12th Annual ALAS Education Summit
October 14-17, 2015
Albuquerque, New Mexico

“Leading for Equity and Empowerment”

The 2015 Education Summit convened education leaders from throughout the country who serve Latino students and joined their peers in sharing best practices for student achievement. The ALAS Education Summit featured speakers and presenters focused on equity in the classrooms, schools and school districts; and best strategies for English Learners to succeed in school, college and career. Workshops included: Preparing Teachers for Transformational Change; Raising Standards for Long-term English Learners; Effective Leadership, Communication and Engagement During an Emergency Incident or Crisis; School Boards and Superintendents: Conditions and Challenges of District Governance; and Internal Equity Audits to Develop a Systemic Strategic Plan. In addition, the summit offered the best venue for networking and reconnecting with colleagues, a newcomer reception, State Affiliates recognition, and scholarships for aspiring Latino superintendents.

Featured and keynote speakers included:
- John B. King, Jr., Senior Advisor Delegated Duties of Deputy Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education
- Libia S. Gil, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Director, Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA), U.S. Department of Education
- Pedro A. Rivera, Secretary of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Antonio Villaraigosa, 41st Mayor of the City of Los Angeles
- Dr. Steve H. Murdock, Professor of Sociology, Rice University
- Juana Bordas, Author, Latina Leader and President, Mestiza Leadership International
- Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, Motivational Speaker and Latina Leader
- Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent, Gilbert Public Schools
- Dr. Elidia (Lily) Matos DeBlieux, Superintendent, Pendergast Elementary School District
- Norma V. Cantu, Professor of Education/Professor of Law, University of Texas at Austin

ALAS President Dr. Edward Lee Vargas welcomes attendees at the opening general session, October 14, 2015
Round table topic sessions were held on discussions such as: *Biliteracy, Shifting the Paradigm; Beyond Getting it Right: Fostering Math Understanding in the Classroom; Achieving Educational Equity to Combat the Achievement Gap; and Literacy Strategies for English Learners.*

ALAS Board Member Christina Kishimoto, Afternoon Tea speaker Norma V. Cantu and ALAS Executive Director Veronica Rivera

Keynote speaker Dr. Steve H. Murdock addresses conference at the opening general session

Second general session keynote speaker Dr. Lily DeBlieux
ALAS Board Member Jose Banda and keynote speaker Libia S. Gil

President Vargas and keynote speaker Antonio Villaraigosa

(Left to Right) ALAS Board President Elect Pedro A. Rivera, ALAS Executive Director Veronica Rivera, Board Member Jose Banda, Board Member Christina Kishimoto, Senior Advisor Delegated Duties of Deputy Secretary of Education John B. King, Jr., President Edward Lee Vargas, Board Member Susana Cordova, Board Member Maria Ott and Board Member Eddie Soto
The ALAS Board of Directors elected officers, new regional directors and reappointed regional directors at its board meeting in Albuquerque during the 12th Annual ALAS Education Summit.

The ALAS board officers are:

- **President** – Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent, Gilbert Public Schools, Gilbert, Arizona
- **President Elect** – Pedro A. Rivera, Secretary of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- **Past President** – Dr. Edward Lee Vargas, Vice President, National Program, AVID, San Diego, California
- **Secretary** – Richard A. Carranza, Superintendent, San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco, California
- **Treasurer** – Jose L. Banda, Superintendent, Sacramento City Unified School District, Sacramento, California

The regional directors are:

- Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Miami, Florida
- Dr. Sharon Contreras, Superintendent, Syracuse City School District, Syracuse, New York
- Susana Cordova, Chief Schools Officer, Denver Public Schools, Denver, Colorado
- Dr. Francisco Durán, Chief Academic Officer, Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax, Virginia
- Dr. Daniel King, Superintendent, Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD, Pharr, Texas
- Dr. Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana, Chief Executive Officer, Educational Services, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, California
- Dr. Maria G. Ott, Professor of Clinical Education, USC School of Education, Los Angeles, California
- Ray Trejo, Assistant Superintendent, Deming Public Schools, Deming, New Mexico

U.S. District Judge M. Christina Armijo swears in ALAS Board of Directors. (Left to Right) Ray Trejo, Francisco Duran, Maria Ott, Pedro A. Rivera, Jose Banda, Lee Vargas and Christina Kishimoto
$24,000 in Scholarships Awarded at Annual Awards Banquet

Each year ALAS recognizes Latino administrators for their leadership by providing assistance toward an advanced degree in education. Four scholarships were offered this year through the generosity of our partnership with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt dating back to 2005 and Curriculum Associates who matched funds this year. Combined, the partners awarded $24,000 in scholarships.

“Without the support of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, and now Curriculum Associates, many talented school administrators would not realize their full potential,” said Veronica Rivera, ALAS executive director. “It’s so important for all of us to invest in public education, including supporting the educational goals of school leaders so that they can assist students in developing a solid foundation for success.”

Victor Vergara, principal at Woodburn High School in Woodburn, Oregon, received the $10,000 ALAS scholarship sponsored by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Vergara is pursuing a doctorate of education from Portland State University. He also holds a master’s degree in education, administration, policy and foundations, a bachelor of arts in liberal arts and a bachelor of science in history, with a minor in geography and education.

