



Texas Center for Education Policy
Leading The Nation
A TEXAS RETROSPECTIVE
ON EDUCATIONAL REFORM

Conference Program Guide

TCEP Annual State Conference
February 9, 2011
Austin, Texas

Brought to you by



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
DIVISION OF DIVERSITY AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



aztec
WORLDWIDE™
A Social Capital Enterprise™

TEXAS CENTER FOR EDUCATION POLICY

February 9, 2011



Dear Friends,

Welcome everyone to today’s conference titled, “Leading the Nation: A Texas Retrospective on Educational Reform.” Notwithstanding the vicissitudes of politics, it is not an understatement to suggest the powerful, and indeed, defining role that the Texas State Legislature coupled with jurisprudence have on the development of education policy nationally. To wit, one need only consider Texas leaders’ like the late Oscar Mauzy and former senator and current Texas Center for Education Policy Board Member Carlos Truan, in the development of federal education policy through state-level efforts.

Consider President Lyndon B. Johnson’s signing of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) into law in 1965. The law’s first title, Title I, focused on our nation’s most disadvantaged students. Today, this law finds expression in the No Child Left Behind Act signed by President George W. Bush in 2001, inaugurating high-stakes accountability for schools nationwide. By this same year, content standards and state-mandated tests impacted the entire nation. If we think about federal bilingual education policy, undocumented children’s access to a public education, and the federal role in financing public education, Texas’ influence through legislation and jurisprudence is nothing short of awe-inspiring.

Accordingly, it behooves us as citizens, leaders, and public officials to be good stewards of public policy and policy agendas. Today, with the sponsorship of the Division of Diversity and Community and Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin, Aztec Worldwide, Inc., and the Texas Center for Education Policy, we gather a statewide audience of parents, students, organization leaders, university faculty, public school teachers, and legislators to both reflect on where we are as a state in the area of education policy and to publicly deliberate contemporary and future directions.

We at the Texas Center for Education Policy at The University of Texas at Austin seek to impact educational policy through a collegial, informed, and inclusive process. The Center seeks to help policy makers, state leadership, and the general public understand and assess the effectiveness of various policy alternatives. While some among you already know of our work at the Center, particularly in the areas of assessment and accountability, others do not. What we hope that you will nevertheless take away is an understanding of our Center’s commitment to bring research evidence, community experiences, thought leaders, and decision makers into a public sphere where healthy, spirited debate enables the development of fair, inclusive, and valid policies. We appreciate your attendance and participation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Valenzuela".

Angela Valenzuela, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for School Partnerships
Division of Diversity and Community Engagement
Director of the Texas Center for Education Policy
Professor, Department of Curriculum & Instruction and Educational Administration
The University of Texas at Austin

“Welcome to our annual state conference. We hope that you will see that the Texas Center for Education Policy at The University of Texas at Austin seeks to impact educational policy through a collegial, informed, and inclusive process.”



Angela Valenzuela, Ph.D., Director, Texas Center for Education Policy, Associate Vice President for School Partnerships, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, University of Texas at Austin

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The University of Texas at Austin

Texas Center for Education (TCEP)

Department of Education at University of Texas at Austin

Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (DDCE)

Corporate Partners

AZTEC Worldwide, Inc.

Media Partners

CapitalWirePR.com

IXL Media Group

University Office Of Public Affairs

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Entrance to Grand Ballroom AB
8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Registration

Governor's Ballroom AB

9:00 AM to 9:30 AM Welcome, Announcements and Benediction

Host: **John C. Guerra, Jr.**, CEO, Aztec Worldwide, A Social Capital Enterprise
Board Member, Texas Center for Education Policy, University of Texas at Austin

Lawrence Payne, Lay Minister

9:30 AM to 11:00 AM Reflections on Ten Years of “Texas-style” Accountability

Moderator: **Angela Valenzuela, Ph.D.**, Director, Texas Center for Education Policy, Associate Vice President for School Partnerships, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, University of Texas at Austin

Panelists: **Albert Kauffman, Esq.**, Associate Professor of Law, St. Mary’s Law School, San Antonio, Texas

Angela Valenzuela, Ph.D., Professor, Educational Administration and Curriculum & Instruction, University of Texas at Austin

Richard Valencia, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Texas at Austin

Linda McSpadden McNeil, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Education, Rice University

11:00 AM to 11:20 AM A National Perspective on Education

Introduction: **Gregory Vincent, Ph.D.**, Vice President, Division of Diveristy and Community Engagement, University of Texas at Austin

David Hinojosa, Esq., Senior Litigator, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund

11:20 AM to 11:30 AM Questions and Answers

Moderator: **Angela Valenzuela, Ph.D.**

Governor's Ballroom CDE

11:30 PM to 12:00 PM Break and Lunch

12:15 PM to 12:30 PM Luncheon Keynote

The Honorable Paul Sadler, Former Chair, Committee on Public Education, Texas House of Representatives

Governor's Ballroom CDE

12:30 PM to 1:00 PM Legislative Awards Ceremony

Moderators: **John C. Guerra, Jr. and Angela Valenzuela, Ph.D.**

Oscar and Anne Mauzy Award for Outstanding Leadership in Education

Introduction: **Dean Manuel J. Justiz**, Dean of the College of Education, University of Texas at Austin

The Honorable Rob Eissler, Chair, Committee on Public Education, Texas House of Representatives

The Honorable Dora Olivo, Former Member, Committee on Public Education, Texas House of Representative

The Honorable Florence Shapiro, Chair, Committee on Public Education, Senate Committee on Education, Texas Senate

The Honorable Paul Sadler, Former Chair, Committee on Public Education, Texas House of Representatives

Texas Center for Education Policy Award for Excellence in Service to Education

The Honorable Dan Branch, Chair, Higher Education Committee, Texas House of Representatives

The Honorable Joaquin Castro, Vice-Chair, Higher Education Committee, Texas House of Representatives

The Honorable Sylvester Turner, Member, Higher Education Committee, Texas House of Representatives

The Honorable Leticia Van de Putte, Senate Committee on Education, Texas Senate

The Honorable Royce West, Senate Committee on Public Education, Texas Senate

The Honorable Judith Zaffirini, Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education, Texas Senate

Governor's Ballroom CDE

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM Contemporary Issues in Educational Reform in Texas

Moderator: **Alba Ortiz, Ph.D.**, Curriculum and Instrution, University of Texas at Austin

Panelists: **The Honorable Rob Eissler**, Chair, Committee on Public Education, Texas House of Representatives

The Honorable Paul Sadler, Former Chair, Committee on Public Education, Texas House of Representatives

Senator Florence Shapiro, Chair, Committee on Education, Texas Senate

2:30 PM Closing Remarks

Angela Valenzuela, Ph.D., Director, Texas Center for Education Policy

A LOOK AT TCEP

An important force in Texas education

About TCEP

TCEP is a nonpartisan education research and policy center within the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin. Building on the University of Texas tradition of distinguished scholarship, the Texas Center for Education Policy is committed to research on equity and excellence in kindergarten through college education.

