



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

presents

NALEO Education Leadership Initiative

*3rd Annual NALEO National Summit on
the State of Latino Education*

October 9-11, 2007

**National Education Association
Headquarters & Conference Center
1201 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036**

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Convening Partner:

National Hispanic Caucus of School Board Members


Tuesday, October 9, 2007


8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Summit Registration and Breakfast – Auditorium Foyer and Auditorium A

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Welcome Remarks, Introduction & Program Overview – Auditorium A
▪ Mr. Eric Wagner, Deputy Director of Constituency Services, NALEO Educational Fund

Plenary Remarks: The State of Latino Education – Auditorium A


For the third year in a row, the NALEO Educational Fund brings together policy experts, education practitioners, and elected and appointed officials together in the nation's capital to address the state of Latino education. Latino elected and appointed officials understand that an educated society is critical to a strong democracy. Maryland State Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez will provide motivational remarks on the economic, social and political importance of increasing Latino educational attainment and highlight the unique opportunity this convening provides for Latino elected officials to work collectively and build each year on clearly defined, cross-jurisdictional strategies to close the Latino educational achievement gap.

Introduction: Hon. Cynthia Matus Morriss, Board President, Patagonia Elementary School District, Arizona; Chair-Elect, National Hispanic Caucus of School Board Members; NALEO Educational Fund Board of Directors 

- Hon. Ana Sol Gutierrez, Maryland State Delegate 

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Session I – Pre-K and the Early Grades: A Latino Perspective – Auditorium A

Researchers continue to find that high-quality Pre-K programs have a substantial positive impact on the achievement and educational success of all children; unfortunately, Latino children remain underrepresented in Pre-K and other early education programs. Participation in such programs has been found to increase high school graduation rates by as much as 29 percent. While there is no doubt that high-quality Pre-K can help improve educational outcomes for all children, experts now believe a Prekindergarten through Third Grade or PK-3 approach is the most effective for early childhood development and for building a firm foundation for life-long learning. This session highlights the importance of aligning Pre-K with high quality early grade experiences and also offers recommendations for increasing Latino participation in early childhood programs and improving the cultural and linguistic appropriateness of available programs.

Session Chair: Hon. Patricia Torres Ray, Minnesota State Senator 

- Ms. Danielle M. Gonzales, Deputy State Program Director, Pre-K Now
- Dr. Eugene E. Garcia, Vice President, Education Partnerships, Arizona State University Fulton Center
- Ms. Janine G. Bacquie, Director, Division of Early Childhood Programs and Services, Montgomery County Public Schools, Maryland

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Luncheon – Auditorium B

Keynote Address: Making Great Public Schools for Every Child

The National Education Association (NEA) is the largest professional employee organization in the United States, representing public school teachers and other support personnel, faculty and staff at colleges and universities, retired educators, and college students preparing to become teachers. The NEA advocates for education professionals and to unite our members and the nation to fulfill the promise of public education to prepare every student to succeed in a diverse and interdependent world. Mr. Reg Weaver, President of the National Education Association, is nationally and

internationally recognized as an ambassador for public education and will offer a motivational speech on how all American's can work together to ensure that every student in the United States attends a great public school.


Introduction: Hon. Pearl Quiñones, Board Member, Sweetwater Unified School District, California; NALEO Board of Directors 

- Mr. Reg Weaver, President, National Education Association

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Session II – NCLB: Ensuring All Student Succeed in the Primary Grades – Auditorium A

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) was signed into law on January 8, 2002, with support of both Democrats and Republicans in Congress. Most people agree that, used effectively, NCLB can be an important tool for improving achievement and closing the academic achievement gap. While the achievement gap between students of color and white students has been recognized by educators for decades, the passage of NCLB marked the first time the federal government became actively involved in efforts to address this issue. This session provides an overview of NCLB and examines its progress towards closing the educational achievement gap for Latino students and will provide policymakers information on how they can play a role in the reauthorization process to ensure that NCLB allows all students to succeed in the primary grades.

