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ALAS Elects New Board Officers at Annual Conference

Dr. Edward Lee Vargas, Kent School District Superintendent, Assumes Board President Position

WASHINGTON, D.C.—October 23, 2014—Dr. Edward Lee Vargas officially assumed the position of president of the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) board of directors at the organization’s annual ALAS Education Summit held last week in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Vargas is currently superintendent for the Kent School District. Located in the Seattle Metropolitan area, Kent is the fourth largest and most diverse district in Washington with over 138 languages spoken and the only school district in the U.S. designated a Microsoft International Demonstration Site for Technology in Education. Dr. Vargas is a nationally recognized speaker on leadership for creating high performing school systems grounded in equity and excellence for all, and distinguished lecturer on “School System Readiness to Transform,” keynoting numerous state, national and international conferences, including the National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. on 21st Century Skills, speaking at USA-China Educational Symposiums in China and presenting at Microsoft’s Global Forum on Technology in Prague, in the Czech Republic, in 2012 and in Barcelona, Spain, in 2014. Dr. Vargas received his master’s degree from the University of New Mexico in Educational Diagnosis and a doctorate from the University of Washington in Leadership and Policy.

Dr. Vargas assumes the position after the conclusion of the successful term of Dr. Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana, who will now serve as immediate past president. Dr. Melendez is the senior administrator of Beyond the Bell Branch with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Other newly elected board officers are:

- Pedro A. Rivera, School District of Lancaster (PA) Superintendent, ALAS President Elect;
- Richard Carranza, San Francisco Unified School District (CA) Superintendent, ALAS Board Secretary; and
- Dr. Christina Kishimoto, Gilbert Public Schools (AZ) Superintendent, ALAS Treasurer.

The 2015 ALAS Education Summit will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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About the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS)

The ALAS mission is to provide leadership at the national level that ensures 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. ALAS was established in 2003 in response to a lack of national advocacy and representation of Latino students.