



## PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANICS



**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. Padrón's transformational accomplishments at Miami Dade College have been acknowledged by the national media, including *The New York Times*, *NBC Nightly News*, *TIME*, *Wall Street Journal*, CNN and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. He has been featured in *People* magazine as one of the world's most influential Hispanics; *Hispanic* magazine's list of most powerful Latinos, and *PODER* magazine's report on "Movers and Shakers."



**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 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 Associate Dean 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). His work has received awards from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and AERA, among others, including the 2012 Palmer Johnson Award for best article published in an AERA journal. His latest book is *Inclusive education: Examining equity on five continents* (Harvard Education Press, 2011). Dr. Artiles co-edits the *International Multilingual Research Journal* (Taylor & Francis) and Teacher College Press' book series *Disability, Culture, and Equity*. He has been an advisor to the Civil Rights Projects at Harvard University and UCLA, the National Academy of Education, CEC, the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, and numerous university projects and state and school district educational initiatives.



**Daniel J. Cardinali** is 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 currently the 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.

Conde is a Trustee of both the Aspen Institute and the Paley Center for Media, as well as a Full Member at the Council on Foreign Relations and a Young Global Leader for the World Economic Forum. He sits on the Boards for the Foundation for Excellence in Education, and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. He has been recognized on Fortune's "40 Under 40" list four times,

has been honored by the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute with the “Corporate Leader Award,” and received I Have a Dream Foundation’s “Eugene M. Lang Achievement Award.” He holds a B.A. with honors from Harvard University and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



**Lily Eskelsen García** is a sixth-grade teacher from Utah and Vice President of the over 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.

She has served as president of the Utah Education Association; as president of the Utah State Retirement System; as president of the Children at Risk Foundation; and was named by President Obama to serve as a commissioner on the White House Commission on Education Excellence for Hispanics. Lily writes a blog, “[Lily’s Blackboard](#),” covering the latest education issues. Her advice has been published in *Parenting* magazine and she has been featured on MSNBC, CNN en Español and as the noble opposition on Fox & Friends. She has been the invited keynote speaker for hundreds of education events in virtually every state, earning her recognition by *Education World* in their “Best Conference Speakers” edition. Lily believes that no matter how students arrive, no matter what their learning conditions, their home conditions or their health conditions, that educators have the sacred duty to be professionals and to care for the whole student - mind, body and character. And she believes that professionalism carries the responsibility to take action, individually and collectively, to fight to make the promise of public education a reality and to prepare the whole and happy child to succeed in becoming a whole and happy adult.



**Luis R. Fraga** is currently 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 from UCLA. She is the author, with Frances Contreras, of *The Latino Education Crisis*, published by Harvard University Press, 2009



**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/ Higher 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 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. Martinez' forthcoming book, *Deeper Learning: A Blueprint for Schools in the Twenty-First Century: How great public schools inspire critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration* will be published by New Press in 2014. She has been a columnist for *Phi Delta Kappan* and a contributing author to *Double the Numbers for College* (Harvard Press), *Saving America's High School* (Urban Institute) and independent reports. Martinez serves on the boards of AdvancED, an international accreditation agency, and 10,000 Degrees, a college access organization in the San Francisco Bay area. She has served on the Blue Ribbon Panel on Clinical Preparation and Partnerships for Improved Student Learning convened by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Board of Directors for the Grantmakers for Education. A Colorado native, Martinez earned a B.A. from Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and a PhD in sociology of education and higher education administration from the Steinhardt School of Education at New York University.



**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.

Ms. Melvin has devoted her professional life to the pursuit of excellence in education and learning for students. She has also made youth access to health services and being empowered to make healthy living healthy choices one of her top priorities.

Known for her organizational leadership and unwavering passion to uplift and empower communities, Veronica Melvin is a champion of children and families. she envisions building a kindergarten to college pathway for our students and constructing a career pipeline laid upon a foundation of access to excellent academic, health, and enrichment opportunities for LA's Promise youth in South Los Angeles.

Ms. Melvin has a solid track record of building effective coalitions comprising educators, students, parents, and community stakeholders who make a firm commitment to work collaboratively to constantly improve teaching and learning in public school settings.

Ms. Melvin served as Chief Operating Officer of Communities for Teaching Excellence, a national effort that empowers communities to advocate for effective teaching and academic achievement for students. Her bold executive management achieved success for students and teachers in classrooms in Memphis, TN, Pittsburgh, PA, Hillsborough County, FL, and Los Angeles, CA.

Throughout her professional career, Ms. Melvin has pursued equity in education for all students and communities. She has been driven by a long held desire to improve the quality of lives for families in underserved communities.

Ms. Melvin served as Executive Director of Alliance for a Better Community (ABC), an organization working to ensure equity in education, health, economic development and civic participation for Latinos and overall improvement for residents of the Greater Los Angeles. In her management role, Ms. Melvin

has also been instrumental in launching community-based campaigns to advance issues crucial to student academic achievement and success.

Ms. Melvin fought to attain college preparatory curriculum for every Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) high school student. In addition, she worked to provide greater access to quality preschools for L.A.'s youngest students. Ms. Melvin was on the front lines of the community-based drive to ban high-calorie junk food and beverages in L.A. schools.

To address and alleviate major student overcrowding in L.A. public schools, Ms. Melvin doggedly pursued construction of new L.A. public schools, such as Belmont Learning Center and the Robert F. Kennedy School complex. Ms. Melvin has promoted healthy communities through her proposals and programs for greater joint-use open space and park development that led to the construction of the Vista Hermosa Park and a joint-use soccer field at the Roybal Learning Center.