Session Chair: Hon. Lilliemae G. Ortiz, Board President, Pojoaque Valley Board of Education, New Mexico; Chair, National Hispanic Caucus of School Board Members; NALEO Board of Directors 


- Hon. Kathleen Leos, Assistant Deputy Secretary and Director, Office of English Language Acquisition, U.S. Department of Education
- Mr. Peter Zamora, Regional Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
- Mr. Joel Packer, Director of Education Policy and Practice, National Education Association
- Hon. Panfilo Contreras, Executive Director, Arizona School Boards Association


3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Special Address: Strengthening Education for the Middle School Years – Auditorium A

During the current session of the 110th Congress, U.S. Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Arizona) introduced the Success in the Middle Act of 2007. The purpose of this legislation is to advance national policy and help raise student achievement in the middle grades. During this special address, Representative Grijalva will discuss how his legislation would offer federal support to improve the education of middle school students in low-performing schools.

Introduction:

Hon Adelita S. Grijalva, Board Member, Tucson Unified School District, Arizona 

- Hon. Raúl M. Grijalva, Member of Congress, 7th District, Arizona Committee on Education and Labor, U.S. House of Representatives 

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Opening Keynote Address:

NCLB Reauthorization: How the Federal Government Is Working to Improve the State of Latino Education – Auditorium A

President Bush nominated Mr. Raymond Simon to the position of United States Deputy Secretary of Education and the U.S. Senate confirmed him on May 26, 2005. As Deputy Secretary, Mr. Simon plays a pivotal role overseeing and managing the development of policies, recommendations and initiatives that help define a broad, coherent vision for achieving the President's education priorities, especially NCLB. In his Keynote Address to Latino policymakers, Mr. Simon will speak about the reauthorization of NCLB as well as how the Bush Administration has been working to improve Latino education across the United States.

Introduction:


Hon. Adolfo Carrión, Jr., Bronx Borough President, New York; NALEO President 

- Hon. Raymond Simon, Deputy Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Opening Reception – Atrium

The Opening Reception is a NALEO tradition that allows participants the opportunity to meet each other and become better acquainted with NALEO's organizational leadership and staff. In addition to acknowledging sponsors and convening partners, the networking opportunities with education advocates, policy experts, congressional staffers and key political leaders in the nation's capital allows for relationship building and the exchange of ideas for how local leaders can improve Latino educational achievement in their communities. This year's reception will feature welcome remarks from Latino Members of Congress.

- Mr. Arturo Vargas, Executive Director, NALEO Educational Fund
- Hon. Adolfo Carrión, Jr., Bronx Borough President, New York; NALEO President 

Special Remarks:

Hon. Norman D. Wooten, President, National School Boards Association; Board Member, Kodiak Island Borough School District, Alaska

Special Remarks:

Hon. Rubén Hinojosa, Member of Congress, 15th District, Texas; Chair, Education Task Force, Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Wednesday, October 10, 2007


8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Registration – Auditorium Foyer

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast Program – Auditorium A

Plenary Remarks: Ten Key Elements of a Successful High School

How effective is your community’s high school in educating its students? Drawing from the work of leading researchers and educators from around the country, the Alliance for Excellent Education, a national organization dedicated to promoting high school transformation, has identified “Ten Key Elements of a Successful High School”—elements that every high school should have in place to ensure that all students are successful. Governor Bob Wise, President of the Alliance for Excellent Education, discusses these ten elements and what Latino elected officials can do to help improve America’s high schools.

Introduction:

Hon. Delia Garcia, Kansas State Representative 


Speaker:

Hon. Bob Wise, President, Alliance for Excellent Education; Former Governor and Member of Congress, State of West Virginia

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Session III – Redesigning the American High School: How to Make all Students Prepared for College and Work – Auditorium A

One-third of the nation’s high school students do not graduate, and the rates are even higher for students of color. In the 2003-04 school year, for example, only 57.8 percent of Latino students graduated on time. In order to ensure that America’s secondary schools have the capacity and motivation to prepare every student for graduation, college, work, and life, nine of the nation’s major organizations representing communities of color, including the NALEO Educational Fund, formed an unprecedented partnership called The Campaign for High School Equity (CHSE). In addition to highlighting the policy priorities of the Campaign, this session will provide information to Latino elected officials on how they can join the Campaign and efforts to reform and redesign America’s high schools.


