



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Educational Fund Congratulates Isabel Guzman on Her Confirmation to Head the Small Business Administration

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released the following statement from CEO Arturo Vargas following the confirmation of Isabel Guzman as Administrator of the Small Business Administration:

“NALEO Educational Fund congratulates Isabel Guzman on her Senate confirmation as Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA). With the challenges facing small businesses as a result of COVID-19, Administrator Guzman and the SBA are tasked with the immense job of helping revitalize a hurting economy.

“Latinos are a major driver of the American economy, with more than 4.7 million Latino-owned businesses fueling over \$700 billion into the economy every year. Administrator Guzman’s confirmation is particularly important given that the pandemic has hit Latino-owned small businesses especially hard.

“Over the course of Administrator Guzman’s career, she acquired the extensive experience and expertise it will take to run the SBA amid the challenges it faces today. As Director of California’s Office of the Small Business Advocate, she helped lead the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She oversaw initiatives to help California businesses innovate so that they can reopen safely and launched a \$500 million grant program to boost small businesses. Ultimately, Administrator Guzman’s focus on helping companies recover and thrive will enable her to play a critical leadership role in bolstering our economy and the future of entrepreneurship for Latinos and all Americans.

“Although small businesses have struggled throughout the pandemic, they have also demonstrated resilience in meeting the challenges confronting them. NALEO Educational Fund is confident in Administrator Guzman’s ability to ensure the SBA is a strong partner that supports these businesses as the backbone of the American economy.”

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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.