



**Illinois Association of
Latino Administrators and Superintendents**

Quarterly Newsletter

Dear Member,

Bienvenidos! Welcome to our first newsletter! We are excited about launching the official state affiliate of ALAS (Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents). ALAS is a nationally recognized organization focused on professional development, information sharing and policy advocacy through its commitment of identifying, recruiting, developing and advancing Latino school administrators in order to improve the educational accomplishments of Latino youth.

Over the past year, the IALAS (Illinois Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents) Board has worked tirelessly in responding to educators and administrators across the state craving an association focused on networking. IALAS is an organization for any educator or administrator passionate about building capacity regarding the needs of Latino students, as well as all disenfranchised populations. IALAS is not exclusive to Latinos. We welcome all educators and administrators who share our passion.

IALAS Vision: To unify and cultivate Latino educational leaders for the purpose of empowering and inspiring all students.

IALAS Mission: The Illinois Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (IALAS) commits to provide authentic, high-quality learning opportunities for students by building capacity among Latino educational leaders and by advocating for responsive, informed policy development.

As an IALAS member, you are part of a familia that appreciates you, recognizes you and supports your work. Thank you for *all* that you do!

Ivette M. Dubiel
IALAS Board President



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FOUNDING PARTNERS

- Curriculum Associates
- Imagine Learning

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Network Mixer
- Educational Conclave



ADMINISTRATOR SPOTLIGHT

Name: **David Negron**
 Occupation: **Superintendent**
Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview School District 89

Hometown: I primarily grew up in the city of Chicago (Humboldt Park area), and lived for a couple of years in Little Village too.

What excites you about IALAS?

I am excited to hear that this organization exists to foster, develop, facilitate and recognize the amazing work taking place by many Latinos and Latinas across the state. It is important for our students to have other Latinos and Latinas who are positive role models.

Tell us about the importance of educating Latino children or any disenfranchised group.

According to a recent study and analysis from the National Center for Education Statistics, Latino/a students have the highest high school dropout rate in the U.S. This is particularly alarming given the fact that the Latino student population is the fastest growing student demographic. We must focus our energy, and resources into providing our Latino children with a sound educational experience to prepare them for the future. I believe that Mr. Nelson Mandela said it best, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” It is of the utmost importance that we engage in meaningful dialogue and best practices to improve the educational system for all children and, in particular, for the growing Latino/a student population.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Name: **Maria Luisa Gonzalez**
 Occupation: **PE teacher at Thornton HS District 205**



Why did you become a teacher?

I was doing some volunteer work teaching ESL to adults. I was overwhelmed with the gratitude from the adults. They were so happy and full of gratitude that my professors made me realize that teaching doesn’t come easy to everyone. They made me realize that education is power and I can become an agent for change. Teaching became “a family thing”. It’s like a family business. There’s no way out and its meant for me to be in education. It’s important for my family and I to help the community and empower students to become more than they believe they can be.

Tell us about the importance of educating Latino children or any disenfranchised group.

I can only relate my experience and my family. There are 7 of us. When I was growing up, I lived in a trailer park and my dad passed away. My mom was disabled. The limits are only imposed by other people and we need to know it’s not true. Just because we don’t have money doesn’t mean we can’t pursue a higher education. I can’t stop growing. We have to make students understand that they have control of their education. Once you have your degree, nobody can take that away!

Why did you join IALAS?

I want to identify with the Latino community and it’s hard to find organizations such as IALAS, where we can encourage one another to create and initiate and promote waves of change. In order to do that, you need a strong group and IALAS is the group.



Excerpts from article and the photograph were copied with permission from author, Veronica Rivera, Executive Director of the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents. Published by Education Post. July 22, 2015. Retrieved from: <http://educationpost.org/its-time-we-had-more-latino-school-leaders/>

IT'S TIME WE HAD MORE LATINO SCHOOL LEADERS

Latino superintendents make up approximately 2 percent of the leadership in the over 14,000 school districts in the United States.

Data from the [Pew Hispanic Center](#) released in 2012 showed that Latino students comprise 51 percent of all K-12 students in California. The country's growing Latino population requires a pipeline of school-system leaders who reflect the changing demographics.

The [Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents \(ALAS\)](#) was established in 2003 to address the lack of national advocacy and representation of Latinos by existing mainstream professional organizations. ALAS, which means wings in Spanish, aims to provide leadership at the national level that assures every school in the U.S. effectively serves the educational needs of all students with an emphasis on the growing Latino youth population.

