



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Educational Fund Congratulates Robert Santos on Being Sworn in to Lead U.S. Census Bureau

*"Today, we celebrate a historic day for our community and country with Director Santos now officially serving as the first Latino to head the Census Bureau"
– NALEO Educational Fund CEO Arturo Vargas*

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 Robert Santos' swearing-in as Director of the U.S. Census Bureau:

"Today, we celebrate a historic day for our community and country with Director Santos now officially serving as the first Latino to head the Census Bureau. His more than 40 years of experience and expertise in social science research, data, and statistics, along with the bipartisan support he received during his confirmation, have paved the way for him to head the nation's leading provider of quality data about America's people and economy.

"Director Santos is now in a pivotal position to promote transparency and ensure that all of the Bureau's data products provide a complete and accurate portrayal of our nation's population. With the Bureau emerging from its most tumultuous decennial census and with growing evidence of a potential undercount of Latinos and other population groups, Director Santos must effectively navigate the many challenges that face the agency's work. These include rebuilding public trust in the Bureau's commitment to producing quality data that adhere to the highest standards of scientific integrity and building a Census Bureau workforce that reflects our nation's diverse population.

"It is imperative that Director Santos leads the Bureau to conduct critical evaluations and provide data quality indicators to help inform our understanding of a potential undercount. Additionally, the Bureau must proactively assess 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.

"We also urge Director Santos to ensure the Bureau works with the Office of Management and Budget to revive the modernization of the census questions on Hispanic origin and race and conduct additional research to inform this important effort.

"As the Bureau continues its work, Director Santos must also ensure the agency enhances its engagement of data experts, advocates, and other stakeholders in its efforts to promote the highest standards of data quality.

“We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Census Bureau under Director Santos’ leadership as it works to provide complete and accurate data 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.