TCEP promotes interdisciplinary and collaborative research, analysis, and dissemination of information to impact the development of educational policy by bringing together university entities in partnership with local, state, national, and international education communities.

Areas of educational policy that TCEP provides research-based expertise are as follows: high-stakes testing and assessment; teacher quality, preparation, and assessment; professional development; parental and community engagement; curricular tracking; high-school graduation; college eligibility, enrollment, and completion rates; higher education access and affordability (state financial aid eligibility); as well as a focus on English language learners at the state and national levels.

Brief History

Since its inception in 2005, TCEP has been an active, authoritative voice in the Texas State Legislature. The Center utilizes research to advocate for high-quality education for all, in particular, historically disadvantaged students in Texas public schools. A significant achievement involves a revision to the Texas Education Code that removes high-stakes tests as the primary bases for decisions pertaining to grade promotion and retention, positively affecting over 300,000 third-grade children in Texas public schools this year. Such decisions will now be based on such factors as grades, attendance, classroom performance, teacher assessment, parent input, and test performance.

Continuing efforts include convening groups for the discussion of policy, writing policy and research briefs, conducting original research, providing recommendations and advising on proposed education legislation and policy at local, state, national, and international levels.

TCEP also plays a major leadership role nationally as the national home for the National Latino Education Research and Policy Project (NLERAP), a community-based, university-connected, grow-your-own, teacher preparation education pipeline project for high school youth in the following six states: Texas, Arizona, California, Wisconsin, Illinois, and New York. NLERAP promotes parental and community participation in school governance, develops leadership and political awareness among youth, promotes systemic change, and improves academic achievement.



“TCEP has been an active voice in the Texas State Legislature positively affecting thousands of school children throughout the state.”

Dora Olivo, Former Member, Committee on Public Education, Texas House of Representative

TCEP ADVISORS AND THOUGHT LEADERS

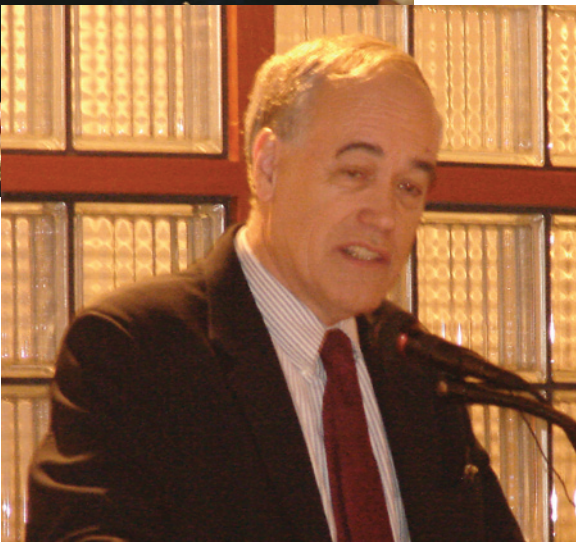
Significant achievement takes exceptional leadership

“The lifeblood of our state’s future is education. The UT Texas Center for Education Policy is the rare place that cultivates fresh thinking on how to solve and adjust to the challenges of providing high caliber education to a brilliantly diverse state. TCEP forms a needed bridge between theory and practice, today and tomorrow. Texas is and will be a better place because of this dynamic institution.”

Ben Barnes, *Former Lt. Governor and TCEP Board Member*



Dean Manuel Justiz, Anne Mauzy, Boyd Richie, Bettie Richie, and JoAnn Jenkins



Gary Orfield

TCEP Advisory Board Members 2011

- The Honorable Ben Barnes**, *Founder/ CEO, Ben Barnes Group*
David J. Bolger, *COO, Corporate Education Consulting, Inc.*
Willie Chapman, *Senior Director of Communication, Texas Trial Lawyers Association*
Martha P. Cotera, *Business Owner, Information Systems Development*
John C. Guerra, *CEO/President, Aztec Worldwide, Inc.*
Clay Jenkins, *Laywer, Jenkins & Jenkins Law*
JoAnn Jenkins, *Retired Certified Legal Assistant*
Marcus Martin, *CEO, 2M Clinical Research Services*
Anne Mauzy, *Retired Educator*
The Honorable Dora Olivo, *Former Texas State Representative*
Laurence “Larry” J. Payne, *President, Educational Excellence Resource Group*
Bernard Rapoport, *Chairman Emeritus, American Income Life Insurance Company*
Betty Richie, *Retired Educator*
Suanne D. Roueche, *Senior Lecturer, Department of Educational Administration, The University of Texas at Austin*
The Honorable Carlos Truan, *Former Texas State Senator, Dean of the Texas Senate*
Stephanie Whitehurst, *Pharmacist, Community Volunteer*
Amy Wong Mok, *President & CEO, Asian American Cultural Center*



Martha P. Cotera, *Business Owner, Information Systems Development*

CELEBRATING OSCAR & ANNE MAUZY

Oscar and Anne Mauzy Award for Outstanding Leadership in Education

The Oscar and Anne Mauzy Award for Leadership in Education is an award for education leaders in Texas that have distinguished themselves as public servants as leaders, public officials, practitioners, or community organizers.

The Honorable Oscar H. Mauzy

In conferring this award, we begin by honoring the legacy of the late Honorable Oscar H. Mauzy (November 9, 1926-October 10, 2000) and his wife, Ms. Anne R. Mauzy. Oscar H. Mauzy was a 1952 graduate of The University of Texas at Austin School of Law, and Anne was a 1948 graduate of The University of Texas at Austin College of Liberal Arts. Anne and Oscar were married on February 14, 1976. They each brought three beautiful children into their marriage, Catherine A. Mauzy, Charles F. Mauzy, and James S. Mauzy, Melanie Kofnovec, Jennifer Tyson, and Randy Rister.

