Eduardo J. Padrón, of Miami, is the chair of the President’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics and the president of Miami Dade College (MDC). An American by choice, Padrón arrived in the United States as a refugee at the age of 15. Since 1995, he has served as president of MDC, an Hispanic-Serving Institution and the largest institution of higher education in America with more than 170,000 students. An economist by training, Padrón earned his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. In 2009, TIME magazine included him on the list of “The 10 Best College Presidents.” In 2010, he was named “Floridian of the Year” by Florida Trend; in 2011, The Washington Post named him one of the eight most influential college presidents in the U.S. Padrón’s energetic leadership extends to many of the nation’s leading organizations. He is the immediate past chair of the board of the Association of American Colleges and Universities and chair of the board of directors of the American Council on Education. Throughout his career, Padrón has been selected to serve on posts of national prominence by five American presidents and is widely recognized as one of the top education leaders in the world. He currently serves on the boards of the Business/Higher Education Forum; League for Innovation in the Community College (past Chair); RC 2020; the Collins Center for Public Policy; the College Board Advocacy and Policy Center; 2010 White House Fellows Selection Panel (chair); the International Association of University Presidents; and the Council on Foreign Relations. In past years, he has held leadership positions on the boards of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (chair); the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Campus Compact; Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute; and others. Most recently, he has been appointed to the commission to study the potential creation of the National Museum of the American Latino.

Alicia Abella is currently executive director of the Innovative Services Research Department at AT&T Labs Research and also chairs the AT&T Labs Fellowship Program. She also serves as Executive Vice President for the Young Science Achievers Program, where she encourages high school-aged women and minority students to pursue careers in science and engineering. Previously, Abella served as group manager and principal member at AT&T Labs Research. She has been recognized as one of the “Top Five Women of the Year” by Hispanic Business magazine and was the recipient of the Pioneer Award from the Women of Color STEM Conference and the Latinos in Information Sciences and Technology Association Leadership of the Year Award. Abella holds a B.S from New York University, and an M.S., M.Phil and Ph.D. from Columbia University.
Modesto E. Abety Gutierrez is the founding president and CEO of The Children’s Trust. Abety previously served as an operations field manager for The Children’s Trust Political Action Committee. Prior to his work with the Children’s Trust Political Action Committee, Abety was an adjunct professor at Florida International University. He has also worked as a director for the Miami-Dade County Children’s Services Council, as an executive assistant at Metro-Dade Community Action Agency, and as a HUD liaison officer at Metro-Dade County. Abety holds a B.S. in sociology from Florida State University and an MPA from Bernard M. Baruch College.

Sylvia Acevedo is the interim Director of the Girl Scouts of America. She is also cofounder and CEO of CommuniCard, LLC and the cofounder and president of Advancing America, LLC. Previously, Acevedo was the vice president and cofounder of Reba Technologies. She also worked at Dell Computer Corporation in a variety of capacities, including director of Home and Small Businesses and director of Latin American Marketing and Business Development. Prior to working at Dell, Acevedo worked at Apple and IBM. She currently sits on the boards of the Hispanic Scholarship Consortium and the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders. Acevedo is the recipient of the Gold Education Award from the Texas Association and the Business Woman of the Year from the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Region III. She holds a B.S in engineering from New Mexico State University and an M.S in engineering from Stanford University.

