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## **Andres Alonso to be Honored with ALAS Lifetime Achievement Award**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) will honor Andrés A. Alonso with its Lifetime Achievement Award for his commitment to students and their families at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Summit in Atlanta, Georgia, October 16, 2014.

Dr. Alonso emigrated from Cuba at the age of 12, speaking no English and attending public schools in Union City, New Jersey. He went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia University, and earned a J.D. and a Doctorate in Education from Harvard University. After practicing corporate litigation in New York City, he changed course to become an educator.

“Dr. Alonso is an example of the potential that all English language learners have,” said Veronica Rivera, executive director of ALAS. “Not only has he demonstrated success personally and professionally, and influenced educational reform at the local level, he is now helping higher education students reach their dreams of success.”

“I am deeply moved by this recognition, and feel that it honors the many people who over time taught me and challenged me to strive for students and their families, not only Latino students but all students in communities where we struggle to teach and support our students so they succeed,” stated Dr. Alonso when informed of the award. “What I have learned is that our students and families bring enormous strengths to communities and schools, and that with the right settings and commitment they can continually replenish that store of hope that sometimes seems to be emptying in the American dream. It’s great to be able to share this honor with so many people whose work I have respected and applauded throughout my career.”

From 1987 to 1998, Dr. Alonso taught emotionally disturbed special education adolescents and English language learners in Newark, New Jersey, helping writing the district’s bilingual special education guide and leading the work to bring standards to English Language Learning instruction in that district. After returning to Harvard to continue his studies, he served as deputy chancellor for teaching and learning at the New York City Department of Education during the launch of its Children First reform, overseeing the educational mission of the nation’s largest school district.

In July 2007, Dr. Alonso became CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools). During his tenure, Baltimore City students reached their highest outcomes in state exams, across all categories of students. City Schools saw its enrollment climb, following four decades of steady enrollment decline. It posted its best-ever dropout and graduation rates, driven largely by attention to all students, a focus on adult performance, the promotion of choice and bounded school autonomy for all schools, a commitment to reduce suspensions and increase opportunities for students to stay in school, and intensive efforts to engage parents and community. In 2010 City Schools settled the Vaughn G. special education lawsuit, ending 26 years of court oversight and litigation. In 2011 Dr. Alonso was appointed to a four year term on the National Assessment Governing Board, which sets policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), known as “The Nation’s Report Card.” In 2013, with support from the entire community, City Schools succeeded in receiving funding from the state to renovate its schools.

Since July 1, 2013, Dr. Alonso has served as Professor of Practice at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education, where he teaches on urban district and school reform, helps steer the Education Doctorate in Leadership Degree program, and co-chairs the Public Education Leadership Project, a partnership between the School of Education and Harvard Business School. He has received numerous other awards during his career, among them the Distinguished Service Medal from Teacher’s College of Columbia University.