The late Oscar Mauzy served the Texas Senate, representing the 23rd Senatorial District in Dallas from 1967-1987. Oscar then served as Justice of the Texas Supreme Court from January, 1987 to January 1993. In the legislature, where Oscar dedicated 20 years of service, he was a fierce, honest champion for the under-dog and although he tackled many areas of policy, education was near and dear to his heart.

An important moment during his Senate term came when Oscar was a deciding vote on whether or not to appoint Frank Irwin to the board of regents. He took the opportunity to both meet with Mr. Irwin and set some conditions on his vote. He used the opportunity to advocate for greater acceptance of minorities and women into the University of Texas Law School. Simply admitting them was insufficient, he told Mt. Irwin. He insisted on early recruitment, as well as systematic and extended tutorial support for these students so that in time, a good number of them could enter the University of Texas law school.

In an interview with Sheree Scarborough in May, 1996, Oscar confessed that it was the moment that he attended his own daughter, Catherine Mauzy's, graduation from the University of Texas at Austin Law School in 1987, his entire existence had been justified. This self-assessment came from someone who had passed more education reform and tort reform legislation in the Senate than anyone else had done previously. As one of the leaders of the "Killer Bees" of the 66th Regular Session, he helped break the Senate's quorum in protest of legislation that would create a separate day presidential primary. As a supreme court justice, Oscar had helped render the Edgewood decision that declared the state's system of financing its public schools to be unconstitutional. He also had a long track record of supporting women's rights such as through the Texas Equal Rights Amendment.

However, it was his bearing witness to a diverse 1987 graduating class at the University of Texas law school that had an unmatched impact on his soul. It gave him a tangible sense of having contributed significantly to a re-shaping of Texas' future. The 1987 class was comprised of over 50 percent women and minorities, making it more diverse than it is today. By the time of his 1996 interview with Scarborough, he was obviously dismayed with the decision rendered in Hopwood v. Texas, 78 F.3d 932 (5th Cir. 1996), a case that challenged the university's affirmative action policy in student admissions. To read the Oscar Mauzy interview in its entirety, go to <http://www.houseofrussell.com/legalhistory/sweatt/docs/moh.htm>.

Anne Mauzy

We are deeply honored to have in our presence, Anne Mauzy, after whom this award is also named. Anne herself has been a champion and national leader for education. She is a founding member of both the Texas Center for Education Policy at the University of Texas at Austin and the Oscar and Anne Mauzy Endowment for Educational Policy Studies and Research that helps to sustain the work and the mission of the Center. This endowment extends the Mauzy's concerns well into the future for policy development related to Texas' children, minorities, and the poor.

Anne Mauzy has been a dedicated elementary school teacher, audiologist, public servant, and advocate for the disadvantaged. Noteworthy is her status as Founding Director of the Texas Speech-Language Hearing (TSHA) Foundation. In this capacity, Anne put Oscar to task by getting him to exercise his legislative talents to ensure licensure for speech-language pathologists and audiologists statewide at a time when such bills were difficult to pass in the legislature. This legislation enhanced the quality of treatment given to the speech and hearing impaired in the state of Texas.

In 1987, Anne Mauzy, along with Texas Center for Education Policy Board Member, JoAnn Jenkins, Dr. Mae Jackson, and Jeanie Stanley formed the Texas Democratic Women (TDW). They worked successfully to increase voter participation among women in previous elections and have been instrumental in increasing the representation of women in leadership positions at multiple levels. These women institutionalized their efforts within the Democratic Party by writing a constitution, electing officers, and creating an educational and information mechanism to empower local and statewide chapters of the organization. Today, the President and President-Elect of the Texas Democratic Women organization serve regularly on the State Democratic Executive Committee of the Texas Democratic Party. One of the two outstanding achievement awards presented at the Texas Democratic Women Annual Convention today is the Oscar Mauzy Humanitarian Award.

In 1993, Anne Mauzy was asked by then TSHA President Sandi Friel-Patti to reorganize the Foundation. Anne seized the opportunity and established the organization's education, scholarship, and research divisions and convinced the officers to name the organization's first educational award after Oscar because of his legislative leadership. The Mauzy's further established an initial monetary endowment that inaugurated what has become an annual or semi-annual conference geared toward leadership training for audiologists and speech-language pathologists, creating a vehicle for identifying and preparing future leaders of the organization.



BIOGRAPHIES



The Honorable Dan Branch, *Chair, House Higher Education Committee*

Representative Dan Branch is the Chairman of the House Committee on Higher Education, a member of the Legislative Budget Board, and serves on the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence. This year, he was re-elected by his House colleagues in North Texas to lead the Dallas Area Legislative Delegation. Prior to chairing the Higher Education committee, he chaired a select committee on education finance, and served on the Appropriations, Public Education and Calendars Committees.

In 2009, Branch led the successful efforts to develop more Tier One universities in Texas, reform the Top 10% college admissions law, and provide more interactive technology in public school classrooms. The Council of State Governments has designated his classroom technology bill as model national legislation, and 8 states have adopted or are considering similar bills.

His legislative efforts have earned him high marks from many sources, including The Dallas Morning News and Austin American-Statesman; both Texas Monthly and Capitol Inside listed Branch among their “best” of the 2009 Texas Legislature.

Before his 2002 election to the Texas House, Branch served as President of The Dallas Assembly and as Chairman of the Texas Public Finance Authority. In addition to being an attorney and shareholder of Winstead PC, he is an Aspen Institute Rodel Fellow, member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Philosophical Society of Texas and chairs the board of the John Tower Center for Political Studies at SMU. Dan and his wife, Stacey, have five children.



The Honorable Joaquin Castro, *Vice-Chair, House Higher Education Committee*

Joaquin Castro, 36, proudly represents a portion of Bexar County in the Texas House of Representatives, which includes the cities of San Antonio and Leon Valley. Joaquin, along with his identical twin brother Julian – the current mayor of San Antonio – are among the vanguards of a new class of Latino leaders that are emerging across the country. He has received state and national attention as a political rising star in the Los Angeles Times, Dallas Morning News, Texas Monthly, Latina Magazine, People en Español, and numerous other publications.

Joaquin was born in San Antonio, Texas on September 16, 1974. He was raised in San Antonio’s Westside and attended Jefferson High School before leaving his hometown to attend Stanford University, where he graduated with honors in 1996. He then attended Harvard Law School where he received his Juris Doctorate degree in 2000.

