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ALAS ANNOUNCES LEADERS IN EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Awards to be presented at 3rd Annual Gala on April 27, following ALAS Legislative Assembly.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—April 4, 2017—The Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) will recognize school district superintendents and administrators from across the nation at its third annual Leaders in Education Awards Gala, to be held April 27, 2017, in Washington, D.C.

Numerous education professionals, congressional representatives, and business leaders will attend the event at the Mexican Cultural Institute to celebrate best practices in public education, particularly in serving Hispanic populations. ALAS state affiliate members nominated superintendents and administrators whose work exemplifies the best in the field.

Following are the 2017 ALAS Leaders in Education Award winners:

Latino Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Michael Hinojosa, Superintendent
Dallas Independent School District
Dallas, Texas

Hispanic-Serving School District Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Barbara M. Jenkins, Superintendent
Orange County Public Schools
Orlando, Florida

Latino Administrator of the Year

Gloria Trejo, Principal
Pioneer Elementary School
West Chicago Elementary District 33
West Chicago, Illinois

Hispanic-Serving School District Administrator of the Year

Dr. Terry T. Walker, Director, Educational Services
Upland Unified School District
Upland, California



The Gala and awards ceremony will be held following a day-long Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly brings together leaders in education and policy to discuss innovative solutions to the challenges facing school districts and the students they serve. Participants will also visit Capitol Hill to discuss with congressional representatives and key policymakers issues affecting their districts.

This year, the Assembly intends to place special emphasis on preserving Department of Education funding, specifically programs related to teacher training and after-school programs, as well as continuing the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) policy, which allows some immigrants who entered the country as minors to have deportation action deferred.

The Legislative Assembly is part of a larger initiative designed to bring a collective voice to national education issues, particularly those that impact Latino students and educators. While the high school drop-out rate of Hispanics has fallen, it still surpasses that of white, black and Asian students. About one-third of the U.S. Latino population is under the age of 18, making a focus on their educational attainment a priority for ALAS.

“This is a critical time for education, and we laud those who are on the front lines working side by side with our Latino students to help them be successful, said Dr. Nancy Lewin, ALAS executive director. “These leaders inspire me and our colleagues every day in their dedication to advance our mission – better educational opportunities for Hispanic youth.”

The following are the ALAS Leaders in Education Awards nominees:

Dr. Cesar A. Morales, Superintendent
Oxnard School District
Oxnard, California

Dr. Juan Santos, Director, Student Support Services
Conejo Valley Unified School District
Thousand Oaks, California

Rodolfo Hernandez, Superintendent
Cicero District 99
Cicero, Illinois

Dr. Charles W. Johns, Superintendent
West Chicago Elementary District 33
West Chicago, Illinois

Edward Xavier Barrios, Principal
Haywood Elementary
Nashville, Tennessee

Dr. Steven Martinez, Superintendent
Twin Rivers Unified
McClellan, California

Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos, Chief of Staff
Hillsborough County Public Schools
Tampa, Florida

Dr. Lazaro J. Lopez, Associate Superintendent
High School District 214
Arlington Heights, Illinois

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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.