



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NALEO Educational Fund Commends the Confirmation of Robert Santos to Head the United States Census Bureau**

**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 Robert Santos as Director of U.S. Census Bureau:

“NALEO Educational Fund congratulates Robert Santos on his confirmation to head the U.S. Census Bureau, which received bipartisan support in the U.S. Senate. Mr. Santos is the first Latino and person of color to be confirmed by the Senate to lead the Census Bureau; his more than 40 years of experience and expertise with statistics, data, and social science research have prepared him to head the nation’s leading provider of quality data about America’s people and economy.

“With the Bureau emerging from its most challenging decennial census, Mr. Santos is now tasked with needing to effectively navigate the many challenges that face the agency. These include rebuilding public trust in the Bureau’s commitment to producing quality data that adhere to the highest standards of scientific integrity. The administration and the Bureau have already taken several steps to advance this goal. Mr. Santos is in a key position to build on this foundation by promoting transparency and working to ensure that all of the Bureau’s data products provide a complete and accurate portrayal of our nation’s population.

“Given the growing evidence of an undercount of Latinos and other population groups in Census 2020, it is imperative that Mr. Santos provides strong leadership for the Bureau’s efforts to conduct evaluations and provide data quality indicators that will help inform our understanding of a potential undercount. We also urge him to ensure the Bureau begins to consider the impact of an undercount of Latinos on the full range of activities for which Census 2020 data are used, including civil rights enforcement and federal funding. With so much at stake, the Bureau must start to assess the options to ameliorate an undercount of the nation’s second-largest population group.

“As the Bureau moves forward, Mr. Santos is well-qualified to ensure it enhances engagement of data experts, advocates, and other stakeholders in its work to promote the highest standards of data quality. As a Latino leading the agency, we also hope he will bring his life experience and cultural understanding of the Latino community to pursue new strategies to improve the count of Latinos. We also encourage him to make it a priority to improve the representation of Latinos throughout the Census Bureau’s permanent workforce.

"We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Bureau under Robert Santos' leadership to help it provide the most complete and accurate data possible on the Latino community and all of our nation's population."

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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.*