



## Spring Newsletter 2018

### 9th Annual Leadership Conference - Coming Up!

Have you signed up for the 9th Annual CO-ALAS Leadership Conference on Saturday, April 21st? Now's the time. The conference theme is "**Breakthrough: Your Pathway to Leadership/ Rompiendo Barreras: Tu Camino Hacia El Liderazgo.**" Hear keynote speakers Colorado State Representative Crisanta Duran and Dallas Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Michael Hinojosa address the topic of Latina and Latino Leadership. There will be many engaging breakout sessions to choose from covering the themes of:

- *Advanced Leadership Equity*
- *Self-Advocacy*
- *Institutional Advocacy*
- *Establish and Leveraging Networks*
- *Risk Taking*

Last, but not least, this will be the largest convocation of Latino and Latina leaders in the state. Find colleagues, form a network, gain some resources, and start your own pathway to leadership. To register--the fee is only \$150 and includes membership--go to the CO-ALAS website at [www.CO-ALAS.org](http://www.CO-ALAS.org).

### ALAS State Affiliates Conference - CO-ALAS and the Four Corners

On March 1st and 2nd, CO-ALAS Board members, Chair Dr. Ron Cabrera and Jeff Pierson, attended the ALAS State Affiliates Conference in Salt Lake City, UT. The conference brought together 15 of the 16 ALAS state affiliates. (Note: CO-ALAS was the 4th ever ALAS formed, a little over 9 years ago.) Issues pertinent to the national ALAS organization were discussed including a plan to contact our federal representative and senators this April. Additionally, Ron and Jeff met with the ALAS-Utah and ALAS-Arizona colleagues.

There was time for some cross-regional planning to support the common work that the Four Corner ALAS groups have. One of the concept ideas is create a Senior Leadership Academy (maybe to be given a different name later) to support current Latino/a building leaders or entry level administrators in gaining skills and knowledge to become marketable candidates for senior level leadership positions, such as Executive Director, Assistant Superintendent, and/or Chief Officer positions. We know that there is huge void of Latino/a representation in these roles, and often it is necessary to have experience in these types of positions before one can be considered a superintendent candidate. Unfortunately, the New Mexico-ALAS group was not represented at this meeting, so Ron

Cabrera was charged to make connection with New Mexico-ALAS and pull them into a 4-way conversation to formalize this leadership academy concept. More to come on this topic.

Lastly, the Regional ALAS Director position that sits on the National ALAS Board of Directors will come open in October. The Four Corner ALAS group nominated three candidates to fill the position:

- Dr. Norma Gutierrez, Retired Superintendent, AZ
- Jess Escarcega, Director, Grants Dept., Aurora Public Schools, CO (CO-ALAS Past-Chair)
- Dr. Ron Cabrera, Leadership Consultant, CO (current CO-ALAS Chair)

The National ALAS Board will choose from these three candidates.



**Jeff Pierson and Dr. Ron Cabrera at the ALAS Affiliates' Conference, Salt Lake City**

### **Proud to Announce Sponsors**

CO-ALAS is proud to support the following sponsors who believe in the mission and vision of CO-ALAS. Please take the time to check them out because their work not only supports the mission of CO-ALAS but they also help to meet the needs of the marginalized students we serve.

- Horace Mann
- Grand Canyon University
  - Note: GCU has a terrific leadership/licensure course. Mention CO-ALAS and receive at least a 10% discount.
- Matific
- ACHIEVE3000
- Western Equity Assistance Center (at Metro State University)
- McGraw Hill
- AVID

- Mind Research
- Studio 5 Portraits
- Imagine Learning
- Curriculum Associates
- Illuminate Education
- Cooperative Strategies

## **CO-ALAS Has a Voice in Colorado Education Vision**

**The Colorado Association of Latino/a Administrators and Superintendents (CO-ALAS)** was one of the selected and appointed stakeholders to participate on the **Governor’s Education Leadership Council (ELC)**. The purpose of the ELC is to develop a vision and strategic plan to drive improvement to Colorado’s educational system, from early childhood to the workforce.

Specifically, Dr. Ron Cabrera, CO-ALAS Chairperson, is on the Teachers and Leaders sub-committee. This group is composed of teachers, school leaders (building administrators as well as central office leaders), higher education, and education-related non-profits such as CO-ALAS, CASB, Boettcher Foundation, etc. The committee’s work will focus on cross-sector strategies to advance teacher and leader recruitment, preparation, ongoing development and retention in both early childhood and K-12 systems to ensure all Colorado students have access to effective instruction and support. Over a series of the next four months, the sub-committee will dialogue about key issues including cultivating a diverse educator workforce, building cultural competencies of teachers and leaders, ensuring teachers are supported through continual training and professional development as well as other critical issues. The group will then present recommendations to the larger ELC and continue developing a long range strategic plan for Colorado’s Pk-12 school systems. Stay tuned.

## **Did You Know? CO-ALAS Members Participate in the ALAS Superintendent Leadership Academy**

Annually, the national ALAS organization sponsors a Superintendent Leadership Academy (SLA) and brings together 10 or so Latino/a leaders from around the country and provides them professional learning in preparation to become a superintendent. (Note: In Colorado this year, there are only 8 Latino/a superintendents out of 178 school districts.) Three CO-ALAS members were selected to be part of SLA this year:

- Dr. Lora de la Cruz, Director of P- 20 Learning Community, Aurora Public Schools
- Dr. Boris Costa-Guerra, Senior Program Manager for English Language Acquisition, Denver Public Schools
- Jesus Rodriguez, Principal, Trevista Ece-8 School, Denver Public Schools.

We wish them the best of luck and hope to see them join the superintendent ranks in the near future.

## **CO-ALAS on the Road--Reaching Out to Our Colleagues**

This year CO-ALAS has held Membership Connections/Socials across the state. With help from our CO-ALAS Delegates and Representatives, the following meetings were held:

- **Grand Junction**--March 22, 2018--Thanks to Tracy Gallegos, Mesa County 51, CO-ALAS Representative, for organizing and leading this event as CO-ALAS was introduced to our colleagues on the Western Slope.
- **Alamosa**--March 29, 2018--Thanks to Luis Murillo, Principal, Center School District, and Esmeralda Martinez, Migrant Education Regional Director--both are CO-ALAS Delegates--for organizing and hosting the CO-ALAS meeting on the Adams State University campus and introducing CO-ALAS to our Southern Colorado colleagues.
- **Greeley**--April 12, 2018--Thanks to Brian Lemos, Director of English Development, Greeley-Evans School District, CO-ALAS Representative, for organizing and hosting our colleagues in Northern Colorado.

CO-ALAS is making a concerted effort to connect with as many Latino/a leaders as possible in order to hear new ideas, address concerns, and build a collective voice. Please join us and learn more about CO ALAS and share your thoughts on how the state association can support your region develop the next generation of Latino/a educational leaders.

### **CO-ALAS on the Road--EDUCA Radio Conversation**

On March 16th, Dr. Ron Cabrera, CO-ALAS Chair, was on DPS Radio EDUCA AM 1090 to discuss the mission and vision of the Colorado Association Latino/a Administrators and Superintendents. Ron and radio host Salvador Carrera engaged in an informative hour long conversation. Ron also mentioned the upcoming CO-ALAS Leadership Conference as well as the many activities that CO-ALAS has created, organized, and/or hosted to advance the success of Latino and Latina leaders and students. Way to hit the airwaves!!



CO-ALAS Chair, Dr. Ron Cabrera and EDUCA Radio Host Salvador Carrera

