



NEWS RELEASE

National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund

For Immediate Release

April 1, 2014

Contact: Amanda Bosquez, abosquez@naleo.org
(202) 546-2536 ext. 112, (361) 548-6989 (cell)

Paula Valle Castanon, pvalle@naleo.org
(213) 747-7606 ext.4414, (323) 253-6431 (cell)

NALEO Educational Fund Campaign to Assist Thousands of Potential New Citizens in April

Organization and partners aim to help nearly 3700 legal permanent residents at more than 75 naturalization events; Efforts will save potential new citizens nearly \$2.7 million in legal fees

Washington, D.C. – This April, NALEO Educational Fund and its partners will launch a U.S. citizenship campaign that will include more than 75 naturalization assistance events to reach the estimated 8.7 million Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) who are currently eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship.

The workshop events will aim to serve more than 3700 potential new citizens in 30 cities nationwide, saving attendees nearly \$2.7 million in legal fees. Legal permanent resident participants will also have the opportunity to fill out the naturalization application (N-400 form) before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requires applicants to use a new longer version starting May 5, 2014.

“Millions of legal permanent residents across the country are ready to take the next step and become U.S. citizens,” stated Arturo Vargas, NALEO Educational Fund Executive Director. “Unfortunately, the cost and concerns about the process can be a very real barrier for many potential new citizens and their families. Our goal is to help eliminate these burdens and provide comprehensive assistance to legal permanent residents as they navigate a process that can be complicated or daunting.”

NALEO Educational Fund will continue to operate the toll-free bilingual hotline 1-888-839-8682 from 8 am to 8 pm Eastern, Monday through Friday to provide potential new citizens with vital information on every aspect of the naturalization process. Individuals can call the hotline to speak with a live operator regarding any questions they may have about the requirements for obtaining U.S. citizenship or where to find assistance in their area.

In addition, NALEO Educational Fund will also be assisting for the first time with the annual CUNY/ Daily News Citizenship NOW! Call-In from April 26 to May 2, 2014. Our organization will be on hand throughout the week to help answer any questions Spanish-language callers may have. Last year, the call-in assisted more than 13,000 individuals.

To complement our workshop and hotline efforts, NALEO Educational Fund will promote the citizenship campaign through a Twitter party on Tuesday, April 8, 2014. The event will be led by our organization, with support from Univision, the New Americans Campaign, and several other partners. Utilizing the hashtags #hazteciudadano and #newamericans, the Twitter party will highlight the value of citizenship. NALEO Educational Fund is also launching a photography campaign that will allow individuals to share their story and showcase what citizenship means to them via social media and events.

NALEO Educational Fund's efforts in April are made possible through partnerships with a diverse group of stakeholders and naturalization advocates, including the New Americans Campaign (NAC), the National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA) and American Lawyer's Immigration Association (AILA). For more information about our organization's naturalization work, please visit our website at www.naleo.org or the *ya es hora* campaign website at www.yaeshora.info.

###

Media Note: Experts and spokespersons are available to discuss the organization's citizenship efforts. For media interview requests, please contact Amanda Bosquez (abosquez@naleo.org, 202-546-2536 ext. 12) or Paula Valle Castanon (pvalle@naleo.org, 213-747-7606 ext. 4414).

About NALEO Educational Fund

NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.