



INSTITUTE AGENDA

NALEO Arizona Statewide Education Convening

May 20 - 21, 2016 | Tempe Mission Palms Hotel and Conference Center | Tempe, Arizona

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Arizona Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials
Arizona Latino School Board Association
Arizona Legislative Latino Caucus
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NALEO Educational Fund
Arizona Statewide Education Convening
May 20-21, 2016
Tempe, Arizona

From early childhood education to post-secondary and workforce opportunities, the increased access to quality educational systems holds long-term economic and civic benefits for all students and families across Arizona. It is important policymakers are familiar with innovative and successful policies and practices that can drive change in their local communities as they advocate for quality educational services.

This two-day convening provided participants with an overview of Arizona's educational policies and academic outcomes for families and students across early childhood education, K-12, and post-secondary education. Participants had an opportunity to engage in conversations about the role stakeholders and policymakers can play across the entire educational pipeline to strengthen the access and quality of systems to support a stronger workforce across the state.

This convening is part of the NALEO Education Leadership Initiative (NELI) which aims to provide Latino public servants with the enhanced capacity and governance skills they need to become effective advocates for their students, families, and communities. Participants who attended this two-day convening heard from leading experts from the public, private, and non-profit sectors who tackled pressing education topics in an institute that included the following curriculum:

- The Arizona We Want, Cultivating the Civic Engagement We Need
- Foundations of Early Childhood Education
- Serving the Needs of Diverse Families – Tackling Toxic Stress
- Addressing Arizona's Educator Shortage: Strategies to Ensure They Come and are Supported to Teach
- Beyond Math, Reading, and Writing: Preparing Students and Families with the Skills for Post-Secondary Success
- Barriers to College Completion: Addressing Developmental Education
- Developing Strategies for Post-Secondary and Workforce Partnerships

The policy institute convened state legislators, local policymakers, national and state experts, private sector representatives and other key stakeholders. Institute participants had an opportunity to engage with national, regional and education experts who helped deepen their understanding of the most pressing education policy issues facing the state. Policymakers received timely information, learned best practices, exchanged policy ideas, strengthened governance skills to support effective leadership, and also had the opportunity to network with colleagues and experts from throughout the state.

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Friday, May 20, 2016

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Registration
Abbey Patio, 1st Floor

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast
Abbey North, 1st Floor

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome Remarks
Abbey South, 1st Floor

- Mr. Arturo Vargas, Executive Director,
NALEO Educational Fund

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Session I - The Arizona We Want, Cultivating the Civic Engagement We Need
Abbey South, 1st Floor

Latinos comprise 31% of the population in Arizona and ensuring their political, economic, and educational success is critical to the future prosperity of the state. By 2020, 68% of all jobs in Arizona will require a postsecondary degree. In order to meet the economic and civic needs of the state, every child and student needs access to quality educational services and systems. Education has the power to serve as that vehicle that can mobilize and engage communities. This session provided an overview of key indicators across the state that highlight policies and practices that can enhance the long-term opportunities for Latinos and all of Arizona.

Chair: Hon. Steve M. Gallardo, Supervisor, Maricopa County, Arizona;
Former Board Member, NALEO

- Ms. Darcy Renfro, Senior Director, The Arizona We Want,
Center for the Future of Arizona

Friday, May 20, 2016 (continued)

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Session II - Foundations of Early Childhood Education

Abbey South, 1st Floor

There is growing research demonstrating the short and long-term benefits of early childhood education for children, families, and communities. Evidence shows that a child's brain has the greatest potential to grow by the age of three and it is in these first three years of life that children's brains must be exposed to quality interactions to stimulate and strengthen brain development, an important precursor of school readiness. This session provided an overview of brain development research and also highlighted the importance of utilizing practices that are responsive to diverse families and that support key cognitive and emotional functions in young children.

- Dr. Sarah R. Lytle, Director of Outreach and Education, Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences, University of Washington

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Luncheon Program

Abbey North, 1st Floor

President's Address:

- Hon. Michele Martinez, Councilmember, City of Santa Ana, California; NALEO President

Keynote Remarks:

- Hon. Ruben Gallego, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (D-AZ)

Luncheon Remarks:

- Dr. Timothy L. Ogle, Executive Director, Arizona School Boards Association
- Ms. Tracey Benson, Associate Executive Director, Arizona School Boards Association

Friday, May 20, 2016 (continued)

1:30 – 3:15 p.m.

**Session III - Serving the Needs of Diverse Families –
Tackling Toxic Stress**

Abbey South, 1st Floor

Infants exposed to healthy and nurturing environments develop the foundation needed for positive brain development and school readiness. Exposure to factors such as poverty, abuse, neglect, and family separation can trigger the development of toxic stress in young children and can have lasting emotional, social, and cognitive effects. Recognizing the limitations of a child's environment is important, but strides can be made when the strengths their families and communities hold are uplifted to tackle the factors associated with toxic stress. This session provided an overview of the research on toxic stress and ways in which policymakers can develop policies to support healthy environments to mitigate these factors while strengthening family, community, and cultural connections.