Joaquin, elected at 28 years old in the year 2002, has served in the Texas Legislature for four terms and is currently serving his fifth. He is the current Vice Chairman on the Higher Education Committee and is a member of the County Affairs Committee. In the Legislature, Joaquin has passionately fought to improve the quality of higher education in Texas and to expand access and affordability for students. He has also worked tirelessly to improve public education, health care, and the juvenile justice system. Each year with the support of local book stores and the San Antonio Public Library, books are collected and donated to elementary and middle schools. To date a total of 130,000

books have been distributed to more than 100 schools across the city.

Due to this effort, Literacy San Antonio and San Antonio Youth Centers joined forces with Representative Joaquin Castro to create SA Reads, a city-wide book drive to get books into the hands of the many young children who hunger for them. All book lovers know the feelings of excitement and anticipation that accompany cracking open the pages of a new book for the first time. In the future the mission is to help SA Reads become a campaign to combat literacy throughout the City of San Antonio.

In addition to his work in the Texas Legislature, Joaquin practices law in San Antonio. He has also taught as a visiting professor of law at St. Mary’s University and as an adjunct professor at Trinity University in San Antonio. Joaquin sits on several boards of non-profit organizations and institutions of higher education including, Achieving the Dream, the National College Advising Corps, St. Phillip’s College President’s Advisory Board, St. Mary’s University Mission and Identity Taskforce, and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials’ (NALEO) Taskforce on Education.



The Honorable Rob Eissler, *Chair, Committee on Public Education, Texas House of Representatives*

Representative Eissler has spent thirty years dedicated to the public education system of Texas, 18 of which were on the Conroe Independent School District Board of Trustees, including two terms as President.

Mr. Eissler was elected to represent District 15 as State Representative in November of 2002. He was appointed to serve as Chairman of the Public Education Committee in his third and fourth session. Among many other honors, Representative Eissler was named one of Texas Monthly’s “Top 10 Legislators” of 2009. He received Honorable Mention for this in 2007. His work on reforming the public school accountability system during the 81st Legislative Session helped place Texas at the nation’s forefront in public education. He is currently a Director of the Texas Education Reform Foundation.



John C. Guerra, Jr., *CEO, Aztec Worldwide, A Social Capital Enterprise, Board Member, Texas Center for Education Policy, University of Texas at Austin*

John, born in Corpus Christi, Texas, attended schools in San Antonio, Texas and received his degree and certification in Special Education from Texas A&I Kingsville. He then spent the next few years teaching and working with mentally and physically challenged children and adults.

He began his AT&T career in telecommunications and information management in San Antonio, Texas. During his tenure with AT&T, he worked throughout the United States, Latin America and Asia. His 29 years experience included product development, product management, sales, marketing, training & development, back office operations, systems management, public relations, public policy, and international market development. While with AT&T he received his executive MBA training from NSEAD in France. He also played a key role in AT&T’s philanthropic activity serving as a trustee on the AT&T Foundation. John was recently appointed as the interim president of TAMACC (the Texas State Hispanic Chamber).

Recognized by Hispanic business magazine as one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in the United States, John has long been active in the community. He has served on numerous boards including the YMCA, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Texas Association of Mexican American

Chamber of Commerce (TAMACC), World Affairs Council, Univ. of Tex. Pan Am Foundation, and the Texas Business Hall of Fame. He received the first lifetime achievement award from Hispa (the AT&T Hispanic employees' assoc.) and the Chairman's leadership award from TAMACC. He is now a member of the board of directors of the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GCHCC), and of the Texas Health Research Institute advisory board. John is the Executive Director of the GDHCC Latino Leadership Institute.

In addition to his professional and civic achievements, John is particularly recognized for his presentations on success and leadership. He has been featured in both TV and radio commercials. He has lectured at various school systems and major universities. He served as a practitioner-lecturer on international marketing at the University of Georgia. He has been a featured speaker at domestic and international forums such as the Summit of the Americas, the Wall Street Journal's conference on Latin America, Hispanic Business CEO roundtable, the Hispanic Police Commanders Association Conference and the Association of College and University Business Officers.

Of all his accomplishments, Guerra is most proud of his work with students. In partnership with local volunteer organizations such as Hispa, he has supported stay-in-school programs. These programs have been presented to 7000 students resulting in their continuing their education with an eye toward college.



David Hinojosa, Esq., *Senior Litigator, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund*

David Hinojosa is a Senior Litigator in the Southwest Regional Office of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), the nation's premier Latino civil rights law firm. Mr. Hinojosa is a nationally-recognized expert in education and civil rights law whose active docket includes impact litigation in the areas of school finance, higher education, immigration, affirmative action, education of Latino English Language Learner children and school desegregation. Among his cases, Mr. Hinojosa serves as lead counsel for undocumented immigrant college students

defending a challenge to the Texas instate tuition laws in *IRCOT v. Texas*, and for Latino English Language Learner children in *US v. Texas*, a statewide challenge to insufficient ELL programs. Mr. Hinojosa successfully led a challenge to the denial of college tuition grants to military veterans on the basis of their citizenship in *Dominguez v. Texas*, and in *Santamaria v. Dallas ISD*, he ended years of racial segregation in classroom assignments of Latino and African American children at a Dallas elementary school. Mr. Hinojosa has presented testimony on civil rights issues around the U.S., including at events sponsored by the University of North Carolina, the Schott Foundation for Public Education and the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School.

Mr. Hinojosa received his B.A. from New Mexico State University and earned his J.D. from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law in 2000. A graduate of Edgewood High School in San Antonio, Texas, Mr. Hinojosa has returned to his hometown where he lives with his wife, Joanna, and their two children.



Dr. Manuel J. Justiz - *Dean of the College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin*

Dr. Justiz was appointed by President Reagan and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 1982 as Director of the National Institute of Education in Washington, D.C., where he served from 1983 to 1985 under former Secretary of Education Terrel Bell. In that capacity, he served as principal spokesman for educational policy and research to the President, Secretary, Congress, and education associations. While in Washington, Dr. Justiz worked with the National Commission on Excellence in Education to

produce the celebrated study *A Nation at Risk*, which warned of declining standards in American schools and the consequent economic dangers to society. He also appointed a study group in 1984 which produced *The Involvement in Learning Report*, calling for greater student involvement in the learning process and recommending that institutions of higher education establish higher standards for student achievement.

