



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 5, 2017

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

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

NALEO Educational Fund Announces Former Staff Member Gloria Montaña Greene as New Arizona State Director

A former Washington Office Director and Chief of Staff to U.S. Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva, Montaña Greene will lead the organization's new education initiative in Arizona

In partnership with Helios Education Foundation, NALEO Educational Fund will develop a public policy academy that will work to close student achievement gaps by providing professional development opportunities to Latino elected officials

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today announced the addition of former staff member, Gloria Montaña Greene, to the organization's constituency services team as the new Arizona State Director based in Phoenix.

As Arizona State Director, Gloria Montaña Greene will lead NALEO Educational Fund's new initiative aimed at improving educational outcomes for Arizona youth by establishing a public policy academy that will provide in-depth professional training for Latino education policymakers in the state. The goal of this unprecedented and innovative effort is to close academic achievement and degree attainment gaps by building an informed cohort of state, county, city, town and school district officials who are able to work cohesively with their elected peers and other key stakeholders to ensure that all students, especially those in underserved communities, are academically prepared to lead successful lives and contribute to the future vitality of the state.

“We are thrilled to have Gloria rejoining our organization as we launch this unprecedented initiative to make significant systemic improvements to Arizona's education system by providing long-term in-depth training to the state's Latino education policymakers through a public policy academy,” stated Arturo Vargas, NALEO Educational Fund executive director. “As the fastest growing population group in the state, the future of Arizona is intrinsically tied to the success of Latino youth. We cannot afford to have the next generation of Latino youth in Arizona to be left behind, which is why we are aiming to equip the state's elected officials with the skills and information needed to be effective catalysts for change that will close the academic gaps between Latino students and their peers.”

The public policy academy will provide elected officials with the content knowledge and governance skills needed to achieve this goal by promoting innovative and successful policies toward improving educational outcomes for Arizona students. This new initiative is being undertaken in partnership with Helios Education Foundation, along with other allies in the state including NALEO members, Arizona State University and other community organizations.

“Helios Education Foundation is proud to partner with NALEO Educational Fund on this innovative project,” said Paul Luna, President and CEO, Helios Education Foundation.

“Currently, Latino students make up the largest percentage of the K-12 public school population in Arizona. It is critical that we address issues of equity and closing the achievement gap. The public policy academy will help empower elected officials with the information they need to help address these issues.”

Montaño Greene is re-joining the staff of NALEO Educational Fund after most recently serving as the State Executive Director for the Arizona State Farm Agency, an appointed official position within President Barack Obama’s administration. Prior to this position, she helped develop a multicultural engagement initiative to address the country’s Latino aging population while a Business and Integration Manager for AARP. A former NALEO Educational Fund Washington Office Director, Montaño Greene also previously served as Chief of Staff to Arizona Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva while working in our nation’s capital.

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About NALEO Educational Fund

NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-partisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service. For more information about NALEO Educational Fund please visit www.naleo.org.

About Helios Education Foundation

Helios Education Foundation is dedicated to creating opportunities for individuals in Arizona and Florida to achieve a postsecondary education. Our work is driven by our four fundamental beliefs in Community, Equity, Investment and Partnership, and we invest in initiatives across the full education continuum.

In Arizona, where Latino students comprise the largest percentage of the K-12 public school population, the Foundation is implementing its Arizona Latino Student Success initiative focused on preparing all students — especially students in high poverty, underserved Latino communities — for success. Through our Florida Regional Student Success Initiative, Helios is helping underserved, minority, first-generation students from the state’s large population centers in Miami, Orlando and Tampa achieve a postsecondary education.

Since 2006, the Foundation has invested over \$185 million in education programs and initiatives in both states. To learn more about our efforts, visit us online at www.helios.org.