Angeles Perez received the $2,000 ALAS scholarship sponsored by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, and is currently the district instructional program evaluator at Jim Hogg Independent School District in Hebbronville, Texas. She is pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership from Sam Houston State University. Perez earned a master’s in education from Lamar University, as well as a bachelor of arts in Spanish with a minor in French from the University of Houston.
Ruben Gutierrez, associate superintendent at Riverside Elementary School District No. 2 in Phoenix, Arizona, received the $10,000 ALAS scholarship sponsored by Curriculum Associates. He is pursuing a doctorate in education leadership and supervision from Arizona State University. Additionally, he holds a master’s degree in education leadership and bilingual/multicultural education, and a bachelor of arts in language arts and Spanish.

Ivette Dubiel received the $2,000 ALAS scholarship sponsored by Curriculum Associates. She is pursuing a doctorate in administration leadership at Lewis University. Dubiel is currently the director of education equity at Indian Prairie School District in Aurora, Illinois. She also earned a master’s in education leadership, education and public administration, in addition to a bachelor of arts in organizational and corporate communications.
Dr. Carmella S. Franco Honored with ALAS Lifetime Achievement Award

ALAS recognized the educational contributions of Dr. Carmella S. Franco with its Lifetime Achievement Award at the 12th Annual ALAS Education Summit.

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.”

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 ALAS.

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.

(Left to Right) President Vargas, ALAS Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Dr. Carmella S. Franco and Board Member Maria Ott
Superintendents Leadership Academy

The 2015-2016 ALAS Superintendents Leadership Academy (SLA) cohort V consists of 14 participants representing 8 states across the nation. The ALAS SLA program provides aspiring leaders the opportunity to engage in a variety of unique and specialized programs, visitations and sessions designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to assume the superintendent role especially in high-poverty and minority-serving school systems. This year’s participants have been provided the opportunity to attend and participate during sessions in Albuquerque, Denver, and will be in the nation’s capital this month.

The SLA session in Albuquerque last month, held concurrently with the ALAS Education Summit, consisted of a wide variety of integrated and quality programs designed to engage our cohort members at various levels. The cohort members, led by SLA Director Dr. Michael Hinojosa, were able to attend and participate in a series of concurrent sessions throughout the program that aligned with our SLA Strands and Topics.

A major emphasis during the annual summit is the opportunity to have guest speakers during the scheduled SLA session. The following speakers presented to our cohort V members: Dr. Maria Ott, Dr. Carmella Franco, and Jose Banda.
Superintendents Leadership Academy Alumni

As of May 2015, the Superintendents Leadership Academy (SLA) Alumni consists of 65 members from Cohorts I-IV who graduated from the program. Thirteen of these members are current Superintendents from across the United States. To this end, the ALAS Board of Directors became aware that our alumni needed continued support once achieving the position of a school superintendent or progressing toward a superintendent position and approved a plan to provide that dedicated support.

A second meeting with the ALAS SLA Alumni members and SLA Cohort V members was held during the ALAS Education Summit in Albuquerque, facilitated by Dr. Hector Montenegro, ALAS Past President and former superintendent. Members participated in a gallery walk and a discussion for an action plan with guidance from the Board. The group made recommendations that included providing continued professional development, mentoring, networking and increasing the visibility of the ALAS SLA Alumni.
State Affiliates

ALAS announced the official recognition of three new ALAS state affiliates at the Education Summit. They are:

- Illinois ALAS (IALAS), President Ivette Dubiel;
- New York State ALAS (NYSALAS), Chairman David Baez and
- ALAS-Utah (ALAS-U), President Jose Enriquez.

IALAS

The Illinois Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (IALAS) has worked all year to establish their state affiliate. They have actively promoted IALAS via various platforms, such as at the statewide Bilingual Directors Meeting and at the Illinois Latino Legislative Caucus Foundation Conference. In combination with their active marketing and social media pages, they have generated an impressive list of potential new members. They plan to open up membership and launch their website on January 1st. IALAS is currently seeking a select number of founding sponsors. The vision and mission of IALAS is as follows:

Vision: To unify and cultivate Latino educational leaders for the purpose of empowering and inspiring all students.

Mission: The Illinois Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (IALAS) commits to provide authentic, high-quality learning opportunities for students by building capacity among Latino educational leaders and by advocating for responsive, informed policy development.
NYSALAS

NYSALAS was committed to becoming an officially recognized state affiliate by the 2015 ALAS Education Summit. The NYSALAS Board of Directors has been busy establishing the organization and has initiated a free membership drive and currently has 88 members throughout the state; and distributed “Sponsorship Invitation” letters to several local state companies. NYSALAS is presently planning the following: holding a Fall statewide membership meeting in NYC; continuing a strong membership drive with a goal of 500 members by July 1st, 2016; and creating a NYSALAS website.