Ms. Melvin developed LAUSD 'Pilot Schools' – a network of small autonomous, career-themed schools that promote student and parent choice. She also championed the LAUSD Public School Choice Initiative that allows new and low-performing schools to be operated by external education organizations and chosen teams of teachers.

Ms. Melvin began her career as Community and Government Relations Coordinator for the San Diego Workforce Partnership, a nonprofit organization supporting local job training programs that enable eligible adults to develop the job-ready skills and knowledge needed for emerging career opportunities and employment.

President Barack Obama appointed Ms. Melvin to the President's Commission on the Educational Excellence of Hispanics. Ms. Melvin also serves on Univision's Es El Momento national advisory commission.

Ms. Melvin earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Economies of Industrial Societies from UC Berkeley. She earned her Masters of Public Policy from UCLA's School of Public Affairs.



**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. In October 2011, President Barack Obama appointed Nancy as a member of the President's Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, where she serves on the Early Childhood Education Committee.

Prior to joining the Council, Nancy was a member of the Montgomery County Board of Education, where she served two consecutive terms as Board President. She was first appointed to the Board of Education in October 2004 to fill a vacant seat. On Nov. 7, 2006, she was elected to a full four-year term. Nancy was a member of the Board's Strategic Planning Committee and chaired the Communications and Public Engagement Committee. During her term as President, Nancy created a Translation Unit to provide simultaneous translation for parents who did not speak English.

Nancy graduated with a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Missouri (Columbia). During the summers of 2007 and 2008, she participated in the Public Education Leadership Project (PELP) at Harvard University, a dynamic professional development program whose mission is to improve the management and leadership competencies of public school leaders in order to drive greater educational outcomes. The Montgomery County Public Schools team focused on race, poverty and the academic achievement gap.

Nancy has served in a number of volunteer leadership roles. Currently, she sits on the board of directors of The Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants and Young Children, a non-profit serving more than 4,000 children and families in the Washington metropolitan area, regardless of ability to pay. She is a graduate of IMPACT Silver Spring 2001 Leadership Program and Leadership Montgomery Class of 2009.

Nancy has received numerous awards and recognitions, including: One of 2013 *Washingtonian* Magazine's "Most Powerful Women," the Maryland State Department of Education's Women Who Dare Leadership Award; the U.S. Hispanic Youth Entrepreneur Education's Hispanic Hero Award; the 2009 and 2013 Maryland's Top 100 Women Award; and the Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's 2010 Elected Local Government Official of the Year Award.

Before entering public office, Nancy co-founded a non-profit, community-based organization with a mission to assist the economic and educational development of Latino and other immigrant communities. School readiness, healthy family development, and academic achievement was the primary focus of the organization.

She was born in Caracas, Venezuela and has lived in Montgomery County for more than two decades with her husband, Reginald, and two daughters, Anais and Isabel.



**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 currently a social entrepreneur-in-residence at the Blue Ridge Foundation. She was recently appointed as the Belle Zeller Distinguished Visiting Professor in Public Policy at the City University of New York at Brooklyn College. Previously, Nieves served as the founding executive director for Year Up NY, a workforce and education program for young adults. From 2002 to 2004, she served as chief of staff at the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) for the City of New York. Earlier in her career, Nieves was the director of special projects at the After-School Corporation in New York. She currently serves as the vice-chair of New York City's Panel for Education Policy, a trustee of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System, a member of the Year Up National Board, and a member of the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton Advisory Council. Nieves was a Rhodes Scholar and a Truman Scholar. She

also was the recipient of a Robin Hood Hero Award (John F. Kennedy Jr. Hero Award) from the Robin Hood Foundation, and *El Diario's* Mujeres Destacadas Award from *La Opinion*. She holds a B.A. from Brooklyn College and an MPA from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.



**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.



**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.



**Dr. Kent Paredes Scribner** is the superintendent of the Phoenix Union High School District, a post he has held since 2008. 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. Students applying for college and earning acceptance has dramatically increased, from \$17.8 million in merit scholarships in 2009, to over \$40 million in merit scholarships in both 2012 and 2013.

In October 2011, President Barack Obama appointed Scribner to the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. Scribner is frequently called upon by business leaders, community organizations and educational institutions to share his expertise on urban education, speaking at conferences, conducting media interviews, advising politicians, and serving on numerous committees. He was appointed by Governor Janet Napolitano to the Arizona School District Redistricting Commission in 2005. He has been actively involved with Valley of the Sun United Way, YMCA and the Arizona Business and Education Coalition. Born in Los Angeles, California, Scribner earned a B.A. in Latin American Studies from Carleton College in Minnesota, an M.Ed. in Counseling Psychology from Temple University and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Arizona State University. He began his education career as a high school Spanish teacher in Philadelphia. He moved to Arizona in 1992 as a graduate research assistant at Arizona State University, where he examined issues of quality and diversity in Phoenix Union regarding the district’s court-ordered desegregation. Before he joined Phoenix Union, Scribner, was the superintendent of the Isaac Elementary School District in Phoenix from 2003 to 2008. Scribner, who received the Excellence in Educational Leadership Award from the University Council of Educational Administration in 2008, is married and has two children.



**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, Culbertson, 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.



**Marta Tienda** is the Maurice P. Daring '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.