



DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE



IALAS QUARTERLY

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear IALAS Familia,

As we start this holiday season, we want to wish all of you self-care, peace and good cheer! We have several exciting items to share that are occurring at IALAS. We launched our mentoring by collaborating with Latino Leadership Pipeline (LLP). We had 89 participants join us on November 21st. The mentoring consists of three tiers to support all our leadership needs. It was a very powerful moment to have so many Latino voices discussing leadership goals.



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We just had our first book club on December 10th where we discussed, *En Comunidad: Lessons for Centering the Voices and Experiences of Bilingual Latinx Students*, by Carla España and Luz Yadira Herrera. We have raffled off books the week of November 23rd. We hope you have been one of the lucky ones to win a book! In addition, do not forget to order *En Comunidad*, visit [Amazon](#) or [Heinemann](#). Our authors were inspiring!

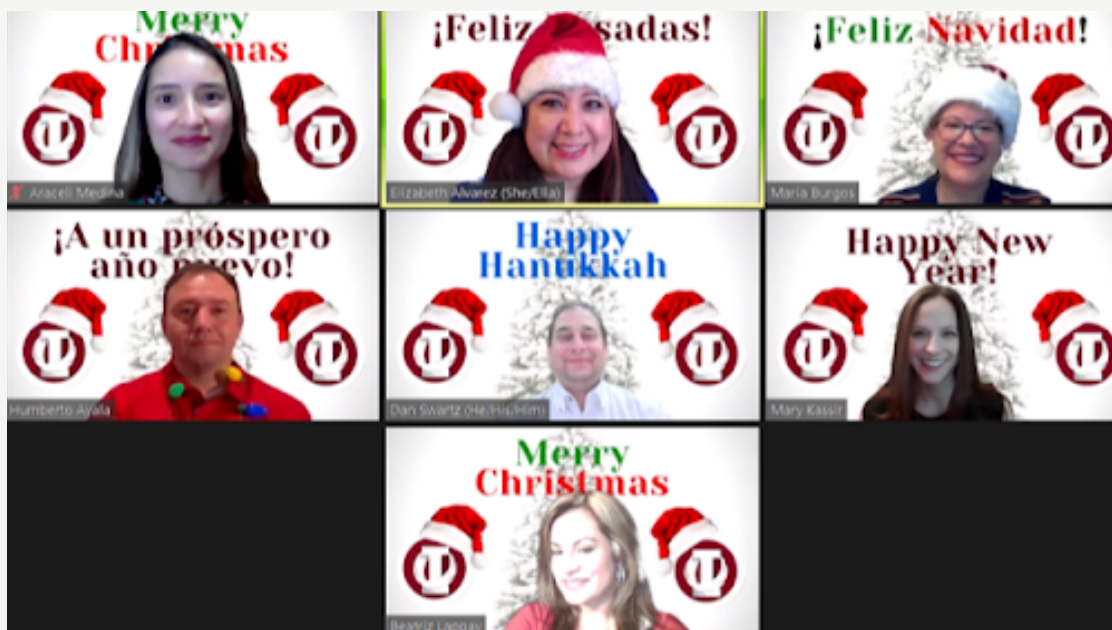


We are looking forward to our annual IALAS 2021 Conclave and Gala on January 30, 2021. This year's theme will be **Language, Literacy, & Numeracy: Mitigating Learning Loss**. It would be great to have you present and share your expertise. During this pandemic, we have all become learners and experts. Your voice is one we need to hear during the conclave. Please save the date and we will see you there!

We also want to acknowledge that ALAS has been conducting True Talk Thursdays with NABSE. On November 19th, our very own Maria Burgos spoke about Advancing a Culture of Results: People First in Assessments and Accountability. This may be an opportunity for you to share your expertise in one of these True Talk Thursdays.

We thank you for joining us on December 7th for our monthly board meeting. It was great seeing you virtually. We hope you are as excited about the wonderful opportunities that we have cultivated this year!

Finally, on behalf of the IALAS Board we want to wish you a wonderful holiday season. Continue to spread your IALAS wings! We hope you will gather with us in familia in one of the events and as always, we thank you for your leadership and being part of IALAS!



Respectfully,

Dr. Elizabeth Alvarez
IALAS President

PROFESSIONAL BOOK NOOK

BY HUMBERTO AYALA, IALAS HISTORIAN

The Mentor Leader: Secrets To Building People and Teams That Win Consistently, by Tony Dungy

In the book, *The Mentor Leader*, Tony Dungy clearly states the main principle to mentor leadership and that is building relationships. Mentor leadership focuses on developing the strengths of individuals. It might be in a fairly narrow way, such as building a specific skill, or more broadly focused, such as teaching employees to be proactive about meeting others' needs so they can better support the organization or institution. Successful mentor leaders make the people they lead better players, workers, students, or family members, and ultimately, better people.

Impactful Culturize Quotes:

"If we lose sight of people, we lose sight of the very purpose of leadership."

"The mentor leader looks at how he or she can benefit others-which ultimately benefits the individual *and* the organization."

