



**The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials  
Educational Fund**

*presents*

**NALEO Education Leadership Initiative**

*Florida Statewide Policy Institute on  
Higher Education Access and Success*

**April 11 - 13, 2008**

**Miami Beach Resort  
4833 Collins Avenue  
Miami Beach, Florida**

*Sponsored by*  
**Lumina Foundation for Education  
State Farm Insurance Companies  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation**

*Convening Partner*  
**Florida Hispanic Legislative Caucus**

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA**

**Friday, April 11, 2008**

**2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Registration – Regency Foyer**

**4:00 – 4:10 p.m. Policy Institute Opening and Overview – Spanish Suite**

- Ms. Valerie Cuevas, Deputy Director of Constituency Services, NALEO Educational Fund

**4:10 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Opening Keynote: Educating the Future Workforce of Florida**


Remarks on the role of higher education in shaping the economic future of the Sunshine State, particularly as Hispanics transform the face of the Florida workforce.

- Hon. Juan Carlos “J.C.” Planas, Florida State Representative, District 115; Chair, Florida Hispanic Legislative Caucus 

**4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Session I – The Economics of Success: Increasing High School Graduation and College Completion**

This session will explore the benefits of post-secondary education and the overall gains associated with improving Hispanic educational attainment from the perspective of the Florida economy. Particular attention will be given to addressing high school attrition and college participation rates as primary policy challenges. Panelists will discuss how participants can partner with education, business and civic leaders to ensure that every Floridian has the chance to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to succeed in the global economy.



Session Chair: Hon. Henry L. Fernandez, Ed.D., Board Member, Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township, Indiana; Vice President for Government Relations, USA Funds; Member, NALEO Educational Fund Board of Directors 

- Mr. Patrick J. Kelly, Senior Associate, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems
- Dr. Anthony De Jesús, Assistant Professor, Hunter College
- Mr. Andrew O. Moore, Senior Fellow, Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, National League of Cities

**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Reception to Honor South Florida Latino Elected Officials and NALEO & NALEO Educational Fund Leadership – Ocean View Room**

Recognition and welcome remarks by Florida leadership and sponsors


- Mr. Arturo Vargas, Executive Director, NALEO Educational Fund
- Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Member of Congress, 18<sup>th</sup> District of Florida; Ranking Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
- Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart, Member of Congress, 25<sup>th</sup> District of Florida; Assistant Whip and Vice Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Conference
- Hon. Adolfo Carrión, Jr., Bronx Borough President, New York City and NALEO President 
- Hon. Rafael M. Anchía, Texas State Representative, District 103; Chair, NALEO Educational Fund Board of Directors 
- Representatives from Lumina Foundation for Education, State Farm Insurance Companies and W.K. Kellogg Foundation

**Saturday, April 12, 2008**

**8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast – Regency Foyer**

**9:00 a.m. – Noon Session II: Strategies for Accelerating Hispanic Student Success in Higher Education – Spanish Suite**

As Florida strives to compete in the emerging global economy, far too many high school students lack the college aptitude required to succeed in higher education. Although a number of activities are underway to improve academic preparation and college opportunity, without a concerted statewide focus to leverage existing efforts and introduce new strategic initiatives, accelerating the educational achievement and workforce readiness of Hispanics will remain elusive. This session will highlight policy recommendations, based on recent research and discussions, to improve the educational attainment and workforce development of Florida's Hispanic student population. Participants will work in strategy groups to identify statewide policy options.

Session Chair: Hon. Susan L. Valdes, Board Member, Hillsborough County Public Schools 


- Dr. Deborah A. Santiago, Vice President for Policy and Research, Excelencia in Education
- Ms. Monica Hayes, Regional Director, National Science and Math Initiative, Inc.
- Dr. Ed. H. Moore, President, Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida

Facilitated Strategy Session (10:30 a.m. – Noon)

**Noon – 2:00 p.m. Keynote Luncheon – Ocean View Room**


Remarks on the importance of raising Hispanic educational attainment to meet the needs of an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

Opening Remarks: Dr. Modesto A. Maidique, President, Florida International University

Keynote Remarks: Hon. Marco Rubio, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, District 111 

**2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Session III: Strategies for Accelerating Hispanic Parental Involvement and Community Partnerships in the Florida Educational Pipeline – Spanish Suite**

Creating a college-going culture with essential supports for student success requires all parents to be active participants in the education of their children. A number of studies illustrate the importance of parental involvement on student academic achievement. From the No Child Left Behind Title I provisions to the installation of school family centers, this session highlights strategies for encouraging parents and communities, especially those whose primary language is not English, to work with schools to enhance student achievement. Participants will work in strategy groups to identify statewide policy options.

Session Chair: Hon. Ana Rivas Logan, Board Member, School Board of Miami-Dade County, District 7; Member, Board of Directors, Florida School Board Association 

- Dr. Paul Dosal, Executive Director, ENLACE Florida
- Ms. Ivelisse Castro, PTA President, Dade County Council
- Ms. Rocio Tafur-Salgado, Director, enFAMILIA, Inc.

Facilitated Strategy Session (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

**5:00 p.m.**

**Adjourn for the Day**

**Sunday, April 13, 2008**


**8:00 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Breakfast Buffet – Ocean View Room**

**9:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Session IV: Strategies for Accelerating Hispanic Student Participation through College Access and Affordability – Spanish Suite**

According to the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, the net college costs for low-and middle-income students to attend state public two-and four-year colleges and universities equates to approximately 40% of their annual family income, even after accounting for Bright Futures scholarships and other financial aid. In the wake of rising costs and relatively few low-priced post-secondary education opportunities, college affordability takes on added significance in the effort to accelerate Hispanic student participation in Florida higher education. This session discusses policy strategies for ensuring Hispanic student success through a variety of college access and affordability policies, from merit to need based student financial aid. Participants will work in strategy groups to identify statewide policy options.

Session Chair: Hon. Anitere Flores, Florida State Representative, District 114; Chair, Florida House Committee on K-12 

- Ms. Theresa Antworth, State Programs Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance, Florida Department of Education
- Dr. Lidia Tuttle, Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Education, Florida International University
- Dr. Lawrence Morehouse, President & CEO, Florida Education Fund

Facilitated Strategy Session (10:00 – 11:30 a.m.)

**11:30 a.m. - Noon**

**Strategy Report Out & Closing Remarks**

- Ms. Cielo V. Castro, Director of Constituency Services, NALEO Educational Fund