



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NALEO Educational Fund Announces Azalea Candelaria as New Chief Development Officer**

*Candelaria will lead the organization's fundraising and donor relations efforts*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund announced today the appointment of Azalea Candelaria as its new Chief Development Officer. Candelaria's decades of experience in numerous regional and national leadership roles span the non-profit sector — garnering her a strong track record in fundraising strategy and execution.

In her new role, Candelaria will oversee all NALEO Educational Fund's donor relations and fundraising efforts, focusing on charting growth for the organization as it continues to advocate for, empower, and mobilize Latino participation in all aspects of American democracy.

"Azalea brings extensive experience growing non-profits and scaling fundraising potential, and we are thrilled to welcome her into the NALEO Educational Fund family," said NALEO Educational Fund Chief Executive Officer Arturo Vargas. "Her knowledge and successful track record in donor relations, membership growth, and fundraising strategy will help us strengthen our impact and success in increasing Latino participation and representation in government."

"NALEO Educational Fund is a vibrant organization whose work is critical in strengthening American democracy by ensuring Latino political participation," said Candelaria. "I am thrilled to be joining the organization and look forward to engaging with the funders, volunteers, and members who have supported NALEO Educational Fund and its mission to ensure that Latinos are full stakeholders in the American political process."

Previously, Candelaria served as Vice President of Development and Industry Relations at the Pulmonary Hypertension Association, leading the organization's fundraising team to advance its philanthropic initiatives through corporate partner and stakeholder engagement, sponsorship initiatives, and the creation of constituent-centered virtual content during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to this, she led the American Occupational Therapy Foundation as its Chief Development Officer and held leadership roles at JDRF International and March of Dimes.

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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.*