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### **VERONICA RIVERA COMPLETES FOUR YEAR OF SERVICE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ALAS**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—September 2, 2016— After four years as ALAS’ executive director, Veronica Rivera is returning to her home state of Texas. Rivera has been a strong, steadfast leader, guiding the organization through significant growth and raising its visibility. Her professionalism and expertise have enhanced ALAS in numerous ways. Under Rivera’s leadership, ALAS met many significant achievements:

- Opened a Washington, D.C., office and secured tax-exempt status for the organization
- Increased membership from 4,000 to 6,000
- Nearly doubled the number of state affiliates from seven to thirteen
- Created and planned the first State Affiliate Leaders Conference
- Created and planned the first Leaders in Education Gala in Washington D.C.
- Adopted new curriculum for the Superintendents Leadership Academy

As executive director, Rivera worked closely with a board of directors made up of 15 superintendents from around country.

“Working at ALAS has been one of the most important highlights of my career. It is such a privilege to have worked side-by-side with some of the most notable professionals in our field on behalf of Latino youth and educators,” Rivera said. “I’m proud of all that we accomplished together, and I look forward to what the future holds.”

Prior to joining ALAS, Ms. Rivera worked in private practice in Texas as a municipal and real estate law attorney. She previously served as Legislative Staff Attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) in Washington, D.C. Her work at MALDEF focused on education policy covering early childhood through adult education issues affecting the Latino community.

Ms. Rivera also served as the Co-Chair of the Hispanic Education Coalition and served as a Peer Reviewer for the U.S. Department of Education for the second round of state waiver applications to the No Child Left Behind Act. She is a noted speaker on the topics of education reform, college and career readiness, and English language learners. A former teacher, Rivera previously served on the Austin Community College (ACC) Board of Trustees. She has served on the Advisory Council of the ACC Center for Public Policy and Political Studies, the Board of Directors of the ACC Foundation, the Foundation Board of the Texas Community College Teachers Association, and as the Chair of the City of Austin and AISD’s Joint Task Force on Education and Quality of Life for Hispanic Students. She is the co-founder of Las Comadres Para Las Americas, an international network for Hispanic women.

“Veronica is clearly a life-long advocate for excellence in education and access for all students, particularly Latinos,” ALAS Board Chair Christina Kishimoto said. “The ALAS Board of Directors thanks Veronica for her years of dedicated service to our members and stakeholders, and the expertise she brought to the position. She has established a strong foundation for us to build upon.”

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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.