



**Arizona Department of Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane M. Douglas**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sally Stewart
Sally.Stewart@azed.gov
602-542-5072

Superintendent Diane Douglas Announces Initial Invitations to Latino Education Advisory Committee

Phoenix, AZ – Feb. 12, 2015 – Superintendent Diane Douglas is inviting leaders in the Latino community to provide advice on a variety of education topics to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). Douglas supports inclusion of all ethnic groups in the design of standards, curriculum and instruction for all Arizona students.

The advisory committee’s work will focus on barriers the Latino community faces that can be addressed to improve education.

“Arizona students should have instruction that includes the rich diversity of all ethnic groups and creates an appreciation for their fellow students,” said Superintendent Douglas. “I am confident this respected group of community leaders will provide outstanding advice that I intend to implement. We must restore trust in all students and communities and that begins by listening, and then by acting upon recommendations.”

Leah Landrum Taylor, Director of Special Projects for the Superintendent, will lead the efforts to fully include ethnic groups in history, civics, music, literature and other applicable coursework. These groups include, but are not limited to, the African-American community, the Latino community, the Native American community, homeless children and migrant children. As a result, sections of ADE dedicated to serving these communities have been consolidated and now receive weekly attention from the Superintendent.

“Homelessness, poverty, ethnic relations and helping children put behind racism in this generation are no longer going to simply receive lip service,” said the Superintendent.

All meetings will be open to the public for input and efforts will be made to conduct the meetings across the state. The chairman of the committee will be announced once the list of committee members is finalized.

The initial list of community participants follows:

Ernest Calderon, Attorney, former ASU Regent

Ben Barcon, President of the ADM Group

Dr. H.T. Sanchez, Superintendent, Tucson Unified School District

Dr. Jose Leyba, retired K-12 and Community College Administrator, education consultant

Dr. Lupita Hightower, Superintendent, Tolleson Elementary School District (served on previous Advisory Council)

Dr. David Camacho, Professor of History and Special Assistant to the President, Northern Arizona University

Dr. Albert Siqueiros, retired Superintendent, Baboquivari Unified School District, (Sells, Ariz.), former Yuma Unified School District teacher

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Dr. Lorraine Morales, President, Pima Community College Community Campus

Lourdes Jeong, parent, Nogales Unified School District, Program Director, Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office

Dr. Manny Valenzuela, Superintendent, Sahuarita Unified School District

Evie Pletenik, Director, English Language Acquisition Programs, former administrator and teacher, Phoenix Union High School District

Norma Munoz, Roosevelt School District Governing Board President

Christofer Pereyra, Hispanic Ministry Director, Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix

Dr. Maria Harper Marinick, Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor, Maricopa Community Colleges

Victor Contreras, Realtor, Board Member Arizona Ivy League Project

Eva Nunez, Pastor, New Life Covenant Church

Also invited to participate are **Dr. Ed Venezuela, Tommy Chacon, Dr. Manual Madrid** and **Lucero Bebe**.

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