From 1985 to 1989, Dr. Justiz was a Chaired Professor of Educational Leadership and Policies at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, and in 1988-1989 he served as the Martin Luther King-Rosa Parks Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

At UT Austin, Dr. Justiz has focused on building the academic programs of the College of Education and on partnering with public schools to improve preparation programs for future teachers and educational leaders. Under his leadership, the College has consistently ranked among the best schools of education in the nation. The 2009 U.S. News & World Report rankings placed the College 3rd among the nation's top public graduate schools of education, and 7th among public and private universities; his College's research and development expenditures increased from \$2.3 million in 1990 to approximately \$32 million today. Dr. Justiz has made substantial progress in building technology capabilities within the College and in integrating instructional technology into undergraduate and graduate curricula. He has also supported an interdisciplinary approach to teacher education resulting in a partnership with the Colleges of Natural Sciences, Liberal Arts, and the Cockrell School of Engineering in the nationally acclaimed UTeach Program.

He has advanced development efforts significantly over the past 19 years, raising the College's endowment level to a market value of over \$50 million in 2009. Dr. Justiz also became the State's "commissioner" to the Education Commission of the States under two former governors, Bill Clements and Ann Richards. In October, 2001, Dr. Justiz was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Board of Directors of the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) in Washington, D.C. He was reappointed to this Board in May 2002 and again in May 2003. His appointment continued through May 24, 2004. Dean Justiz serves as the Senior Dean (Dean of Deans) at The University of Texas at Austin.

Prior to his Washington experience, Dr. Justiz was on the faculty at the University of New Mexico, where he directed the Latin American Programs in Education. In that role, he established the only Spanish-language M.S. program in educational administration in the nation and provided liaison with American embassies, the U.S. Department of State, federal agencies, and ministers of education in Latin American countries.

Dr. Justiz earned a Ph.D. degree in higher education administration from Southern Illinois University in 1977. He received a bachelor of arts degree in political science in 1970 and a master of science in education in 1972 from Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas. Honorary doctorates have been

conferred upon him by Emporia State University, Texas Southmost College in Brownsville (now the University of Texas at Brownsville) and St. Leo's College in Florida.

Dr. Justiz has published extensively in edited book series and professional journals on topics relating to diversity in education, partnerships between education and business, improving education through research, and higher education policy.



Albert Kauffman, Esq., *Associate Professor of Law, St. Mary's Law School, San Antonio, Texas*

Al Kauffman is an Associate Professor of Law at St. Mary's School of Law in San Antonio, Texas. Since leaving MALDEF in 2002, Al has been Senior Legal Policy Advocate at the Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity and Diversity and Lecturer on Law at the Boalt Hall Law School at the University of California at Berkeley. He just completed four years as a Senior Legal & Policy Advocate Associate for The Civil Rights Project and a Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School. He has been a civil rights litigator for 28 years, specializing in the education, voting, and employment

rights of Latinos.

As a MALDEF attorney, Mr. Kauffman was the lead attorney for plaintiffs in the Texas school finance cases, for Latino plaintiffs in the Texas Higher Education System finance and desegregation case and in litigation challenging Texas's use of the TAAS test for graduation from Texas high schools. He has also litigated affirmative action cases, local and state voting rights, employment discrimination cases, immigration and hospital admission policy cases.

Mr. Kauffman has been an advocate on civil rights issues, and was one of a small team of experts involved with passing Texas's 10% plan for admission to universities and Texas's recent changes to its admissions and scholarship criteria for public graduate and professional schools. He was recently selected as one of the "The 25 Greatest Texas Lawyers of the Past Quarter-Century" by Texas Lawyer



Linda McSpadden McNeil, Ph.D., *Professor, Department of Education Director, Center for Education, Rice University, Houston, Texas*

Dr. Linda McSpadden McNeil is Professor of Education and the Director of the Center for Education at Rice University. A curriculum theorist and analyst of school structure and policy, she is the author of *Contradictions of School Reform: The Educational Costs of Standardization*, which is having a strong impact on public understanding of the consequences of standardized schooling. Her forthcoming book is *Numbers and Power: Standardization and the Retreat from Democratic Schooling*. "Avoidable Losses: High-Stakes Testing and the Dropout Crisis," published in *Educational Policy Analysis*

Archives (Jan., 2008), connects the dropout crisis to the accountability system's administrative incentives. Since 1988, Dr. McNeil and her colleagues in the Rice Center for Education have designed, created and operated programs of intensive, sustained professional development for urban teachers and conducted research on the effects of policy and the conditions of schooling on the education of urban youth, with a particular focus on urban youth.



The Honorable Dora Olivo, *Former Member, Committee on Public Education, Texas House of Representative*

Representative Dora Olivo serves the 27th Legislative District of Texas, one of the State's most diverse districts, which encompasses about half of Fort Bend County. A grass-roots activist and advocate, Representative Olivo takes pride in more than 35 years of service to her community. She served the people of District 27 as a member of the Texas House of Representatives from 1997 to 2010. Areas of special interest to Representative Olivo are public education, economic development, mental health, senior citizen issues and workforce and job-training.

Presently, Representative Olivo serves as a member on the Public Education and Border and Intergovernmental Affairs Committees of the House. In 2001, House Speaker Pete Laney and in 2007, Speaker Tom Craddick, and in 2009 Speaker Joe Straus appointed Representative Olivo to the National Council of State Legislatures' Education Committee, and Texas LULAC named her the Woman Legislator of the Year in 2001 also. In 2002, Representative Olivo was selected as one of the Black Go Texan honorees. In 1998, the Houston Area Association for the Education of Young Children named her the Elected Official of the Year. In 1997, the Center for Policy Alternatives honored Representative Olivo with its elite leadership award of the Flemming Fellows Leadership Institute. Former Governor Ann Richards appointed her in 1991 to the Texas Punishment Standards Commission, which recommended revisions to the Texas Penal Code that later became the law.

In 1977, she founded the radio talk show "Lo Nuestro" on KFRD in Rosenberg and hosted the program for 15 years. Representative Olivo earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1981 from the University of Houston and maintains a private law practice in Richmond, Texas. She also earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Texas Arts & Industries University, and a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Houston. A former schoolteacher, she worked in both the Corpus Christi Independent School District and the Lamar Consolidated Independent School District for a total of 10 years.

Representative Olivo and her husband, Victor Olivo, Jr., have been married for 39 years. They have two sons, Victor III and Geraldo, both graduates of Texas A&M University; Victor III is married to the former Dawn Bingaman. Representative Olivo and her husband have two grandsons, Victor IV and Roman, and two granddaughters, Analise Trinity, and Sophia Grace.



