



NALEO NEWS

National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials

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NALEO Congratulates Maria Contreras-Sweet on Confirmation to Serve as Head of Small Business Administration

Contreras-Sweet joins Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez as the second Latino and only Latina to hold a cabinet position in President Obama's second term

WASHINGTON, D.C. - *The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) issued the following statement congratulating Maria Contreras-Sweet on her confirmation to serve as the next Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA):*

"We congratulate Maria Contreras-Sweet on her confirmation to serve as the next leader of the Small Business Administration. A dedicated public servant with a wealth of experience working in the corporate, non-profit and public sectors, Contreras-Sweet will be a strong asset to the agency and our nation's small businesses from her first day on the job.

"The current Executive Chairwoman of ProAmérica Bank, a Los Angeles-based community bank focused on lending to small and medium-size enterprises, Contreras-Sweet has a firsthand understanding of the unique needs of the small business community. Contreras-Sweet also brings significant administration experience to the position, having previously overseen a \$14 billion budget and workforce of 42,000 employees as California's Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency for five years.

"We applaud the U.S. Senate for confirming this accomplished nominee to lead the SBA and join Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez as the second Latino and only Latina member of the President's cabinet. We look forward to continuing to work with Contreras-Sweet in her new position on issues of importance to the Latino community and the country as a whole."

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About NALEO

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the leadership organization of the nation's more than 6,000 Latino elected and appointed officials.