Alfredo J. Artiles, Ph.D is the Dean of Graduate Education and the Ryan Harris Professor of Special Education at Arizona State University. He has produced over 100 publications (journal articles, chapters, books) that focus on understanding and addressing educational inequities related to the intersections of disabilities with sociocultural differences, with an emphasis on diverse K-12 student populations. Dr. Artiles has obtained over $13 million dollars in grants that aim to advance policies, personnel preparation programs, and inclusive educational systems in multicultural contexts. These projects include the federally funded National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems and the Equity Alliance, which are devoted to research and school reform efforts to uphold the civil rights of students and promote equity, access, participation and outcomes for all students. Dr. Artiles was Vice President of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). He is an AERA Fellow, a Spencer Foundation/National Academy of Education Postdoctoral Fellow, and a Resident Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (Stanford University).
Dr. **Nancy E. Brune** is the Executive Director of the Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities, a statewide policy research center providing independent, data-driven analysis on issues of tax and fiscal policy, education, economic development, and natural resource security. She also serves as a Senior Fellow at the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law. Dr. Brune’s current work is examining English Language Learners and Special Education, the affordability of community college, and the STEM minority gap. She is the author of over 60 peer-reviewed journal articles, reports, essays, blogs, and op-ed. Her work has appeared in the *IMF Staff Papers*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, and *Americas Quarterly*. Dr. Brune received her Ph.D., Master of Philosophy and Master of Arts degrees from Yale University and her Master of Public Policy and B.A. degrees from Harvard University. She has held research fellowships at Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania.

**Daniel J. Cardinali** is president and CEO of the Independent Sector. Prior to this role, he was president of Communities in Schools, an organization focused on dropout prevention. Prior to his role as president, Cardinali served as executive vice president of field operations at Communities in Schools. From 1996 to 1999, he served as both acting director of the Partners Reach Out/Advocacy Program and as assistant director of Leadership and Training at Partners of America. Cardinali currently serves as a trustee for America’s Promise, the vice chair of the National Human Services Assembly, and a member of the board of directors of Child Trends and the Harwood Institute’s Public Innovators Summit. He holds a B.S. from Georgetown University and an M.A. from Fordham University.

**Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D.**, is the former chancellor of The University of Texas (UT) System. Cigarroa also is a professor of Pediatric and Transplant Surgery at the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio and a member of the medical staff at numerous hospitals. From 2000 to 2009, he was the President of UT’s Health Science Center. Previously, Cigarroa served as the Trauma director at Christus Santa Rosa Children’s Hospital. Earlier in his career, he was chief resident at Harvard’s teaching hospital, Massachusetts General in Boston, and completed a fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Cigarroa is a former member of the President’s Committee on the National Medal of Science and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. He is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award given by the *Eagle Pass Business Journal* and the Heart of Gold Award given by the American Heart Association. Cigarroa was named among the Top 25 Latinos in Education by the *National Magazine of the American Latino*. He holds a B.S. from Yale and an M.D. from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.
Cesar Conde is Executive Vice President at NBCUniversal, where he oversees NBCUniversal International, which includes film and television distribution, home entertainment distribution, channels, film and television production, theme parks, and news. He is also responsible for leading strategic corporate priorities across NBCUniversal’s portfolio of assets domestically. Conde, who serves on NBCUniversal’s Executive Committee, reports to Chief Executive Officer Stephen B. Burke. Conde joined NBCUniversal in October 2013 from Univision, where he served as President since 2009. Conde, who joined Univision in 2003, served in a variety of senior executive capacities and is credited with transforming it into a leading global, multi-platform media brand. Under his leadership, Univision’s main broadcast network became the number one network in America (July 2013) regardless of language for the first time in the company’s 50-year history, and experienced record ratings and profitability during his tenure. With Conde’s oversight, Univision Networks’ portfolio grew from three to 14 broadcast and cable networks. Additionally, he was instrumental in the launch of the company’s first-ever English language network, Fusion, a joint venture with Disney’s ABCNews.

Social and community initiatives were core to Conde’s business approach at Univision and emphasized the importance of empowerment initiatives for the Hispanic community. He spearheaded the development of the “Es el Momento” national education initiative with The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, led the “Ya es Hora” Latino citizenship and voter campaign and launched the network’s first “Teletón USA” broadcast to raise funds for disabled children in need of rehabilitation services. Prior to Univision, Conde served as the White House Fellow for Secretary of State Colin L. Powell from 2002–2003. Before his public service, he worked at StarMedia Network, the first Internet company focused on Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking audiences globally, and in the Mergers & Acquisitions Group at Salomon Smith Barney.