Alba Ortiz, Ph.D., *Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX*

Dr. Alba A. Ortiz is a professor of special education and director of the Office of Bilingual Education at the University of Texas at Austin. She is the holder of the President' Chair for Education Academic Excellence, an honor bestowed by the university in recognition of her contributions to the education of English language learners (ELLs) in general and special education programs. Dr. Ortiz's research and teaching focus on disproportionate representation of ELLs in special education, second language acquisition and assessment, response to intervention for ELLs with reading-related difficulties, and distinguishing

second language differences from language and reading disabilities.



Laurence Payne, Lay Minister

Laurence Payne has 34 years of experience in public service, education and not-for-profit leadership. Larry is recognized from City Hall to the White House with city, State and National leaders actively seek out his counsel in leadership, diversity, management, organization design, and strategic planning.

Larry recently served as President and CEO of Houston Habitat for Humanity - America's leader in the building of affordable housing for underprivileged families. During his tenure he increased home production threefold and personally secured an endowment from Oprah Winfrey for 65 houses.

Leaving Habitat for Humanity; Larry currently serves as the Past Chairman of the Board of the Education Foundation of Harris County serving the children of its 26 school districts.

Larry's career in public service includes notable positions at the city, state and congressional levels. As District Director for Congressman Mickey Leland, he managed the congressman's Texas-based programs, pre and post election. Recognized in national circles, Larry was asked by Congressman Chris Bell to serve as his District Director. Larry oversaw all operations for the 25th Congressional District with oversight of Chris' offices in Houston, Pasadena and Baytown.

Prior to serving representatives from Congress, Larry established himself at the city level where he served as Executive Advisor and Consultant to Houston Mayor Lee Brown on issues of diversity, education and community initiatives. In addition, Larry served as Houston's Deputy City Controller under George Greanias and Directed Houston City Council Agenda for Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire.

Larry's love to serve extends into leadership roles within the Roman Catholic Church; including Executive Director of the Office of Social Development for the Archdiocese of Minneapolis / St. Paul, Vicar of Urban Affairs for the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois, and Director of Community Relations for the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. Larry was honored as the recipient of the Knights of St. Peter Claver Justice Award, a National Award given to select individuals who exemplify outstanding community service.

Larry's actively participated in the following community organizations: The American Leadership Forum; The American Productivity and Quality Center; The Greater Houston Women's Foundation; Houston Works; Children At Risk; The National Conference for Community and Justice; NAACP; Interfaith Ministries; The Junior League; Leadership Houston; Rice University; The San Jacinto Girl Scout Council; Teach for America; The University of St. Thomas; The United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast; Education Foundation of Harris County; Greater Houston Convention and Visitor's Bureau; Fairfax County Government; and the United Way of America.



William Powers Jr. - President, The University of Texas at Austin

William Powers Jr., is the 28th president of The University of Texas at Austin. Before taking office on February 1, 2006, he served as dean of the university's School of Law, where he won recognition for recruiting a world-class faculty and attracting highly diverse and talented students.

One of the nation's leading scholars in personal injury and products liability, Powers joined the law school faculty in 1977 and has taught torts, products liability, jurisprudence, legal process, civil procedure, conflict of laws and contracts. In 1997, the university named him to its Academy of Distinguished

Teachers. He is a University Distinguished Teaching Professor and holds the Hines H. Baker and Thelma Kelley Baker Chair in Law.

As president of The University of Texas at Austin, Powers has identified four areas of emphasis: building support for higher education throughout Texas; elevating the university's academic standing to the best in the nation among public universities; recruiting a diverse student body and faculty; reforming the undergraduate core curriculum.

As dean of the law school, Powers recruited leading law professors from across the country, instituted academic initiatives and built strong relationships with alumni and state lawmakers. His emphasis on diversity at the law school led to the quadrupling of the number of African American students and doubling of the number of Hispanics. Under his leadership, the law school was recognized by Time magazine as the national leader among schools working to broaden their traditional applicant pool and by Hispanic Business magazine for four consecutive years as the number one law school in the nation for Hispanics.

A native of Los Angeles, Powers received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley in 1967. After graduating, he joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed on Bahrain Island in the Persian Gulf. Following his military service, he attended Harvard Law School, where he became managing editor of the "Harvard Law Review" and graduated magna cum laude in 1973. He taught at the University of Washington Law School before coming to The University of Texas at Austin in 1977.

In addition to teaching at the University of Washington, Powers has held teaching appointments at the Southern Methodist University School of Law and the University of Michigan School of Law. He is the author of dozens of articles on tort law and legal philosophy and of several books, including "Cases and Materials in Products Liability" (with David Fischer, Michael Green and Joseph Sanders), "Cases and Materials in Torts" (with David Robertson, David Anderson and Olin Guy Wellborn) and "Texas Products Liability Law." He is a member of the American Law Institute, where he was co-reporter for the "Restatement (Third) of Torts: Apportionment of Liability" and is co-reporter for the "Restatement (Third) of Torts: Liability for Physical Harm."

Powers has worked as a legal consultant with the U.S. Congress, the Brazilian legislature and the Texas legislature. In 2001, he chaired a special investigation committee that examined the financial transactions of Enron Corp. The resulting report, which has come to be known as the "Powers Report," and his subsequent testimony before Congress, gained national recognition.

Powers was born on May 30, 1946. He is married to Kim Heilbrun, a commercial real estate attorney. He has five children.



The Honorable Paul L. Sadler - *Executive Director of The Wind Coalition*

Paul L. Sadler is currently the Executive Director of The Wind Coalition. Prior to serving as the Executive Director of The Wind Coalition, Paul was a practicing attorney specializing in litigation matters. His practice included the asbestos litigation as well as oversight of litigation for a multi-billion dollar company in all 50 states.

In addition to his work as an attorney, Paul served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1991 – 2003. During his tenure in the Texas House of Representatives, he served on numerous committees including Education, Judiciary, Pensions and Investments, Health and Human Services, Calendars and was one of eight members designated to the Legislative Budget Board. His most significant committee work, however, was in the area of Education.

Sadler has received numerous awards for his legislative work. He was singled out by Texas Monthly during each of his legislative terms, being named to the Ten Best List in 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2001. He was recognized by the Dallas Morning News during each of his legislative sessions naming him as one of the three “Outstanding Legislators” in 1995 and one of “Six Stellar” legislators in 1997, recipient of the John B. Connally “Award for Excellence in Education” given by the Just For The Kids Foundation, as well as similar awards from every education group in the State of Texas.



