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ALAS Selects 2016-2017 Superintendents Leadership Academy Director and Participants

WASHINGTON, D.C.—July 22, 2016—The Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) is proud to announce the selection of a new director for its prestigious Superintendents Leadership Academy (SLA). Dr. Jose Leyba, retired K-12 and higher education executive, will provide leadership for the Academy by grooming, assisting and preparing aspiring Latino superintendents.

“Dr. Leyba is not just an accomplished educator, he is also a mentor and advocate who has actively worked for equal access in the education system,” said Veronica Rivera, executive director of ALAS. “His experience, as well as his passion and commitment, will serve as strong inspiration to our SLA participants.”

The Superintendents Leadership Academy is designed to prepare Latino school system leaders to become superintendents of school districts in the U.S. with an emphasis on Hispanic-serving school districts. Fourteen administrators from across the nation have been selected to participate in the year-long program. The Academy began in 2009, and to date 20 graduates serve or have served as superintendents throughout the country.

Participants were selected for the program based on their proven record of leadership and dedication to raising the level of achievement for students of color and for English Language Learners. The program also evaluates their demonstrated efforts to serve the needs of children and their families.

The year-long program will cover Curriculum & Instruction/Assessment; Equity Leadership & Community Engagement; Governance & Strategic Planning; Leadership & Preparing to Become a Superintendent; Management Systems & Structures; and Government Relations. Experienced superintendents and other educational professionals will share their expertise at the sessions.

The program participants represent nine different states. They are:

Shawn Bird
Chief Academic Officer
Pasadena Unified School District
Pasadena, CA

Debora Borges-Carrera
Assistant Superintendent
School District of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Roderick Castro
Director, State and Federal Programs
San Francisco Unified School District
San Francisco, CA

Dino Coronado
School Support Officer
Houston Independent School District
Houston, TX

Carlos Cotto, Jr.
Executive Director of Physical
Education, Health & Athletics
Rochester City School District
Rochester, NY

Luis Fernando De Leon
Principal
School District U-46
Elgin, IL

Ema Flores
Assistant Superintendent of Educational
Services
Fullerton School District
Fullerton, CA

Roxane Fuentes
Assistant Superintendent, Educational
Services
El Rancho Unified School District
Pico Rivera, CA

Lydia Martinez-Alvarez
Assistant Superintendent
Springfield Public Schools
Springfield, MA

Frederick Parker
Executive Director of Curriculum and
Instruction
Deming Public Schools
Deming, NM

Belinda Reyes
Executive Area Director
Orange County Public Schools
Orlando, FL

Leslie Torres-Rodriguez
Assistant Superintendent for
Instructional Leadership
Hartford Public Schools
Hartford, CT

Alberto Vazquez Matos
Chief of Staff
Hillsborough County Public Schools
Tampa, FL

Veronica Vijil
Associate Superintendent
Canutillo Independent School District
El Paso, TX

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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.