



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Honors Aspiring Latino Superintendents with \$12,000 in Scholarship Funding**

*Awards presented at the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents' Summit on Hispanic Education*

**BOSTON** – Nov. 7, 2012 – Global education leader Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) today announced Ivan Duran as the recipient of its \$10,000 scholarship for higher studies in education, which was presented at the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents' (ALAS) Summit on Hispanic Education. Duran, who is Instructional Superintendent at Denver Public Schools in Denver, Colo., is pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Denver.

"The ALAS scholarship program aligns perfectly with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's mission of changing lives by fostering passionate, curious learners. By empowering aspiring Latino superintendents across the country, we hope to inspire the next generation of leaders in our schools," said Linda K. Zecher, President and Chief Executive Officer, HMH. "We congratulate Mr. Duran on his impressive career. In addition to being a gifted educator, he possesses the knowledge and determination to transform educational initiatives across the school district."

The one-time \$10,000 scholarship, which HMH has provided since 2006, is awarded to an ALAS member in good standing, who is an aspiring school leader pursuing an advanced degree in education with the goal of becoming a superintendent.

"ALAS is very grateful for the continued partnership with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt," said Veronica Rivera, Executive Director, ALAS. "The company's support has been invaluable to ALAS' mission of providing leadership at the national level that assures every school in the U.S. effectively serves the educational needs of all students, especially students of color and second language learners."

With a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, Duran began his career as a fifth grade teacher in Denver. After earning a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis on second language acquisition and technology integration, Duran moved from classroom instruction to other positions in educational administration, including his current role at Denver Public Schools.

"I am honored to receive this prestigious award from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt," said Duran. "I have spent my career working to bring positive change to the learning environments of all teachers and students in the Denver area, and while this pursuit continues to bring unique challenges, I feel empowered to continue on this path and represent ALAS' values."

Ricardo López, winner of the honorable mention award, will also receive a one-time \$2,000 scholarship for his leadership and lifelong commitment to education. A former history teacher and principal, López currently serves as the Associate Superintendent, Area 1, of the Ysleta Independent School District in El

Paso, Texas, where he ensures compliance with all district rules and regulations while working toward the success of all instructional programs at three campuses within the district.

The awards were presented at the ALAS Summit on Hispanic Education at the InterContinental Hotel in Miami, Fla., which took place from October 10 – 13, 2012. The awards banquet featured keynote presentations from Marco A. Davis, Acting Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, and Tony Plana, actor and international speaker.

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#### **About Houghton Mifflin Harcourt**

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt is a global learning company with the mission of changing lives by fostering passionate, curious learners. Among the world's largest providers of pre-K–12 education solutions and one of its longest-established publishing houses, HMH combines cutting-edge research, editorial excellence and technological innovation to improve teaching and learning environments and solve complex literacy and education challenges. HMH's interactive, results-driven education solutions are utilized by 60 million students in 120 countries, and its renowned and awarded novels, non-fiction, children's books and reference works are enjoyed by readers throughout the world. For more information, visit [www.hmhco.com](http://www.hmhco.com).

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