The Honorable Senator Florence Shapiro, *Chair, Committee on Education, Texas Senate*

Since being sworn into the Texas State Senate in 1993, Florence Shapiro has worked to revolutionize public education and served as a fierce defender of the individual rights and public safety of her constituents in District 8 and citizens across the Lone Star State. A former public school teacher and small business owner, she first entered elective office as a Plano City Council member. Following six terms on the Council, she was elected Mayor of Plano.

Senator Shapiro’s issues while serving in the Texas State Senate have been many. A champion of children, in 1995 she passed landmark legislation to protect them against sexual predators. While serving as head of the State Affairs Committee, Senator Shapiro committed herself to the issue of transportation, creating the first fund for Texas mobility. And since becoming chair of the Education Committee, she’s been a force for improvement of the entire system by fighting against the status quo and heralding innovative solutions to difficult challenges.

A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Senator Shapiro holds a bachelor’s degree in secondary education. In addition to chairing the Senate Education Committee, she also serves on the Senate Committees on Finance; Transportation and Homeland and Security; and Administration.



She and her husband, Howard, live in Plano. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

The Honorable Sylvester Turner, *House Higher Education Committee*

Sylvester Turner was raised in Acres Homes and attended the University of Houston and Harvard Law School before founding The Law Office of Barnes and Turner in 1983. Rep. Turner was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1988. In the last legislative session, he authored and passed the bill which added 127,000 previously uninsured children to the

Texas Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). He was awarded the 2007 Child Advocacy Award by the Texas Pediatric Society and the Presidential Award of Merit from the Texas Association of Family Physicians for his role in protecting the health of Texas children.

In 2003, Rep. Turner was awarded the Helen Farabee Community Leadership Award by the Houston Mental Health Association. He has twice been honored by the Texas Classroom Teachers as a Legislative Star for leading the fight for students and educators. He was named one of “The Best of the 77th Legislature” by Hispanic Journal for his work on education and consumer rights. For his efforts to ensure open and accessible government, Turner was awarded the “Star of Texas Award” by Common Cause of Texas and the “Open Government Award” by the Texas Daily Newspaper Association. Rep. Turner was also named one of the Ten Best Legislators of the “75th” and the “80th” Legislative Sessions by Texas Monthly Magazine.

In addition, Rep. Turner has received three prestigious awards for his monumental work as a champion for the Children’s Health Insurance Program and Medicaid. These awards include the “2007 Texas Hospital Advocacy Tribute Award” by the Texas Hospital Association, the “Friends of Medicine Award” by the Texas Medical Association, and the “Champion for Children” Award by the Amerigroup Foundation. Rep. Turner has also been honored with the “2007 Park Advocate Award” from the Greater Houston Partnership which is symbolic of his lifetime commitment of positively transforming neighborhoods and communities.

In 2006, Representative Turner was appointed as one of three house members to the Legislative Budget Board which oversees the State’s \$150 billion dollar budget. In his previous legislative service, Rep. Turner served as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Texas Legislature, Chairman of Budget and Oversight of the Regulated Industries Committee, member of the powerful Calendars Committee, Chairman of the Criminal Justice Subcommittee with the Appropriations Committee and as member of the Select Committee on Electric Capacity and Environmental Effects.

Most recently, Rep. Turner was appointed by House Speaker Tom Craddick to serve as chair of the House Select Committee on Hurricane Ike Storm Devastation to the Texas Gulf Coast. Rep. Turner is currently serving as a member of the State Affairs Committee, Business and Industry Committee, Criminal Justice Legislative Oversight Committee and is also serving as Chair of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus and Co-Chair of the Harris County Legislative Delegation.



Richard Valencia, Ph.D., *Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Texas at Austin*

Dr. Richard R. Valencia, a UT Austin faculty member, is Professor of Educational Psychology, Fellow of the Cissy Parker McDaniel Fellow Fund, and Faculty Associate of the Center for Mexican American Studies. He is a nationally recognized expert on the education of students of color, primarily focusing on social thought, racial differences in intelligence, school failure and success, and educational litigation. Dr. Valencia is the author/editor of seven books, including *Intelligence Testing and Minority Students: Foundations, Performance Factors, and Assessment Issues* (2001, with Lisa A. Suzuki),

Chicano Students and the Courts: The Mexican American Legal Struggle for Educational Equality (2008; winner of a Robert W. Hamilton Book Award), *Dismantling Contemporary Deficit Thinking: Educational Thought and Practice* (2010), and *Chicano School Failure and Success: Past, Present, and Future* (2010, 3rd ed.). During his career, Dr. Valencia has served as an expert witness for plaintiffs of color in a number of civil rights education lawsuits, including the 2006 federal level *Santamaria v. Dallas Independent School District* segregation case in which the plaintiffs prevailed.



Angela Valenzuela, Ph.D., *Director, Texas Center for Education Policy Professor, Educational Administration and Curriculum and Instruction, University of Texas at Austin*

Angela Valenzuela is a professor in both the Cultural Studies in Education Program within the Department of Curriculum & Instruction and the Educational Policy and Planning Program within the Department of Educational Administration at the University of Texas at Austin where she also serves as the director of the University of Texas Center for Education Policy.

A Stanford University graduate, her previous teaching positions were in Sociology at Rice University in Houston, Texas (1990-98), as well as a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Houston (1998-99). She is also the author of *Subtractive Schooling: U.S. Mexican Youth and the Politics of Caring* (State University of New York Press, 1999) and *Leaving Children Behind: How “Texas-style” Accountability Fails Latino Youth* (State University of New York Press, 2004).

Valenzuela currently serves as Associate Vice-President for School Partnerships at the University of Texas at Austin. Valenzuela’s research and teaching interests are in the sociology of education, minority youth in schools, educational policy, and urban education reform.

As director of the National Latino Education Research and Policy Project (NLERAP) and with support from the Ford Foundation and our strategic partnership with Aztec Worldwide, Inc., Valenzuela also currently directs a national-level initiative that aims to improve teacher quality and the teacher education pipeline for high school youth in Texas, California, Wisconsin, Chicago, New York, and Arizona. This work builds on the efforts and advocacy of Latino education and business leaders nationwide.



The Honorable Leticia Van de Putte, *Committee on Education, Texas Senate*

Senator Leticia Van de Putte, a pharmacist for more than 31 years, represents a large portion of San Antonio and Bexar County. A former five-term state representative, she is now serving her fifth term as a Texas State Senator for District 26.

Senator Van de Putte is a strong advocate for children, veterans, and quality public education. She currently serves as Chair of the Veteran Affairs and Military Installations Committee, and serves as a member of the Senate Committees on Education, State Affairs, and Business and Commerce. She is

also the Chair of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus.