Lily Eskelsen García is a sixth-grade teacher from Utah and president of the 3 million-member National Education Association. She began her career in education as a school lunch lady, became a kindergarten aide and was encouraged by the teacher to go to college and become a teacher herself. She worked her way through the University of Utah on scholarships, student loans, and as a starving folk singer, graduating magna cum laude in elementary education and later earning her master’s degree in instructional technology.

After teaching only nine years, Lily was named Utah Teacher of the Year for her work as an elementary teacher. She worked with homeless children and gifted children; as a mentor for student teachers; and as a peer assistance team leader in the suburbs of Salt Lake City where she taught at Orchard Elementary School.

In 1998 she attempted to put her 20 years of experience working with small children to practical use by becoming her party’s nominee for the U.S. Congress. The rookie effort didn’t work out. Yet by any measure, she made her mark: she was the first Hispanic to run for Congress in her state and earned 45 percent of the vote against the incumbent. Today, she is one of the highest-ranking labor leaders in the country and one of its most influential Hispanic educators.
Phil Fuentes has been an owner and operator of McDonald’s franchises since 1989. Since 2013, Mr. Fuentes has served as a Director of the Urban Partnership Bank in Chicago, and he has also served on the Board of Directors of Illinois’s Regional Transportation Authority since 2008. From 1999 to 2010, Mr. Fuentes served as Director of Clarity Communication Systems, Inc. Mr. Fuentes also served as President of Array Technical Services, Inc. from 1985 to 1989. He is a member of the Coca-Cola Hispanic Advisory Council. Mr. Fuentes received a B.A. from Northeastern Illinois University and an M.B.A. from Rosary College.

Luis R. Fraga is the co-director for the Institute for Latino Studies and professor in Transformative Latino Leadership at the University of Notre Dame. Prior to this position, he was the associate vice provost for faculty advancement at the University of Washington in Seattle where he also serves as a Russell F. Stark University Professor, the director of the Diversity Research Institute, and a professor of political science. Prior to his work at the University of Washington, Fraga was on the faculty at Stanford University, the University of Notre Dame, and the University of Oklahoma. He has edited and published numerous journal articles and authored books on Latino politics, immigration, education and voting rights policy. Fraga serves on the boards of the Public Education Network, OneAmerica and New Futures. He received his B.A. from Harvard University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Rice University.

JoAnn Gama is chief of schools at IDEA Public Schools, which she cofounded in 1998 as an academy; after receiving a state charter, she opened IDEA as an independent charter school in August 2000. Since IDEA Public Schools’ launch, Gama has served as a principal and the chief operating officer. In 1997, she joined Teach for America in Donna, Texas, where she taught fourth- and fifth-grade English as a Second Language. Gama earned a B.A. from Boston University and an M.ED. in educational leadership from the University of Texas-Pan American.

Patricia Gándara is a professor of education in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. Gándara also is co-director of the Civil Rights Project based at UCLA. From 2000 to 2009, she was the associate director of the University of California’s Linguistic Minority Research Institute. Prior to this, Gándara served as commissioner for postsecondary education for the state of California. She has been a bilingual school psychologist, a social scientist with the RAND Corporation, and director of education research in the California Legislature (State Assembly). Gándara earned a B.A. in sociology in 1969 from UCLA and an M.A. in counseling and school psychology in 1972 from California State University, Los Angeles. In 1979, she earned a Ph.D. in educational psychology.
Mildred García became the fifth CSU Board of Trustees-appointed president of Cal State Fullerton in June 2012. Previously, she served as president of Cal State Dominguez Hills beginning in 2007, where she was the eleventh female president—and first Latina president—in the California State University system. Prior to coming to the CSU, she was president of Berkeley College in New York and New Jersey from 2001 to 2007, and earlier held administrative and academic positions at Arizona State University; Montclair State University; Pennsylvania State University; Teachers College, Columbia University; and the Hostos, LaGuardia, and City Colleges of the City University of New York. García is the author of several books and articles focused on the impact of equity in higher education policy and practice. In addition, she serves on numerous national boards, including President Obama’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics and chairs the board of directors of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. García received a Doctor of Education degree, as well as a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration, from Teachers College, Columbia University; a Master of Arts in Business Education/Higer Education from New York University; a Bachelor of Science in Business Education from Baruch College, City University of New York (CUNY); and an Associate in Arts degree in Legal Secretarial Sciences in Business from New York City Community College, CUNY. California