In 2011, ALAS established the [Superintendents Leadership Academy](#) to train and help aspiring Latino superintendents learn how to lead a school district. Our goal is to prepare Latino school administrators to become superintendents of districts with an emphasis on places that have a Latino student population of 25 percent or higher.

One of the most positive things that have come out of the academy is that cohort graduates are connecting with each other and hiring fellow members within their districts. We are building a network of high-level K-12 administrators that advance Latinos professionally, while ensuring that Latino students succeed.

DATA

census.gov

As of July 1, 2014, the Hispanic population was **55 million**, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest ethnic or racial minority.

It is projected that by the year 2060, there will be **119 million** Hispanics, constituting 28.6 of the nation's population.

38.4 million is the number of U.S. residents 5 and older that spoke Spanish at home in 2013.

In 2013, the median household income was **\$40,963**.

illinoisreportcard.com

In Illinois school districts, Hispanic students make of 25.1% of all students. It is the largest minority population of students in the State.

In 2015, the graduation rate of Hispanic students in Illinois was 81%, that is a 5% increase since 2011.

Planning

The planning committee is responsible for organizing all membership events. We anticipate this committee to serve as a think tank to offer our members professional and networking opportunities that are best aligned to IALAS' vision, mission and goals.

The members on this committee will work collaboratively to arrange and finalize all details and logistics associated with events once approved by the Board. If you have the initiative and drive to create and carry out meaningful events for participants that are passionate about educating students, please consider joining this committee.

All committees will meet three times a year. Intermittent communication via email and phone is expected.

For more information about the planning committee, please email idubiel@ialas.org



Communications



The communications committee will be responsible for developing communication products to our members, sponsors and the public at-large, such as our quarterly newsletters, website and social media.

Experience or interest in writing and research is a plus. You will also be responsible in identifying superintendents and administrators to be featured in our newsletters.

For more information about the communications committee, please email rsegarra@ialas.org and rsanchez@ialas.org

Network

The network committee will be responsible for establishing methods to successfully increase membership. Your role is to consider typical avenues to promote IALAS, as well as unconventional ways to campaign our work.

Members on this committee must be willing to engage in connecting with educators and non-educators across the state and nationally.

For more information about the network committee, please email gtrejo@ialas.org



Sponsorships

The sponsorship committee will be responsible for building partnerships with prospective sponsors. As a non-profit association, we could not function well without the crucial support and generosity of our sponsors.

Members on this committee will be essential in identifying potential sponsors that support the work of IALAS. Strong skills in research and out-of-the-box thinking will be key competencies of our sponsorship members.

For more information about the sponsorship committee, please email evaldez@ialas.org



Mentor

The mentoring committee will be responsible for serving as an instrumental group that will foster the work of educators and administrators across the state interested in advancing their career. Mentors **must be** comprised of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents interested in mentoring others.

This committee will develop and identify the process to consider mentees in the program. Although this committee may not meet regularly face-to-face, the Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents must be willing to communicate often via email and/or over the phone to execute their work. These individuals must also be willing to serve as mentors to the selected educator or administrator. Schedules between mentor and mentee will be determined by their respective timelines.

For more information about the mentoring committee, please email gtrejo@ialas.org and ysanchez@ialas.org

ATTENTION COMMITTEES

All committees (with the exception of mentor committee) will meet three times per calendar year on the first Sunday of every May, August and November, from 9:00 am–11:00 am, at Pioneer Elementary, 615 Kenwood Avenue in West Chicago.

For more information, please email idubiel@ialas.org

Founding Partners

Curriculum Associates

A rapidly growing education company committed to making classrooms better places for teachers and students.



Imagine Learning

We teach language and literacy to the children of the world, changing lives and opening doors of opportunity.



IALAS

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Oswego, IL 60543

Website

www.ialas.org

Email:

idubiel@ialas.org



Upcoming IALAS Events

Network Mixer

Socialize with colleagues across the state

Friday, April 15, 2016

6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Fogo de Chão, 5460 Park Place, Rosemont, IL

\$40.00 pp includes food and unlimited beverages

Tickets can be purchased [here](#)

Educational Conclave

A unique professional development opportunity

Thursday, June 23, 2016

8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Northeastern Illinois University

El Centro, at 3390 North Avondale, Chicago, IL

Details coming soon