ALAS-U

Six determined advocates met on a Saturday in June of this year and decided it was time to organize an ALAS affiliate in Utah. We were committed to moving the initiative forward without delay. Unlike the first ALAS state affiliates, we were privileged to stand on the shoulders of others who had gone before us. Armed with materials from Florida, California and other affiliates, we used their work as a template and then personalized it to the state of Utah. After three more monthly Saturday meetings, we had an approved set of bylaws and an elected board. We are now preparing the tools we need to build a membership base throughout the state and to solicit sponsorship funds. We are grateful to be an official part of the ALAS familia, and we look forward to participating in the National ALAS Affiliates Conference in January of 2016 in Provo, Utah. In addition, we will host a kick-off membership celebration on the evening of Friday, January 22. Watch for great results in Utah!
**FL-ALAS**

Florida ALAS held its second Leadership Summit on Saturday, November 14, 2015. Educators, community members and aspiring leaders gathered to discuss and further enhance their understanding of various topics related to the academic success of the Latino students and families within our communities. The keynote speaker was Melba Luciano, Superintendent School District of Osceola County, Florida. Her message of always working with passion and balancing your priorities was well received. The conference also provided a venue for FL-ALAS president, Michael Ramirez and Latinos in Action founder, Dr. Jose Enriquez to discuss Florida ALAS’ partnership with the Latinos in Action program. Dr. Jose Enriquez spoke, during the general session, about the importance of empowering Latino youth in order to be college- and career-ready through culture, service and leadership in education. Currently, the program is in its first year of implementation in six high schools throughout Broward County, Florida. With over 100 attendees, there was representation from various counties throughout the state including Broward County School District Superintendent Robert Runcie.

Following the general session, participants engaged in Tabletop conversations on topics chosen in alignment with this year’s theme, which was Empower-Motivate- Lead! Facilitators for each tabletop presented on a topic for the first part of each session and then engaged members in rich discussions related to the presentation’s content. The success of this conference came as a result of committee members who worked countless hours in organizing the event and garnering the support from our various business sponsors.

**OALA**

The OALA Winter Conference 2016 begins with a social event on Friday, February 5, 2016 and runs all day Saturday, February 6, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The theme of this year’s 2016 conference is, Staying the Course: Our Students of Today Are Our Educational Leaders of Tomorrow. This annual event provides a venue for Latino and non-Latino educators, business and community leaders to learn about ongoing and emerging educational issues impacting the Latino community. This conference will support the efforts of numerous educators by providing valuable information on a range of innovative strategies for the fastest growing ethnic U.S. segment - Latinos. The OALA Winter Conference is more than a conference with great speakers, it’s a vehicle to develop, support and mentor the next generation of Oregon educators in a more diverse and challenging learning environment. [Winter Conference 2016 Registration](#)
Career Corner/Membership

Job Postings

If you would like to post a job description for your school district or want to know who is hiring, visit the ALAS website at www.alasedu.org and click “jobs” on the menu bar. Current individual members, corporate members and member school districts may post for free, so renew your membership today! There are no limits on the number of job postings.

Any educational institution or educational search firm, not a member of ALAS, may request a job posting for $150 per posting for a six-week period. To post a job, please email a copy to: contact@alasedu.org.

Membership

Support ALAS as we continue our efforts to advocate for Latino youth and promote our Latino administrators who serve our students in school districts nationwide.

Individual membership includes a discounted rate for the 11th Annual ALAS Education Summit, bi-weekly members update; Wings of Change newsletter; access to job postings, ALAS educational webinars, podcasts, and virtual events; the ability to apply for ALAS grants, scholarships, leadership development programs, and Superintendents Leadership Academy, as well as access to networking opportunities.

School District membership includes individual membership benefits for five (5) individuals, bi-weekly members update, Wings of Change newsletter, reduced ALAS membership fee for all district staff, preferred consideration for summit presentations and unlimited district job postings on the ALAS website and other media platforms.

Corporate membership includes access for five (5) individuals, bi-weekly members update, Wings of Change newsletter, visibility on the ALAS app with two 25-word push notifications, the opportunity to announce and advertise discounts, grants, job postings, and other special promotions to ALAS membership, recognition on ALAS website, ALAS app and marketing materials as an ALAS Corporate member.

JOIN ALAS Today!

Become an individual member of ALAS. Click here to renew your membership or here to join as a new member.

For more information, please visit our website at www.alasedu.org or contact Megan Soliz at msoliz@alasedu.org.

Upcoming Events

November 19-21, 2015
Arizona Hispanic School Administrators Association (AHSSA) 2015 Annual Conference
Marriott Phoenix Airport Hotel
Phoenix, AZ

January 21-23, 2016
ALAS State Affiliates Meeting
Provo, UT

January 29-21, 2016
CALSA – Focus on Results
Intercontinental The Clement Hotel
Monterey, CA

February 5-6, 2016
Oregon Association of Latino Administrators (OALA) Winter Conference
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR

February 11-13, 2016
AASA National Conference on Education
Phoenix Convention Center
Phoenix, AZ

February 12, 2016
ALAS Recognition Reception @AASA NCE
Phoenix Convention Center
Phoenix, AZ
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