Manuel Gomez is a professor of physics at the University of Puerto Rico and the director and founder of the University’s Resource Center for Science and Engineering. He also heads the Puerto Rico Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Project, the Puerto Rico Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate Program, and is a codirector of the Institute for Functional Nanomaterials. Previously, Gomez served as a member of the National Science Foundation Directorate for Education and Human Resources Advisory Committee, which aims to increase K-16 students learning in STEM fields. He has also served as the vice president for research and academic affairs of the University of Puerto Rico, where he oversaw the Statewide Systemic Initiative Project. In 2008, Gomez was awarded the Science Award by the Rotary Club of San Juan for his work in physics. He holds a B.S. in physics from the University of Puerto Rico and a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Cornell University.

Sara Lundquist is the vice president of Student Services at Santa Ana College, where she has been employed for more than 33 years. Lundquist serves as the institution’s chief student services officer for budgeting and planning. In addition, she facilitates the Santa Ana Partnership, a K-12 higher education collaborative. Lundquist has served as the principal investigator for numerous grant and research projects from The Ford Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the United States Department of Education, the James Irvine Foundation, and the Pew Partnership for Civic Change. Lundquist first studied at Vassar College and received a B.S. in psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. She earned an M.S. in psychology and counseling from UCLA. She is the author, with Frances Contreras, of The Latino Education Crisis, published by Harvard University Press, 2009
the University of La Verne, and received a Ph.D. in higher education from Claremont Graduate University.

Monica Martinez is a leading national expert in secondary and postsecondary education with more than 20 years of experience directing and researching major education innovation and reform initiatives. She has worked across multiple sectors in education, including: philanthropy; nonprofits that support P–16 initiatives and school redesign; policy think tanks; and higher education institutions. Martinez is currently a Senior Engagement Management at the U.S. Education Delivery Institute where she works with state agency and systems’ leaders in K-12 and higher education to build their capacity to successfully implement their goals and vision through the use of data analysis, benchmarks, and trajectories. Most recently, Martinez was an independent education strategist for foundations and nonprofits, such as the Carnegie Corporation, Hewlett Foundation, and the Harold K.W. Foundation. Prior to this, Martinez was the chief executive officer of New Tech Network, a subsidiary of the KnowledgeWorks Foundation. Additionally, Martinez was the vice president of education strategy for KnowledgeWorks. During her time in Washington, D.C., Martinez was a senior associate at the Institute for Educational Leadership where she founded the Washington, D.C.-based National High School Alliance, a partnership of more than 40 organizations sharing a common commitment to promoting the excellence, equity and development of high school-age youths and created the Framework for College Readiness for the Pathways to College Network.

Veronica Melvin is President and Chief Executive Officer of LA’s Promise. Passion, activism, empowerment and learning are four key qualities that are present throughout Veronica Melvin’s dedicated work in the fields of education and health for children and families. These attributes, that have defined her life and career, are the reason why she received a Presidential appointment to a White House commission on educational excellence. As President and Chief Executive Officer of LA’s Promise, Ms. Melvin guides a dedicated, reform-minded education organization with a mission to provide quality educational experiences mated to an array of integrated support services, including health care and fitness opportunities for students in public schools.

