



WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON  
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANIC AMERICANS

## Summit Program

**8:30 a.m. Registration**

**9 a.m. Welcome**

**9:15–9:45 a.m. *No Child Left Behind* and the State of Hispanic Education Attainment**

*No Child Left Behind* set in motion a historic transformation of the public education system. The core belief behind the change is that every child matters and every child can learn. We now have data that shows that *NCLB* is working and is helping close the academic and achievement gaps for Hispanic students. According to the latest reports from the National Assessment of Educational Progress and the College Board, proficiency scores in reading and math and passing scores in Advanced Placement subjects are increasing.

**9:45–10:30 a.m. Partnership to Address Hispanic Dropouts**

The U.S. Department of Education is taking steps to ensure all states use the same formula to calculate how many students graduate from high school on time, and how many drop out. The data will be made public in a uniform manner so that parents, families and other stakeholders can compare how students of every race, background and income level are performing. A broad range of organizations can also use this data to address the exceedingly high rate of high school dropouts in Hispanic communities nationwide. One organization in particular, America's Promise Alliance, is implementing a five-year plan to address the nation's high school dropout crisis through its partnership network. As part of this plan, the alliance will sponsor dropout prevention summits over a two-year period in all 50 states and in at least 50 cities to increase awareness, encourage collaboration and facilitate action in those states and communities that want to improve their graduation rates.

*Briefing*

**Adam Chavarria**

*Executive Director*

White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for  
Hispanic Americans

*Presentation*

**Charles Hiteshow**

*Chief Operating Officer*

America's Promise Alliance

**10:30–10:45 a.m.**

**Education Communication and Outreach  
Resources**

The Office of Communications and Outreach (OCO) supports the secretary's message to the public on *NCLB* and education reform and leads the Department's communications and outreach efforts. OCO oversees press relations, contacts with organizations, and communication with parents, educators, students and citizens. It also serves as a liaison for interagency and intergovernmental initiatives and programs such as the Presidential Scholars Program and Book Donation Campaign. Additionally, it manages the production and distribution of Department publications, such as the *Tool Kit for Hispanic Families*, among others. This session will address how OCO will continue to serve as the primary point of contact and resource for parents, educators, students, organizations and the general public through its exhibit and conference program and dissemination of education resources, including Spanish and bilingual education information.

**Lauren M. Maddox**

*Assistant Secretary for Communications and  
Outreach*

Office of Communications and Outreach  
U.S. Department of Education

**10:45–11:30 a.m.**

**Early Childhood Development and School  
Readiness**

Early childhood development and school readiness are important provisions of *NCLB*. Programs that address the challenge of transforming existing early education programs into centers of excellence that provide high-quality early education to young children, especially those from low-income families, are critical. The importance of preparing young children, especially English Language Learners (ELLs), to enter kindergarten with the essential language, cognitive and early reading skills to prevent

reading difficulties and ensure scholastic success is vital for continuous academic achievement. El Valor is an example of an organization that is working to meet the education needs of ELLs and children with disabilities.

*Briefing*

**Sharon E. Yandian**

Early Language Specialist

Office of Head Start

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

*Presentations*

**Maria E. Lopez**

*Director*

Institutional Advancement

El Valor

**Clara Lopez**

*Vice President*

Children's Services

El Valor

### **11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Parent and Family Involvement**

As children's first teachers, parents and families play a critical in helping to shape their children's academic success, particularly given the options and choices *NCLB* provides. Families represent a significant resource in the Hispanic community and have for generations. Although families take an active role in caring for one another and providing financial and emotional support to members, many families do not always know how to navigate the education system. Organizations such as the Parent Institute for a Quality Education (PIQE) are training and engaging parents to be active partners in their children's education.

*Briefing*

**Doug Mesecar**

*Assistant Deputy Secretary*

Office of Innovation and Improvement

U.S. Department of Education

*Presentation*

**David Valladolid**

*President and CEO*

Parent Institute for Quality Education

**Ana Burns**

*Parent and PIQE Graduate*

**12:15–1:30 p.m.**

**Lunch and Address**

**U.S. Treasurer Ana Escobedo Cabral**  
U.S. Department of the Treasury

**1:30–2:15 p.m.**

***NCLB*: From Policy to Practice**

Until the passage of *NCLB*, the state of Hispanic education had changed very little. It was not surprising then that the chief recommendation of the President’s Advisory Commission was one that called for the full implementation and rigorous enforcement of *NCLB*. Recent improvements in the academic achievement of Hispanic students are due, in part, to *NCLB*. These results are a testament to the need to reinforce early childhood development, parental and family involvement, academic preparation, accountability, and highly qualified teachers—all elements of *NCLB*. Hidalgo Independent School District, Hidalgo, Texas, is one of a growing number of Hispanic-serving school districts that are implementing elements of *NCLB* to improve education outcomes.

*Briefing*

**Keri Briggs**

*Assistant Secretary*

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

*Presentation*

**Eduardo Cancino**

*Superintendent*

Hidalgo Independent School District

**2:15–2:45 p.m.**

**Keynote Address**

**U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings**  
U.S. Department of Education

**2:45–3:30 p.m.**

**Academic Preparation and College Completion**

Many low-income and Hispanic students who graduate from high school find themselves academically unprepared to undertake the rigors of a college education. Those who enroll in college often find themselves taking remedial classes to keep pace with their non-Hispanic peers. It is imperative that high schools equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed at the postsecondary level or when entering an increasingly competitive workforce. This session will highlight the need for rigorous academic preparation and the importance of taking advanced placement classes.

*Presentation*  
**James Montoya**  
*Vice president*  
Higher Education Relationship Development  
The College Board

**3:30–3:45 p.m.**

**Break**

**3:45–4:15 p.m.**

**National Math Science Initiative**

The National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) represents an expanding effort to work with states and education-focused organizations that are providing low-income schools and school districts with the rigorous coursework that Hispanic students need to enroll and persist in, and ultimately graduate from, postsecondary institutions. The NMSI is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding programs that have a proven impact on math and science. By scaling up programs that have demonstrated a positive impact, NMSI aims to significantly increase the achievement of students in mathematics and science courses and to graduate more qualified mathematics and science teachers.

**John Winn**  
*Chief Program Officer*  
National Math Science Initiative

**4:15 p.m.–5 p.m.**

**Hispanic Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education**

The impetus for improving education for Hispanics in the STEM fields was derived from the American Competitiveness Initiative President George W. Bush announced in his January 2006 State of the Union. At a subsequent White House Initiative conference, a diverse group of stakeholders emerged, including representatives from the corporate sector, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, K–12 schools, Hispanic STEM associations and nonprofit organizations, with the aim of improving Hispanic education attainment STEM disciplines. This session will highlight the plans underway by some of the nation’s leading Hispanic STEM associations and other stakeholder groups that focus on collaborative efforts to increase the supply of Hispanic talent in the STEM fields.

*Briefing*

**Valerie Reyna**

*Cognitive Psychologist, Professor*

Cornell University

*Codirector*

Center for Behavioral Economics and Decision Research

Cornell University

*Member*

National Mathematics Advisory Panel

*Presentation*

**Mike Acosta**

*Director*

U.S.-Mexico Foundation for Science Border Office

Office of University Relations

The University of Texas at El Paso

**5 p.m.**

**Close**