



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Educational Fund Statement on U.S. Supreme Court Decision on Affirmative Action

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released the following statement from Chief Executive Officer Arturo Vargas following the Supreme Court’s decision to reverse Affirmative Action:

“The Supreme Court’s decision to ban affirmative action in college admissions processes undoes decades of progress toward diversifying higher education and, subsequently, access to the nation’s workforce. NALEO Educational Fund vehemently disagrees with the Court’s ruling and urges educational institutions and policymakers to devise ameliorative measures that support all members of our society with fair opportunities to achieve their full potential through higher education and resulting career mobility.

“Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen a significant [20-year](#) academic setback for students, with Latino and Black students taking the [biggest hit](#). These changes include rollbacks in years of gains among [Latino students](#). The Supreme Court’s decision will only worsen these problems.

“Diversity is the foundation of a robust educational experience. College campuses and the national workforce benefit from different ideas, skills, experiences, and perspectives. This ruling hinders Latino access to higher education and, consequently, the workforce, exacerbating America’s workforce crisis across critical sectors — for which Latino workers are a vital aspect of the solution.

“We believe that when properly implemented, affirmative action is neither a system of mandatory quotas or set-asides nor the granting of preferences to unqualified people. Affirmative action has helped open up the system to all and provide an environment where all persons have a chance to succeed according to their efforts and abilities.

“This decision also jeopardizes the vitality of families and the nation. Eliminating opportunities for Latinos to obtain higher education before entering critical sectors of our workforce will only create additional worker shortages with rippling effects across the entire economy. It is crucial to our nation’s future that policymakers across all levels of government work together to find creative solutions to ensure educational opportunities are available to Latinos and all Americans. This includes providing additional funding for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) — an approach Congress already took in 2019 for Historically Black Colleges and Universities ([HBCUs](#)).

“NALEO Educational Fund is committed to seeing that Latinos and all Americans have the opportunity to realize their full potential, which requires unhindered access to education and employment. It is imperative that educational institutions also do their part to find ways to provide this important opportunity so that the nation can thrive from one of the things that makes us strong and unique — our diversity.”

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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.