



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NALEO Educational Fund Commends USCIS on Mission Statement Revamp**

*The new mission statement demonstrates a commitment to service culture for all*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today issued the following statement from CEO Arturo Vargas in response to the newly-issued United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) mission statement. This new mission statement, which reads, “USCIS upholds America’s promise as a nation of welcome and possibility with fairness, integrity, and respect for all we serve,” replaces the statement articulated by the previous administration.

“We commend USCIS and its Director Ur Jaddou for modernizing its mission statement to reflect that its purpose is to welcome and serve those who wish to call America their home, embracing the possibilities our great nation provides. Lawful permanent residents (LPRs) who become U.S. citizens have demonstrated that they embrace these possibilities by enriching our culture, enhancing our economic prosperity, and making our democracy more robust and responsive.

“USCIS’ newly-revamped mission statement also references a key value for a public-serving agency: treating LPRs and other immigrants with fairness, integrity, and respect. Our nation will not be able to achieve an increase in the number of eligible LPRs who pursue and obtain U.S. citizenship — and be a role model for other nations in this regard — without treating applicants with fairness and respect throughout the entire naturalization process.

“The new mission statement sends a critical message to all USCIS staff, other agency officials, policymakers, and the public — that the agency will take the necessary steps to instill a culture of fairness and service in all its activities. Reviving this once-lost aspiration of USCIS has been a top advocacy priority for NALEO Educational Fund, and we are pleased to see this meaningful revamp of the agency’s mission statement.

“This change demonstrates that words matter and illustrates a stark contrast from the mission statement issued under the previous administration. Furthermore, in addition to this welcomed shift in the agency’s outlook, we also appreciate that USCIS has taken actions in line with this new message — actions that help ensure naturalization is affordable and accessible to all eligible LPRs.

“We urge USCIS to build on the momentum of this progress by continuing the reduction of naturalization backlogs, further streamlining the naturalization process, improving the fairness of the English-language fluency component of the naturalization exam, stabilizing the

naturalization fee, and making fee waivers more accessible to low- and moderate-income applicants.

“We look forward to our continued work with USCIS to achieve these goals and bolster the United States’ reputation as a land of possibilities for all.”

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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.*