Session Chair: Hon. Steve Gallardo, Arizona State Representative; Board Member, Phoenix Unified School District; NALEO Board of Directors 

- Mr. Raul Gonzalez, Senior Legislative Director, National Council of La Raza
- Hon. Ricardo Muñoz, Alderman, 22nd Ward, City of Chicago, Illinois 
- Mr. Michael Wotorson, Director of Community Partnerships, Alliance for Excellent Education
- Mr. Eric Wagner, Deputy Director of Constituency Services, NALEO Educational Fund

11:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Session IV – Latino Higher Education: Making a College-Going Culture Real – Auditorium A

The current state of Latino education and the emerging U.S. demographic shift bring growing challenges for those working to champion education policy that increases access to higher education for all students. More than ever, diverse stakeholders, including parents, educators, business leaders and policymakers are forming partnerships to develop seamless P-20 educational pipelines that increase Latino access to, as well as, student success in college. This session will bring together a panel of higher education experts, stakeholders and experienced practitioners to discuss what role elected officials can play in developing higher education policies that increase college readiness and graduation rates for Latino students.

Session Chair: Hon. Henry L. Fernandez, Ed.D., Executive Director of Access and Outreach, USA Funds; Vice President, Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township, Indiana; NALEO Educational Fund Board of Directors 

- Dr. Estela R. López, Senior Fellow, *Excelencia* in Education
- Ms. Stella Torres, Director, Achieving A College Education (ACE) Program, Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation, Arizona
- Dr. Benjamin Flores, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Associate Dean of Engineering Graduate Studies, University of Texas, El Paso, Texas

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Luncheon – Auditorium B

Keynote Address:


Mayoral Control of Public Education: The Hartford Experience

Until recently, most urban mayors played a marginal role in public education. However, a growing number of mayors seem ready to face the challenge of public education. Currently, about a dozen of the 75 largest school districts are under mayoral control. In Hartford, Connecticut, where the mayor appoints five of nine school board members, Mayor Eddie Perez named himself to the school board in December 2005, three years after the troubled school district emerged from state supervision, and is now its chairman. In his Keynote Address, Mayor Perez talks about his leadership of the public schools in Hartford and what mayoral control has meant to the education system in his community.

Introduction:

Hon. Bethaida “Bea” Gonzalez, Council President, City of Syracuse, New York 

Keynote Address:

Hon. Eddie A. Perez, Mayor of Hartford, Connecticut 

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Case Study—Hidalgo Independent School District: A P-20 Pipeline Success Story – Auditorium A

In an effort to increase student achievement, education policymakers are developing seamless Pre-K to graduate studies (P-20) educational systems that strengthen continuous transitions for lifelong learning. Using Hidalgo Independent School District in Texas as a case study, this session looks at how Latino student achievement has been positively affected by the establishment of a seamless P-20 educational pipeline. Hidalgo ISD serves 2,930 students in Pre-K through twelfth grade. 99.7% of the students are Latino, 92.2% are categorized as “economically disadvantaged” and 54.1% are Limited English proficient. Yet, in spite of difficult circumstances, in 2001-2002, the National Center of Education Statistics recognized Hidalgo High School as one of the top ten high schools for student achievement. Building on its success, Hidalgo High School is currently in the

process of setting up an initial four-year effort with the University of Texas, Pan American. This session will present the kinds of state and local policies that are necessary to build a comprehensive P-20 educational system, as well as the diverse partnerships that are required to maintain their success.

Introduction: Hon. Adam Chavarria, Executive Director, The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans

Presentation:

- Mr. Eduardo Cancino, Superintendent, Hidalgo Independent School District
- Hon. Martin Cepeda, Board President, Hidalgo Independent School District

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

P-20 Strategy Sessions – Conference Rooms B & C (2nd Level) and News Conference Room (1st Level, across from Café)

Participants will be separated into strategy groups. In each group, participants will work to examine what they can do within their sphere of influence to strengthen the P-20 educational pipeline in their communities/districts/jurisdictions.

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Evening Reception – Atrium

Special Remarks:

Hon. Xavier Becerra, Member of Congress; 31st District, California 

Thursday, October 11, 2007

7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast & Federal Legislative Process Overview – Directors Room, Doubletree Hotel, 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

In preparation for “Education Day” and meeting with your federal legislators on Capitol Hill, this session will provide participants with the strategies and tools that will make your visit productive.

Special Remarks:

Mr. Felipe E. Sixto, Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, The White House

Presentation:

- Mr. William Ramos, Director, Washington DC Office, NALEO Educational Fund

10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

“Education Day” on Capitol Hill – U.S. Capitol and Office Buildings

The NALEO Educational Fund has arranged for each participant to meet with your federal legislators in order to advocate for the changes you think are necessary at the federal level to close the educational achievement gap for Latino students in your communities.

12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Luncheon, Closing Remarks & Adjournment – Directors Room, Doubletree Hotel, 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

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