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## **ALAS Concludes 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Conference and Elects New Board Officers**

*Dr. Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana Assumes Board President Position*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—October 25, 2013—More than 400 superintendents, administrators and education leaders and stakeholders representing more than 30 states and the District of Columbia convened last week in Denver, Colorado for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Summit of the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS). During this national conference, Dr. Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana officially assumed the position of ALAS board president. Dr. Meléndez, on loan from her position as member of the senior management team at the Los Angeles Unified School District, serves as Senior Policy Advisor and Director of Education and Workforce Development for Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. She takes the helm after the conclusion of the successful term of Past President Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. ALAS is also proud to announce its newly elected officers:

- Dr. Edward Lee Vargas, Kent (WA) School District Superintendent, President-Elect;
- Pedro A. Rivera, School District of Lancaster (PA) Superintendent, Secretary;
- Valeria S. Silva, Saint Paul (MN) Public Schools Superintendent, Treasurer.

ALAS also welcomed the reelection of directors representing two regions of the nation. They are:

### Region 1 (West):

- Richard A. Carranza, San Francisco (CA) Unified School District Superintendent;
- Dr. Arturo Delgado, Los Angeles (CA) County Office of Education Superintendent;

### Region 3 (Southwest):

- Eduardo B. Soto, Albuquerque (NM) Public Schools Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education; and
- Susana Cordova, Denver (CO) Public Schools Chief Academic Officer.

ALAS expresses its sincerest gratitude for the tremendous work, leadership and dedication to Dr. Andres Alonso, retired superintendent, Baltimore (MD) City Schools; Dr. Michael Hinojosa, superintendent, Cobb County (GA) School District; Dr. Jose Torres, superintendent, School District U-46 (IL); and Dr. Manuel Isquierdo, superintendent, Sunnyside (AZ) Unified School District, for their service on the ALAS board, and extends its best wishes as they continue to advance the mission of ALAS both in their respective regions and nationally.

In its ongoing effort to ensure representation from across the nation, ALAS is currently seeking nominations to the board from the Midwest and Southeast Regions. The Midwest Region (Region 5) includes Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Iowa and Minnesota. The Southeast Region (Region 7) includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Puerto Rico. The board expects to fill the two additional seats at its meeting in February. Directors serve two-year, staggered terms.

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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 ensures 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.