



Distinguished Speaker Biographies & Contact Information

May 07-08, 2009

Moving English Language Learners to College-and Career-Readiness



Eduardo Cancino has dedicated his professional career to education in the Rio Grande Valley region. He has been the Superintendent of Hidalgo Independent School District (HISD) since July 2007. In this role, he has focused on creating a Total Team Effort engages every member of the educational community to support a Pre-K-12 system that leads to every student being college ready and career ready. Prior to becoming Superintendent, he served held several district leadership positions in HISD from 2000-2007, including Director, Executive Director, and Assistant Superintendent in the areas of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Bilingual/ Dual Language

programs, and Federal Programs/ Migrant/ At-risk Populations. Mr. Cancino also served as the Director of K-12 Mathematics and Title II- Part B for McAllen Independent School District from 1997-2000. He has held adjunct faculty positions in the colleges of education at both South Texas College and University of Texas Pan American. He began his career as a high school mathematics teacher in several school districts in the region.

Mr. Cancino has been asked to serve as a distinguished speaker for national and state-level policymaking audiences on several occasions. In 2008, he gave presentations to the National Association of Latino Elected Officials and the U.S. Department of Education/White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans Summit on Education Reform and Hispanic Education Attainment.

Mr. Cancino holds Master's and Bachelor's degrees from the University of Texas Pan American, and he will graduate in May 2009 with a Doctoral Degree in Instructional Leadership at the University of Texas Pan American.

Eduardo Cancino

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Francisco Guajardo is Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at the University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg, Texas, and is Executive Director of the Llano Grande Center for Research and Development, an educational nonprofit organization dedicated to developing youth and community leadership in rural South Texas. At the university, he teaches courses on curriculum development, instructional strategies, research methods, and socio cultural context of education. With the Llano Grande Center, he works with high school students, teachers, and community members to identify and build community assets through action research and by employing other community-based investigative approaches. He chairs several community organizations dedicated to building bridges between the community and the public schools. He chairs the board of directors of the Edinburg Dance

Theatre, serves on a local grassroots organization committed to building local leadership in neighborhoods, and he sits on national boards such as the Rural School and Community Trust and the Center for Rural Strategies. His work in rural south Texas as an educator and change agent has been featured in People Magazine, People en Espanol, Parade, Southern Living, and numerous other media outlets.

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Dr. Daniel P. King is on his second year as superintendent of the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District, and his 32nd year in education. Dr. King joins the school district after serving as Superintendent of Schools at Hidalgo ISD for eight years. It was at Hidalgo ISD where he started his career in 1977 as a teacher/coach. He then went over to Mission CISD where he was promoted as an Assistant Principal and Elementary School Principal in the early 80s. In 1988 he returned to Hidalgo High School as Principal. He was later named Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Instruction, then Associate Superintendent, and was named Superintendent in 1999.

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He also serves as president of the South Texas Association of Schools, past president of the Equity Center, and is on the board of the Texas Education Reform Foundation. He was named the Texas Superintendent of the Year in 2006 by the Texas Association of School Boards. Under his leadership Hidalgo ISD gained a state and national reputation for excellence, earning many commendations and awards. The most notable was the 2006 H-E-B Excellence in Education Award, which highlighted Hidalgo ISD as the best school district in Texas. In PSJA ISD, Dr. King has worked with staff to establish innovative new programs such as the College, Career & Technology Academy and the T-STEM Early College High School. The PSJA team has succeeded in drastically reducing the dropout rate and dramatically increasing the number of graduates.

Dr. King earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degree at the University of Texas-Pan American and was awarded his Doctor in Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree by the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. King is a devoted father of three daughters, two of whom are now teachers and one who recently finished her high school studies and is starting her college career. (Taken from <http://psja.schoolfusion.us/modules/cms/pages.phtml?pageid=26839>)



Lizzette Reynolds currently serves as the Deputy Commissioner for Statewide Policy and Programs at the Texas Education Agency (TEA). In that capacity, she is involved in assisting the Commissioner of Education in the areas of curriculum and standards, accountability, policy and research. Prior to coming to the TEA, Ms. Reynolds was the Secretary's Regional Representative under Secretary Margaret Spellings, serving as the Department liaison to various education stakeholders in the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas. Previous roles include P-16 liaison for the UT System, Special Assistant at the U.S. Department of Education Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Deputy Legislative Director for then-Texas Governor George W. Bush and Legislative Director to State Senator Teel Bivins from Amarillo. Ms. Reynolds earned a Bachelor of Arts from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. She is married to

David Reynolds and has three children, Luke, 5, Lilli, 4 and Joaquin, 2.

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