Nancy Navarro currently serves as President of the Montgomery County Council. Montgomery County is the largest jurisdiction in Maryland, with over 1 million residents (17% Latino) and a budget of over $4 billion.

She was elected to represent District 4 on the Council in a special election on May 19, 2009 and re-elected in the general election on November 4, 2010. District 4 is majority people of color, and 25% Latino. Since December 2010, she has chaired the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee and serves on the Health and Human Services Committee. She served as Council Vice President for the 2011-2012 session, and has been elected Council President for the 2012-2013 session of the Council. Nancy is
the first Latina member and President of the Council. Her office has led the groundbreaking Latino Civic Project, an effort to engage underrepresented residents in the civic process.

**Maria Neira** is currently the vice president of New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), where she oversees the union’s initiatives on education policy. Neira previously served as assistant to the president on education issues for the United Federation of Teachers (UFT). From 1994 to 1998, she was director of UFT’s Special Education Support Program. Earlier in her career, Neira was a teacher and education consultant. She is the founder and publisher of *Educator’s Voice*, a professional journal dedicated to research on closing the achievement gap. She is a member of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement. Neira is a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations and the Northeast New York Woman of Achievement Award from the YMCA. She holds a B.A. and an M.S. from Hunter College.

**Lisette Nieves** is an experienced social entrepreneur and public sector leader. She is currently a Founding Partner at Lingo Ventures, where she provides consulting services to the nonprofit and public sector on growth, talent recruitment/retention, and change management. Prior to Lingo Ventures, Lisette served for two years as the Belle Zeller Distinguished Visiting Professor in Public Policy at the City University of New York at Brooklyn College. During this time, she also led the launch of a pilot workforce and community college partnership in Miami and Philadelphia. Lisette also served as the founding Executive Director of Year Up NY, an innovative workforce development program, where in the span of five years she grew the organization from a $250,000 seed grant to a $6 million operation with 40 staff serving over 250 young adults annually. Her government experience includes serving as the Chief of Staff at the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) for the City of New York and working at the federal level at the Corporation for National Service, launching and administering the AmeriCorps program. Her board affiliations currently include the Fund for the City of New York, Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School Advisory Council, Stand for Children, Edwin Gould Foundation, and Guttman Community College.

**Adrián A. Pedroza** is the Executive Director of the Partnership for Community Action, a community-based organization that works to build strong, healthy communities throughout New Mexico by investing in people and families- supporting them to become strong leaders in the community. Previously, Adrián worked with the University of New Mexico High School Equivalency and College Assistance Migrant Programs, which provide educational opportunities to migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families. In addition, Adrián worked for former U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman in New Mexico. Under Governor Bill Richardson, Adrián was appointed to the inaugural Hispanic Education Advisory Council. He is currently a Commissioner on President Obama’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. Adrián serves on the National Advisory Board for
the early childhood school readiness and parent engagement curriculum Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors, and is on the Advisory Board of the NM Center for School Leadership. In 2012, Adrian received the Excellence in Education Award from the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators. He holds a B.A. and an M.B.A. from the University of New Mexico.

**Beatriz Rendón** is Vice President of Educational Outreach at Arizona State University (ASU), where she is responsible for building and diversifying the pipeline of college-going students into ASU. She also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of ASU Preparatory Academy, ASU's innovative, PreK-12 public charter school, currently serving over 2000 students across a diverse socioeconomic spectrum, “turning around” one of its campuses which was inherited as a failing school in 2009. ASU Prep's mission and achievements to date illustrate that all students from all socio-economic backgrounds can achieve a four-year university degree, compete globally and contribute to their communities. Prior to joining ASU in 2010, Beatriz served as Executive Director of Strategic Alliances for the Critical Path Institute, Chief Business Officer for the Tucson Unified School District, and worked 12 years in several executive capacities at the Chicago Public Schools, the third largest school district in the country, including leading “Renaissance 2010,” an initiative to open 100 independently operated schools by 2010. Beatriz is originally from El Paso, Texas. A first-generation college student, Beatriz holds a Juris Doctorate from Loyola University Chicago School of Law, a Masters of Public Policy from the University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Arizona in Political Science. She and her husband are parents to a blended family of 3 daughters and 2 sons.