Chair: Hon. Fernando J. Shipley, Regional Chairman,
Gila Regional Council; First Things First;
Board Treasurer, NALEO

- Ms. Andi Fetzner, Trainer & Consultant,
Arizona Trauma Institute
- Ms. Elizabeth Barker Alvarez, Vice President,
Communications and Public Affairs, First Things First

3:15 – 3:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks & Evaluations

Abbey South, 1st Floor

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Opening Reception

*College Avenue Commons Devils Oasis Community Room, 2nd Floor
Arizona State University, Tempe Campus*

Hosts: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
State Farm®

Co-host: Alliance for Early Success

Opening Reception Host: Arizona State University

Saturday, May 21, 2016

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Registration

Abbey Patio, 1st Floor

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast

Abbey North, 1st Floor

- Ms. Ofelia Medina, Director of State Civic Engagement Policy, NALEO Educational Fund

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Session IV – Addressing Arizona’s Educator Shortage: Strategies to Ensure They Come and are Supported to Teach

Abbey South, 1st Floor

In order to ensure students have access to rigorous and enriching curriculum, the educator workforce must be fully prepared and supported to provide those opportunities in every classroom across the state. According to the Arizona Department of Education, in 2014, nearly 75% of district and charter schools in about 80 districts reported one to five educator vacancies. Educators need opportunities for on-going professional development and support systems to become effective practitioners. This session highlighted policies and strategies that can be strengthened to better recruit, retain, and diversify the educator workforce.

- Ms. Roberta Furger, Director of Communication Outreach, Senior Writer, Learning Policy Institute
- Dr. Ramona Mellott, Dean, College of Education, Northern Arizona University
- Dr. David Garcia, Associate Professor, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, Arizona State University

Saturday, May 21, 2016 (continued)

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Session V – Beyond Math, Reading, and Writing: Preparing Students and Families with the Skills for Post-Secondary Success

Abbey South, 1st Floor

Exposure to rigorous curriculum and enriching opportunities in K-12, combined with the successful use of formal and informal educational networks, can strengthen the academic prospects of students. To be ready for a post-secondary education and to successfully navigate an academic setting it is critical that students in K-12 internalize the importance of soft skills like relationship building, mastering studying skills and time management as well as participating in extracurricular and internship activities. Understanding the benefits that come from their engagement in these types of practices can help promote the social capital and mobility of students, while better preparing them to compete and succeed in their future life and careers. In this session, policymakers learned about best practices and model partnerships spanning K-12, higher education, and workforce initiatives that can successfully equip students and families for post-secondary success.

Chair: Hon. Jesus Rubalcava, Board President,
Gila Bend Unified School District, Arizona

- Dr. David W. Johnson, Senior Research Analyst,
University of Chicago Consortium on School Research,
Urban Education Institute, University of Chicago
- Dr. Teresa Granillo, Executive Director,
Con Mi MADRE, Texas
- Ms. Toni Badone, Superintendent,
Yuma Union High School District, Arizona

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Luncheon Program

Abbey North, 1st Floor

Luncheon Remarks:

- Hon. Martín Quezada, Arizona State Senator;
President, Arizona Latino School Board Association
- Hon. Stephanie Parra, Board Member,
Phoenix Union High School District; Vice President,
Arizona Latino School Board Association

Saturday, May 21, 2016 (continued)

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Session VI - Barriers to College Completion: Addressing Developmental Education

Abbey South, 1st Floor

Nationally, Latino students are graduating from high school at the highest rates seen in years, yet they are graduating underprepared to enroll in college credit bearing courses once they enter post-secondary institutions. As reported by the National Conference of State Legislatures, over 41% of Latino students graduating from high school nationwide require a certain amount of developmental education, costing \$2.3 billion dollars in spending each year. Although developmental courses are designed to help students reach college-level preparedness, oftentimes they become a barrier to college completion. This session provided policymakers with a deeper understanding of effective institutional policies and practices that accelerate students' completion of developmental courses that can lead them to pursue their goal of obtaining a college degree.

Chair: Hon. Elizabeth C. Archuleta, Supervisor,
Coconino County, Arizona; Board Member, NALEO

- Dr. Henry L. Fernandez, Vice President,
Complete College America;
Former Board Member, NALEO Educational Fund

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Break

Saturday, May 21, 2016 (continued)

2:45 – 4:15 p.m.

Session VII - Developing Strategies for Post-Secondary and Workforce Partnerships

Abbey South, 1st Floor

According to the Center on Education and Workforce at Georgetown University, 55 million job openings will be available in the U.S. economy and 30% will require some type of postsecondary degree by 2020. In order to meet current and projected workforce demands, students must have access to opportunities that will facilitate the completion of a postsecondary degree. Market sector and workforce partnerships hold the potential to increase students' knowledge, skills, and competencies needed for long-term career progression. This session focused on demonstrating the importance of developing policies and creating cross-sector partnerships to better align post-secondary institutions to meet the current and future workforce needs of Arizona.

Chair: Hon. Lorenzo Sierra, Councilmember, City of Avondale, Arizona

- Mr. Neil Ridley, State Initiative Director , Center on Education and the Workforce, Georgetown University
- Ms. Sheila Paul Shedd, Associate Director, Workforce Development, Maricopa Community Colleges

4:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks & Evaluation

Abbey South, 1st Floor