



SEPTEMBER 2019 ISSUE



IALAS QUARTERLY

To unify and cultivate educational leaders, serving Latinx communities, for the purpose of empowering all students.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Familia:

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to another year of learning and networking. Last year signaled many firsts for our organization. 2019 marked the first time that our organization gave away scholarships, the first time we hosted a 5K run, and the first time we increased our membership by 15%! If you have not renewed your membership, I encourage you to do so. We need to continue bringing members in, in order to make an impact in our districts.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Angelica Romano and Beatriz Maldonado for all their wonderful work and contributions to our association. Although Angelica and Beatriz are not currently serving in their former roles as Executive Board Members due to professional and personal commitments, make no mistake- they will continue to be members and support us in all we do!

Our mentorship program serves a crucial role in our organization and our greater cause. I would like to encourage you to volunteer to be a Mentor. This is such a unique opportunity to help and guide our members who are seeking to grow within our profession. By the same token, I encourage you to request mentorship if you are looking to apply or are currently taking on a new position. We have members at every level that can provide advice, guidance, and support.

I'm looking forward to seeing our returning members and meeting new members at our Fall Mixer on October 25th. More details will follow shortly.

Continue to spread your wings and support our cause as you take on new challenges and engage in activism!



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MENTOR CORNER

BY MARY KASIR, IALAS VICE PRESIDENT

My IALAS familia has been with me from day one in my leadership journey beginning with my first mentor and founding member of the IALAS Board, Dr. Ivette Dubiel. I'm going to go out on a limb and say that every last one of us is where we are because along the way there was somebody who saw that something in us and gave us the nudge we needed to leave the comfort of our classrooms. Now, don't get me wrong, the classroom is an amazing place to be. I spent the first 14-years of my educational career on the front-line with students day in and day out; I had no desire at all to leave the classroom. However, when we get to the core of what brought us into this amazing field, it was just a matter of time before I too would take the leap, in order to impact even more lives on an even larger scale. I was never alone in that journey and that's the beauty of your IALAS familia. We believe in you, we have a wealth of experience, and even an infomercial: it costs nothing additional beyond your membership dues.

"...every last one of us is where we are because along the way there was somebody who saw that something in us and gave us the nudge we needed..."

Last year, IALAS was able to partner 8 mentors and proteges. From those partnerships came several promotions! We'd love nothing more than to see that double this year. Every last promotion announced at our educational conference in May was a female candidate, and all were bilingual,

serving in predominantly low-income, emergent bilingual communities. Where 76.7% of teachers in the State of Illinois are females, a mere 28% of us are serving as Superintendents. So, while females are rising in a number of other leadership capacities including but not limited to: Assistant Principals, Principals, and Assistant Superintendents, few are rising to the highest rank. We at IALAS are intent on closing not only the gender discrepancy but also shutting down the unfounded excuse that there are not qualified Latinx candidates among us.

If you are just getting started in your leadership journey, you can call on us and we will find you a mentor. If you are already serving in a leadership capacity, and are willing to do for someone else what each of my IALAS mentors has done for me, we need you, too. Sign up to become a mentor/protege at: **shorturl.at/ekzRW**.

Lastly, if you wish to serve on the mentorship committee, please contact Mary Kassir at mkassir@ialas.org to see how you can support our program.



Mary Kassir and her mentor, Dr. Ivette Dubiel attending a conference together.



IALAS BOARD SETS PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

BY DAN SWARTZ, IALAS HISTORIAN

In June, the IALAS Board met to reflect on the accomplishments from 2018-2019 and to begin planning for the upcoming membership year. We have much to be proud of as an organization. Our membership continues to grow and is above 150 members, we gave out \$8500 in scholarship to students and leaders who will make a difference in the lives of children, we hosted our 3rd annual statewide conference promoting the great work of our membership, and had many opportunities to strengthen our own impact through networking opportunities.

"...we gave out \$8500 in scholarships to students and leaders who will make a difference in lives of children,"

At the IALAS board retreat in June, the board took the opportunity to review our mission and vision statements, while setting the path for IALAS over the next 3-5 years. This is an important step as our organization matures and grows. As part of our strategic plan, the IALAS Board developed 4 priorities. They are:

- Membership: Develop an organization in which membership feels supported and take pride in joining.
- Mentorship: Support new educational leaders and identify future leaders in Latino-supporting communities.
- Advocacy: Advocate for policies that support the mission and vision of IALAS, ALAS and membership.
- Partnership: Foster strong relationships with sponsors that support the IALAS mission and vision.

These four priorities serve as the cornerstones of a strong foundation to grow IALAS into the next decade. For more information on our strategic plan, visit our website, www.ialas.org.

NOMINATE A SPOTLIGHT LEADER OR TEACHER FOR 2019-2020

BY BEATRIZ LAPPAY, IALAS MEMBER AT LARGE

Each quarter, IALAS publishes quarterly Spotlight Leaders in its newsletter that feature two members: an administrator and a teacher. With over 100 IALAS members, Spotlight Leaders is designed to recognize the phenomenal work of our diverse membership and to provide space for our membership to get to know each other. This is step one in creating networking opportunities for IALAS members.

To nominate an administrator and/or a teacher for recognition at our Fall Networking Event, please submit your nomination form electronically, by September 23, 2019 at 7:00 pm. However, continue to nominate throughout the year as well by using the link below:

tinyurl.com/IALASspotlight

If you have questions about the form, please reach out to Beatriz Lappay at blappay@ialas.org



A Look Back at the IALAS Spring Statewide Conference

BY MARIA BURGOS, IALAS SECRETARY



IALAS had a great turnout at our 3rd Annual Statewide Conference on Wednesday, May 15th at Northern Illinois University, Naperville Campus. The theme of the conference breakout sessions was *Growing Your Own: Building Capacity from Within*. We would like to take this time to thank all of the presenters and partners that went above and beyond to make our conference a great success. We had the privilege to spotlight some amazing leaders which included Dr. Ivette Dubiel, Director of Educational Equity at Indian Prairie School District, Ms. Jennifer Tapia, Principal at Indian Knoll in West Chicago School District, and Ms. María C. Martínez, teacher at Cicero West in Cicero School District 99. In addition to the Spotlight Teachers/Leaders, our keynote speaker, Ms. Jackie Camacho-Ruiz, AKA “Pilotina”, shared her journey on the importance of keeping a positive perspective in order to overcome all obstacles we may face. We look forward to your continued support as we prepare for our 4th Annual Statewide Conference!

Connect with IALAS

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WINTER NETWORK MIXER AND EDUCATIONAL CONCLAVE JANUARY 31ST & FEBRUARY 1ST 2020



Our Winter Network Mixer and Educational Conclave will be taking place on January 31st and February 1st, at the Chicago Marriott Oak Brook, 1401 W 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523 beginning Friday at 6:30 pm and ending on Saturday at noon.

The schedule begins Friday night at 6:30 with our Network Mixer. Open bar, hors d'oeuvres, live music (by popular demand Impacto Boricua will be back!), raffles for our annual scholarships, and much more fun! Then, on Saturday morning, we will host a continental breakfast followed by a morning of learning from one another.

Please mark your calendars and don't miss out on this great event!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

October 25th, 2019: Fall Network Event : Details will be on the IALAS website soon!

May 1st, 2020: IALAS Statewide Conference, ISU Naperville Campus

