



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **As House Elects New Leaders, NALEO Educational Fund Urges Diverse Staff Hiring for 116th Congress**

*Only 13.7 percent of senior House staff members are people of color, even though a growing 38 percent of the U.S. population is non-white*

**Washington, D.C.** – Following today's vote of the House Democratic Caucus, selecting Rep. Nancy Pelosi as their leader for the next Congress, and the election of Rep. Kevin McCarthy as the new Republican party Minority Leader, CEO of the NALEO Educational Fund, Arturo Vargas, released the following statement:

"This historic incoming Congress, with more Latinos, African Americans and women representatives than ever before, has an opportunity to build a new generation of diverse government leadership. With today's votes signaling a new Speaker of the House and the recent election of a new Minority Leader, we urge Democratic and Republican members alike to reflect on the mandate for diversity that voters expressed in November's election.

"Currently, only 13.7 percent of senior House staff members are people of color, even though a growing 38 percent of the U.S. population is non-white. Having diverse elected officials is not always enough – we also need to ensure that staff members working with the public and helping make big decisions reflect the communities they serve.

"Last year, we launched Staff Up Congress, a national initiative to build a representative congressional workforce, and we have seen the incredible talent waiting to be tapped firsthand. We will continue working with members and leadership on both sides of the aisle to help strengthen our democracy through diversity."

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### **About NALEO Educational Fund**

*NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-profit, non-partisan organization that facilitates full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service. To learn more about Staff Up Congress, visit <http://staffupcongress.com>.*