



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Educational Fund Statement on Departure of Census Bureau Director Dillingham

Washington, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released a statement from CEO Arturo Vargas on Census Bureau Director Dr. Steven Dillingham’s announcement he will retire from federal service at noon on January 20, 2021:

“After overseeing a 2020 Census operation disrupted by the pandemic, political interference, and an attempt to manipulate the Census data for partisan purposes, Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham has announced his retirement from federal service and resignation from the Census Bureau nearly one year before his term expires.

“Director Dillingham’s departure will coincide with the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, providing the new administration the opportunity to appoint competent, ethical leadership committed to the scientific integrity of the Census Bureau.

“NALEO Educational Fund remains deeply concerned about the quality of the census data collected in 2020, especially the accuracy of data on the Latino population. The pandemic’s disruption of the Census Bureau’s operations, efforts by the Trump Administration to add an untested, last minute citizenship question, and then directing the Census Bureau to provide unreliable estimates of the immigrant population so that the apportionment counts could be manipulated, increased the lack of trust by Latinos and others to be counted.

“The Bureau has reported ‘irregularities and anomalies’ in the 2020 decennial data that the staff is frantically trying to fix. Congress should extend the statutory reporting deadlines for the delivery of the apportionment counts and redistricting data so that the Census Bureau has the time necessary to produce the most accurate and fair numbers possible. The incoming Biden Administration should move quickly to nominate a qualified director, and provide support to the Acting Director and professional staff of the Census Bureau.”

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About NALEO Educational Fund

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