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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALAS SUPERINTENDENTS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

MARLBOROUGH, MA, March 31, 2011—To meet the challenge and shortage of leadership for school districts nationwide that serve high poverty and large percentages of Hispanic youth, the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) has launched the ALAS Superintendents Leadership Academy. High dropout rates and low achievement require renewed efforts to focus on improving the curriculum and instruction for Hispanic/Latino students.

This Leadership Academy will provide mentoring and coaching by proven, distinguished and experienced school superintendents and other educational experts to each participant. The goal is to recruit and prepare school system leaders to become superintendents of Hispanic-serving school districts in the United States.

Based on 2010 census data, the growth of the Hispanic population has exploded in many states. Hispanics will account for 51% of the U. S. population growth by 2050. Hispanic students comprise 25% or more in Arizona, California, Nevada, Texas, and New Mexico. Several other states like Colorado and Oregon are experiencing explosive growth in this population.

Carlos Garcia, Superintendent of the San Francisco Unified School District and ALAS Board President stated, “There is an acute shortage around the country of leaders with the knowledge and skills required to be successful in school districts with the demographics of high poverty and minority students.” The ALAS Superintendents Leadership Academy is the first of its kind to focus on the research pertaining to English Language Learners (ELL) as well as adoption of teaching practices and policy initiatives designed to meet the diverse needs of students. It is not unusual for school districts to have high numbers of Spanish speakers as well as students from many language backgrounds other than English as their home language.

Strategic leadership themes, effective school reform practices, recent ELL research, and current trends and issues will be presented over a year-long period beginning in July 2011. Information and applications are available on line at www.alasedu.net.

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This unique and timely initiative is supported by Promethean and the Pearson Foundation:

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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 of 2010 is an invigorated organization that is building toward national prominence to lead the way. For the first time in its history, an executive director has been hired to provide direction and continuity. The Center for Educational Leadership and Technology (CELT) has been retained to provide essential services, such as conference coordination, fund raising, and data and financial management.

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.