



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Educational Fund Releases 2017 Presidential Appointments Guide for Latino Candidates

Primer provides guidance for the many qualified and talented Latinos who are interested in pursuing an appointed position within the Trump administration

Washington, D.C. – Two days before President-elect Donald J. Trump will be sworn in as the 45th President of the United States, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund released its [2017 Presidential Appointments Primer](#). The [document](#) is a comprehensive guide aimed at providing qualified and talented Latinos who are interested in serving in the Trump administration with key information and background for navigating the appointments process.

The [2017 Presidential Appointments Primer](#) is released as part of NALEO Educational Fund's ongoing commitment to ensuring that presidential administrations appoint qualified Latinos to top government positions, including those in the Executive Office of the President, Cabinet-level agencies, and the federal judiciary. Our organization has long been a strong advocate for the appointment of qualified Latinos to top federal positions.

“Appointing highly-qualified Latinos to top federal positions will help ensure that the Trump Administration represents America’s diversity,” stated Arturo Vargas, NALEO Educational Fund executive director. “To make sure that the nation’s deep bench of qualified Latinos is able to put their skills and talents to work for the good of the country, we have put together this comprehensive guide that will help Latino candidates navigate the appointments process.”

There are many qualified Latinos who would bring a wealth of talent and expertise to President Trump’s Administration. Numbering more than 56 million, Latinos comprise more than one of every six U.S. residents (17.6 percent).

NALEO Educational Fund has developed expertise in this arena, having previously worked with partners including the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) to identify and promote qualified Latino candidates for Cabinet, judicial, and political appointments across the Obama Administration. As part of our work with the Trump Administration, NALEO Educational Fund will continue these efforts, serving as a point of connection between Latino candidates for appointments, and top officials with the Trump Transition team and White House staff.

NALEO Educational Fund will work with the incoming Administration to actively recruit and hire Latino candidates, with hopes to launch a formal effort to collect interested candidates' credentials and host numerous networking opportunities that will bring Latino professionals and key Executive officials together.

Latinos have had a rich history serving in the highest levels of public office. The first Latino to hold a Cabinet post was Lauro Cavazos (Secretary of Education under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush). Starting in 1993, the Bill Clinton and George W. Bush Administrations substantially increased the number of Latinos holding top federal positions. Both Presidents Clinton and Bush appointed Latinos to Cabinet and other top-level positions.

Clinton appointees included Henry Cisneros (Secretary of Housing and Urban Development), Federico Peña (Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of Energy), and Bill Richardson (Ambassador to the United Nations and Secretary of Energy). Mel Martinez (Secretary of Housing and Urban Development), Alberto Gonzales (Attorney General), and Carlos Gutierrez (Secretary of Commerce) were all appointed by Bush.

President Barack Obama also made deliberate efforts to nominate Latinos to top positions. High-profile Latino Obama appointees included Sonia Sotomayor (Supreme Court Justice), Ken Salazar (Secretary of the Interior), John King, Jr. (Secretary of Education), Hilda Solis and Thomas Perez (Secretaries of Labor), and Julian Castro (Secretary of Housing and Urban Development).

The 2017 NALEO Presidential Appointments Primer is available to download [here](#).

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About NALEO

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation's more than 6,100 Latino elected and appointed officials.