks to the group



Keynote speaker Michael L. Thurmond, Georgia Department of Labor Commissioner