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Dr. Carmella S. Franco Honored with ALAS Lifetime Achievement Award

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) recognized the educational contributions of Dr. Carmella S. Franco with its Lifetime Achievement Award at the 12th Annual Education Summit in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Dr. Carmella S. Franco is currently a regional search associate for Ray and Associates, Inc., assisting with superintendent searches. Most recently completed her tenure as interim superintendent for Compton Unified School District (USD). She was selected to provide leadership stability and fiscal advisement. Previously, she was appointed by the California State Board of Education as the state trustee for the Alisal Union School District, in part for her expertise in working successfully with districts facing difficult challenges and mobilizing them toward a common goal. Her mantra has been, “I will do anything I can to see that students receive the quality education they deserve.”

Dr. Franco taught and began her administrative career at Rowland USD; served as a principal in Grades K-8 at Bassett USD; and headed the Personnel Department at the Lennox School District. She was superintendent of the Whittier School District in 1996, serving 12 years before retiring in 2008. Retirement was short-lived as she began an interim superintendent position in the Woodland Joint USD the very next day, until 2009.

In addition to serving students for 40 years, Dr. Franco is committed to the professional development of colleagues in organizations at the local, state and national levels. She is one of the founding members, and a former director (Western region), of the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents.

Dr. Franco sits on the Board of the YMCA of Greater Whittier and the Rio Hondo Community College Foundation. She has been active in Rotary serving as president of the LAX International Airport and Whittier Clubs. Dr. Franco currently serves a director of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Superintendents Academy. She has also served as president of the California City School Superintendents and the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators.

Dr. Franco graduated cum laude with a degree in Music, and holds a master’s in Elementary Education from California State University at Los Angeles (CSULA). She earned a Doctorate in non-traditional negotiation methods from the University of La Verne (ULV).

Dr. Franco co-authored a book titled “A Culturally Proficient Society Begins in School: Leadership for Equity,” published in September 2011. She is currently providing professional development in the area of building a culture of leadership in school districts.

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