She has been honored by many national civic and community organizations for her tireless advocacy on behalf of the people she represents, including: the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials’ (NALEO) “Edward R. Roybal Award,” the Vietnam Veterans of America’s “Legislator of the Year Award,” and the Center for Policy Alternative’s “Arthur S. Fleming Leadership Award.” Following the 81st Legislative Session, she was chosen as one of Texas Insider’s Top Ten Legislators for her work on behalf of veterans and their families. She was also selected by Texas Watch for their Legislative Honor Roll for her work on behalf of Texas consumers and homeowners.

Nationally, Senator Van de Putte served as co-chair of the 2008 Democratic National Convention, joining the ranks of Texas women, such as Barbara Jordan and Ann Richards. She has been actively

involved in the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), serving as President from 2006 to 2007. Senator Van de Putte is a member of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, where she served as President from 2003 to 2005. She also currently serves on the American Legacy Foundation Board, which oversees the settlements of 46 states with the tobacco industry, and she is the subject of a book written by Dr. Sharon Navarro titled, “Latina Legislator: Leticia Van de Putte and the Road to Leadership.”

Senator Van de Putte received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Texas at Austin, College of Pharmacy, and she is a 1973 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School in San Antonio, Texas. She was also a Kellogg Fellow at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1993. Senator Van de Putte currently lives in San Antonio with her husband of 33 years, Pete, and has six children: Nichole, Vanessa, Henry, Gregory, Isabella, and Paul. She is also the proud grandmother of two adorable grandsons, Julian Claiborne and Jove Sebastian Stiles.



Dr. Gregory J. Vincent - *Vice President, Diversity of Community Engagement, University of Texas at Austin*

Dr. Gregory J. Vincent is the vice president for Diversity and Community Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin. He is the W.K. Kellogg Professor in Community College Leadership and a professor in the School of Law. Dr. Vincent oversees a division that includes more than 300 employees and 50 units, programs, and initiatives. It includes the exemplary-rated UT Elementary School, the University Interscholastic League, and the Equal Opportunity Services office as well as numerous programs that support the educational pipeline from pre-kindergarten to graduate school. Currently,

Dr. Vincent serves on the board of numerous organizations including the Austin Area Urban League, Communities in School, Envision Central Texas and E3 Alliance, and is chair of the University of Texas Charter Elementary School’s management board. Dr. Vincent joined the University of Texas in 2005, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, his law degree from The Ohio State University College of Law, and his doctorate from The University of Pennsylvania.



The Honorable Senator Royce West, *Committee on Public Education, Texas Senate*

Royce West was first elected to the Texas Senate in November 1992. Since taking office he has represented the 23rd Senatorial District on behalf of the citizens of Dallas County in the Texas Legislature. During his tenure, Senator West has been named by Texas Monthly as one of the 25 most powerful people in Texas politics, been selected for the magazine’s biennial “Ten Best Legislators in Texas” list, and has twice been named as an “Honorable Mention.” Senator West has also received mention on the Associated Press’ “Movers and Shakers” list, and Texas Insider named Senator West to its 2009 “Best Legislators” list.

On April 17, 2006, Senator West was sworn in by his fellow state senators to serve as President Pro Tempore of the Texas Senate until January 2007. As President Pro Tempore, Senator West was second in the line of succession to be Governor of Texas, and assumed the top leadership position whenever Governor Rick Perry and Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst were out of the state.

Senator West is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations and is a member of Senate committees on Education, Finance, Health and Human Services and Higher Education. He has recently been appointed to the Select Committee on Public School Finance Weight, Allotment & Adjustment as well as the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting. Senator West also serves on the following national and regional organizations: Education Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC); standing committee on Communications, Financial Services and Interstate Commerce

of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL); Education Commission of the States; Intergovernmental Affairs Committee of the Council of State Governments; and the Southern Regional Education Board Legislative Advisory Council. Since 1993, Senator West has sponsored the Dr. Emmett J. Conrad Leadership Program. The program has provided college students from Senatorial District 23 with paid employment in their respective fields of study. In 1996, Senator West established a Student Advisory Committee (SAC) to obtain the perspectives of junior high and high school students on legislative and community issues and to expose them to volunteer opportunities in the community.

To promote inclusiveness in the procurement practices of state agencies in working with Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs), Senator West created the “Doing Business Texas Style - Spot Bid Contract Fair” and regularly sponsors procurement workshops and seminars.

In addition to his senatorial duties, Senator West is a partner in the law firm of West & Associates, L.L.P. He is also a caring father to his children and devoted husband to Carol R. West, CPA, as well as an active deacon of Good Street Baptist Church.



The Honorable Senator Judith Zaffirini, Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education, Texas Senate

Senator Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) represents the 21st Senatorial District. The second highest-ranking Texas state senator, she also is the highest-ranking woman and Hispanic senator and the highest-ranking senator for Bexar County and the border region. In 2008 she was re-elected in a seventh landslide victory with 79 percent in the primary and 68 percent in the general election. She has carried all 17 counties in the large and diverse district in every re-election, something no one else ever has accomplished.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst appointed her (2009) Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee and member of the Senate Finance, Health and Human Services, Economic Development, and Administration committees. She is the first Hispanic woman in Texas to serve as President Pro Tempore of the Texas Senate and as Governor for a Day. She has served three consecutive terms as Chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, seven terms on the Appropriations Conference Committee, nine terms on the Senate Finance Committee, ten terms on the Senate Education Committee, and on the Legislative Budget Board since 2004.

Senator Zaffirini has received more than 650 awards and honors for her legislative, public service, and professional work, including more than 150 in communication. Additionally, in 2009 Senator Zaffirini received 19 awards from the Press Women of Texas Association and is an award-winning communication specialist with 13 years of teaching experience, including at the college and university levels. The South Texas Press Association honored her for her distinguished career in journalism and public service. Through her business, Zaffirini Communications, she provides professional communication services, including consulting, workshops and seminars, one-on-one coaching, keynote addresses, and writing. A distinguished communicator, educator, and leader, she holds B.S., M.A., and PhD degrees from The University of Texas at Austin, each with a 3.9 grade-point average.

A lector at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and member of the Texas Philosophical Society and of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, her professional memberships include the Texas Press Women, Texas Public Relations Association, International Communication Association, Speech Communication Association, and Association for Borderlands Studies. Judith and Carlos Zaffirini have been married for 46 years. Their son, Carlos Jr., is an attorney and businessman.