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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALAS SUPERINTENDENTS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

MARLBOROUGH, MA, July 22, 2011— The National Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) kicked off the first session of the ALAS Superintendents Leadership Academy (SLA) recently in Chicago, Illinois.

Eighteen participants were selected for the charter group in the year-long program designed for emerging school system leaders. This is the first training program in America to focus on preparing the next generation of school system leaders with the skill set necessary to close the achievement gap and specifically address the needs of English Language Learners and other disenfranchised groups. Participants were selected for the program because of their sensitivity and commitment as well as their focus on raising the level of student achievement for English Language Learners for the school districts they serve.

The SLA seeks to improve and expand opportunities for current school system leaders by providing professional development, coaching, mentoring, and support to acquire the knowledge and skills to assume executive-level roles in high-poverty and minority-serving school districts. Experienced superintendents and other educational experts will share their expertise in sessions throughout the next year.

SLA participants for the 2011-2012 program are:

Mr. Juan Eduardo Cabrera, Jr.
Business Development
HMH Consulting
Austin, TX 78738

Dr. Edith Macklin-Isquierdo
Assistant Superintendent of High Schools
Tucson Unified School District #1
Tucson, AZ 85719

Mr. Richard A. Carranza
Deputy Superintendent of Instruction
Innovation and Social Justice
San Francisco USD
San Francisco, CA 94102

Mr. T. Jason Martinez
Director of Strategy
Denver Public Schools
Denver, CO 80203

Dr. Lily DeBlieux
Principal - Mission Manor Elementary
Sunnyside USD
Tucson, AZ 85706

Dr. Tracy L. Ocasio
Director of Curriculum and Instruction
School District of Lancaster
Lancaster, PA 17603

Dr. Danna Diaz, Director
Student Engagement & School Completion
Fort Worth ISD
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Dr. Karen Sanchez-Griego
Principal Atrisco Heritage Academy HS
Albuquerque Public Schools
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Mr. Francisco Duran
Assistant Superintendent
The School District of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Ms. Socorro Shiels
Assistant Superintendent, Ed Services
Morgan Hill USD
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Mr. Sergio Flores
Assistant Superintendent, HR
Santa Maria Joint Union High School Dist.
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Mr. Anibal Soler, Jr.
Principal, East HS
Rochester City School District
Rochester, NY 14612

Mr. Guadalupe Guerrero
Assistant Superintendent
Mission District K-12
San Francisco USD
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dr. Luis R. Valentino
Director, Principal Leader
Los Angeles USD
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Mr. Steven Holmes
Assistant Superintendent for C&I
Sunnyside USD #12
Tucson, AZ 95706

Dr. Mario P. Ventura
Assistant Superintendent for Teaching
and Learning
Isaac School District #5
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Dr. Joseph G. Lopez
Associate Superintendent of C&I
El Paso ISD
El Paso, TX 79925

Dr. Rosa M. Villarreal
Director, Bilingual/ESL/PK Programs
and Interim Principal, Old Town Elem.
Round Rock ISD
Round Rock, TX 78681

Candidates were selected based on their proven record of leadership, level of energy and engagement to act as a change agent in a demanding organization. The level of enthusiasm and heartfelt dedication to serving the needs of children and their families were also considered essential for selection.

Carlos Garcia, ALAS board president stated, "this group of individuals is about as strong as any I've seen in my entire career. Some are ready to be superintendents right now and all have great potential."

About the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS)

ALAS is an educational professional association advocating for Latino youth through professional development, interaction, and networking among administrators in school districts nationwide that serve Hispanic students.

ALAS was formed in 2003 in response to the lack of national advocacy and representation by the existing mainstream professional associations. It is this void that ALAS seeks to fill with a determined effort to improve career opportunities for Hispanic administrators and improving the educational success of Hispanic youth.

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.

The Center for Educational Leadership and Technology (CELT) has been retained by ALAS to provide essential program, fiscal and organizational management services, including such activities as conference coordination, fundraising, and web hosting services.