



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NALEO Educational Fund Congratulates Dr. Miguel Cardona on Being Confirmed as Education Secretary**

**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 Dr. Miguel Cardona as Secretary of the Department of Education:

“NALEO Educational Fund congratulates Dr. Miguel Cardona on his Senate confirmation as Secretary of Education. Given the challenges facing Latino students and the schools that serve them during the COVID-19 pandemic, Secretary Cardona’s confirmation could not have come soon enough.

“The pandemic has created unprecedented obstacles for Latino households, particularly those who lack the resources for successful remote learning and child care. Alongside these obstacles, the pandemic has exacerbated existing inequities in achievement and opportunity between low-income students and their wealthier classmates. Addressing these issues will be a critical first task for the Department of Education.

“Given his career in education as a teacher, school principal, and assistant superintendent, to his appointment as the first Latino Connecticut Education Commissioner, Secretary Cardona’s experience and expertise will be needed to improve our education system. This includes raising achievement levels for students of color and addressing the challenges that English Language Learners, the majority of whom are Latino, face in our classrooms.

“We are confident in the ability of Secretary Cardona to tackle the complex challenges of the American education system, and our constituency of Latino elected and appointed officials – including more than 2,500 school board members – look forward to working with him to advance the interests of Latino students.”

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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.*