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ALAS Superintendents Leadership Academy Graduation in San Antonio *Last session and graduation ceremony this weekend, May 15-17*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—May 15, 2014—The Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) is proud to announce the graduation of the 2013-2014 fellows of its prestigious Superintendents Leadership Academy (SLA) at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at the Hilton Palacio del Rio, 200 S. Alamo St., in San Antonio. Only 17 superintendents and administrators from across the nation were selected to participate in the year-long program, including two from Texas.

The leadership program is the first of its kind in the United States to focus on preparing the next generation of school system leaders with the skills necessary to close achievement gaps and specifically address the needs of English Language Learners and other disenfranchised groups. “With the increasing number of Latino students in public schools, it is more important than ever that our school system leaders are able to prepare them for the 21st century. We must ensure that Latino students no longer lag behind others in literacy and graduation rates,” said ALAS Executive Director Veronica Rivera. “The future of our economy depends on it.”

San Antonio ISD Superintendent Sylvester Perez is the keynote luncheon speaker at noon on Friday, May 16. Dr. Perez will speak on creating equitable leadership in school systems.

Participants were selected for the program based on their proven record of leadership and commitment on raising the level of student achievement for students of color and for English Language Learners for the school districts they serve. Their level of dedication to serving the needs of children and their families was also considered essential for selection. The program fellows represent 11 different states.

The year-long program will covers Curriculum & Instruction/Assessment; Equity Leadership & Community Engagement; Governance & Strategic Planning; Leadership & Preparing to Become a Superintendent Preparation; Management Systems & Structures; and Government Relations. Experienced superintendents and other educational professionals will share their expertise at the sessions.

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About the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS)

Established in 2003, ALAS is an educational professional association advocating for Latino youth through professional development, interaction and networking among administrators in school districts nationwide that serve Latino students. The national nonprofit was formed in response to the lack of national advocacy and representation of Latino administrators and students by the existing mainstream professional associations.