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ALAS to Recognize Retired Associate Superintendent for Outstanding Leadership February 27, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.—February 26, 2015—The Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) will recognize retired Albuquerque Public Schools Associate Superintendent Eduardo B. Soto with the Outstanding Educator Award at its 10th Annual ALAS Recognition Reception from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, February 27, at the Marriot Marquis and Marina Hotel in San Diego, CA.

After more than 34 years with the Albuquerque Public Schools, Eduardo B. Soto retired as the Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education. Whether teaching in a bilingual social studies classroom, working with students with disabilities, conducting dropout research, or serving as principal of a comprehensive high school or small alternative school, Mr. Soto has been a catalyst for reform across Albuquerque and New Mexico. He has played a key role in school transformation at the secondary level with the implementation of smaller learning communities, professional learning communities for teachers and principals and AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination). Mr. Soto continuously looked for strategic instructional approaches that helped all students across one of the nation's largest urban school districts.

Mr. Soto served as an initial participant in one of the first ALAS organizational meetings more than twelve years ago and also undertook the initiative of establishing a statewide ALAS organization, ALAS de Nuevo Mexico. He served as the chair of the group's planning committee, overseeing recruitment efforts with strategic partners across the state, the creation of bylaws and the selection of interim officers.

Mr. Soto's experience as a long-time educator in a school district with a Hispanic majority gave him great insight into the needs of Latino students. He began his career as a teacher at a challenging middle school made up almost entirely of low-income English Language Learners and then spent the last five years in the district as the Associate Superintendent providing leadership and support for 13 comprehensive high schools, 10 alternative schools and 27 middle schools. His professional background, combined with his own personal upbringing, fueled his advocacy for public education that benefited Latino and all students.

“Mr. Soto is a dedicated educational professional who is a great example of how commitment, caring and inclusion can transform educational environments where all students can succeed,” said Veronica Rivera, ALAS executive director. Mr. Soto continues to serve on the ALAS Board of Directors and stays involved with the New Mexico state affiliate.

The reception is being held in conjunction with the AASA National Conference on Education.

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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 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. ALAS was established in 2003 in response to a lack of national advocacy and representation of Latino students.