**Darline P. Robles** is currently a professor of clinical education at the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California. From 2002 to 2010, Robles served as the first Latina superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Previously, she served as superintendent of the Salt Lake City School District and the Montebello Unified School District. Robles was named among the Top 100 Influential Hispanic Americans by *Hispanic Business* magazine and Woman of the Year by the LA County Commission for Women. She is a board member for Families in Schools, the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents, and the Josephson Institute. Robles holds a B.A. from California State University at Los Angeles, an M.A. from Claremont Graduate School, and a Ph.D from the University of Southern California.

**Ricardo Romo** is currently the president of The University of Texas at San Antonio. Previously, Romo served as vice provost of Undergraduate Education at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a member of the American Association for Higher Education, the Institute of Latin American Studies, and the National Association of Chicano Studies. Romo has written numerous books, monographs and articles on the history of Mexican-Americans and Chicano studies. He is the recipient of the Isabel la Catolica Award, given by King Juan Carlos of Spain, the Life Achievement Award given by Latinos in the Millennium, and the Outstanding Citizen Award given by San Antonio Youth Literacy. Romo holds a B.S. from the University of Texas at Austin, an M.A. from Loyola University, and a Ph.D from the University of California at Los Angeles.
Manny Sanchez is the founder and managing partner of Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP, a civil litigation law firm in Chicago. From 1981 to 1987, Sanchez was a capital partner at Hinshaw, Culberton, Moelmann, Hoban & Fuller. He sits on the boards of Northern Illinois University, the Boys and Girls Club of Chicago, the Children’s Memorial Hospital, and Hispanocare, among others. Sanchez was a founding member of the Mexican American Lawyers Association and the Latin American Bar Association. He holds a B.A. from Northern Illinois University and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Shakira, a native of Colombia, is a singer, songwriter, musician, record producer, dancer and philanthropist. She is the founder of the Fundación Pies Descalzos (Barefoot Foundation)—an organization whose schools feed and educate more than 6,000 impoverished Colombian children. In 2008, Shakira was the chair of the Global Campaign for Education. She currently is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador.

Dr. Kent Paredes Scribner is the superintendent of the Fort Worth Independent School District. Prior to that, he was superintendent of the Phoenix Union High School District. Phoenix Union is the largest high school district in Arizona, serving over 26,000 students in grades 9 through 12. Scribner has led several successful educational initiatives in his tenure, thus far. He implemented the mission of “Preparing every student for success in college, career and life”, and the District has responded. Every school was rated Performing, Performing Plus, Highly Performing or Excelling by the state accountability labels by 2011. In 2013, Phoenix Union increased the number of “A” and “B” schools in the Arizona Department of Education Accountability Rankings. Honors and Advanced Placement course-taking has more than doubled. AVID, or Advancement Via Individual Determination curriculum has been introduced on every comprehensive campus.

Marta Tienda is the Maurice P. During ’22 Professor of Demographic Studies and Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at Princeton University. Tienda also is the founding director of the Program in Latino Studies at Princeton University. She has held tenured appointments at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and at the University of Chicago. Earlier in her career, Tienda was the president of the Population Association of America, served as director of Princeton University’s Office of Population Research, and chaired the National Academy of Sciences Panel on Hispanics. She has published more than 175 scholarly papers and monographs and edited multiple volumes. Tienda is
currently a trustee of the Sloan Foundation and the Jacobs Foundation of Switzerland. She holds a B.A. from Michigan State University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. Since 2005, I have served on the board of TIAA, Teacher's Insurance and Annuity Association, a Fortune 100 financial services organization that provides retirement benefits for employees in teaching, research, medical and the arts.