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ALAS to Recognize Superintendents from Minnesota and Georgia for Outstanding Leadership February 14

WASHINGTON, D.C.—February 6, 2014—The Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) will recognize St. Paul (MN) Public Schools Superintendent Valeria S. Silva and Cobb County (GA) School District Superintendent Michael Hinojosa with the Outstanding Educator Award at its 9th Annual ALAS Recognition Reception from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, February 14, at Omni Nashville Hotel in Nashville, TN.

As the first Latina superintendent in Minnesota, Valeria S. Silva serves a highly diverse enrollment of 38,000 students in Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS), the state's capital school district. Prior to her appointment in 2009, Ms. Silva held several senior leadership posts with SPPS, including chief academic officer and director of English language learner programs for a district where 45 percent of its students learning English are also fluent in languages as diverse as Amharic, Spanish, Somali, Hmong and Karen. As an internationally recognized champion for children, she has been called upon to inform educational best practices in Chile, Cuba, Panama, and other schools worldwide. In 2004, she accompanied a delegation to Wat Tham Krabok refugee camp in Thailand to lay the groundwork for welcoming 1,700 new Hmong students into SPPS. Ms. Silva currently serves as Chair for the Council of Great City Schools.

Dr. Michael Hinojosa has served as superintendent of the Cobb County School District, the nation's 25th largest school district with a student population of approximately 107,000. His career in public education, from teacher and coach to superintendent of six school systems, spans more than three decades. Prior to joining Cobb, Dr. Hinojosa served as a superintendent/CEO for the Dallas (TX) Independent School District. With a firm belief that education, and not environment, is the key to a student's success, he has led several school districts to improved student achievement. Dr. Hinojosa's recognitions include being named 2002 Superintendent of the Year by the Texas Association of School Boards and 2005 Superintendent of the Year by the University of Texas at Austin.

"Our honorees this year are dedicated educational professionals who truly care about student success," said Veronica Rivera, ALAS executive director. "Ms. Silva and Dr. Hinojosa are great examples of how commitment, caring and inclusion can transform educational environments where all students can succeed."

The reception is being held in conjunction with the AASA National Conference on Education.

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About the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS)

The ALAS mission is to provide leadership at the national level that assures every school in America effectively serves the educational needs of all students, with an emphasis on Latino youth, by building capacity, promoting best practices, and transforming educational institutions. ALAS was established in 2003 in response to a lack of national advocacy and representation of Latino students.

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