"Engage, educate, equip, encourage, empower, energize, and elevate. Those are the methods for maximizing the potential of any individual, team, organization, or institution for ultimate success and significance. Those are the methods for a mentor leader."

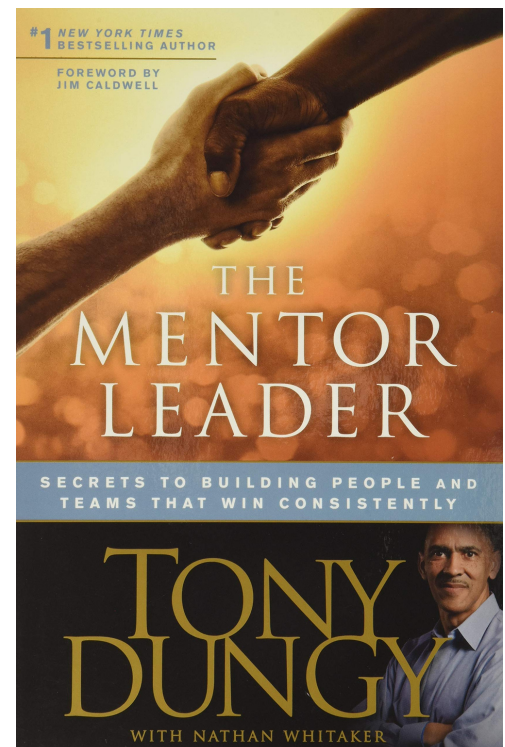
--Tony Dungy

"The first step is to understand and appreciate that the journey is as important as the destination."

"Truly serving others requires putting ourselves and our desires aside while looking for ways and opportunities to do what is best for others."

"We must reach beyond the boundaries that separate us and connect with people who are different from us."

"Mentor leaders understand that educating and equipping must go hand in hand."





Fall Network Mixer Review

BY MARY KASSIR, IALAS VICE PRESIDENT

Our blended fall mixer was a delightful success. Special thanks to Brian Peters of Swing Education for joining us at our Naperville location, and also for being the mastermind behind our blended concept. Members of the Board entertained small groups in-person while connecting in the virtual space. We were able to share a brief presentation, and some celebrations of our collective accomplishments toward the mission and vision of IALAS. All of our guests left with a goodie bag full of IALAS swag, and with your generous contributions to the raffle baskets, we were able to add a large sum of money to our 2020-2021 scholarship fund. We hope all winners enjoyed the contents of their respective baskets, but perhaps not all in one sitting. Thank you for joining us, and for making our first networking event of the year a great success. Can't wait to see you all in January for our Conclave!



Spotlight Leader

BY BEATRIZ LAPPAY, MEMBERS AT LARGE

Victor Iturralde is focused on giving his minority students a bright future. He is an inspirational leader and a role model. He is the principal of Eric Solorio Academy High School, in Gage Park, which he



helped open in 2010, to improve education opportunities on the city's South Side. Victor believes in giving his students access to excellence through academics and sports. When publicly interviewed after students came to honor him in front of his house in Pilsen he said: "I think it's gonna just energize the work that I do and you know that... I can, it does make a difference, I'm just trying to do my best so that our students have a chance". Student Lisbeth Barajas said: He knows my story and she's proud to be a Solorian. Students- are grateful for his efforts, even as he recovers from recent surgery. He doesn't share his struggles, he just shares his successes and that's really empowering, Mr. Iturralde is committed, determined, and dedicated to see a successful student on and off the field.

Spotlight Teacher

BEATRIZ LAPPAY, MEMBERS AT LARGE

I am nominating Mrs. Figueroa because she is a great one-way dual language teacher who always finds creative and fun ways to make educational material accessible to students. She uses



kinesthetic movements such as dance, chants, role-plays, and songs to teach her students. She stays up-to-date with research-based best practices in bilingual education. Mrs. Figueroa has assisted the administration with Biliteracy training and has helped her teammates with Biliteracy teaching strategies. She loves to teach her students traditional Laninx dances and songs and create beautiful costumes for them to use during district bilingual family celebrations. Mrs. Figueroa is Awesome!



SECRETARY OF EDUCATION CHARACTERISTICS BY DAN SWARTZ, TREASURER



The Illinois Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents in partnership with ALAS and other state affiliates were asked by the incoming Biden administration to submit characteristics we would like to see in the next Secretary of Education. Below is our IALAS statement:

As educational leaders from across Illinois, we believe that the next Secretary of Education will have a profound impact on policies affecting schools and the communities they serve. In alignment with our own mission and vision, the Illinois Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents seeks a Secretary of Education that embodies our own ideals.

Responsive, Informed Policy

- Ensures all children have a right to a Free Appropriate Public Education
- Believes that quality assessment systems provide stakeholders with timely, actionable feedback
- Advocates for continuous improvement of all educational systems through systematic cycles of improvement, rooted in both qualitative and quantitative measures
- Understands that assessment systems only improve student achievement when they leverage both formative and summative measures
- Advocates for Arts Education
- Supports policies that recognize the whole child and the assets they bring to the educational process

Promoting Equity

- Commits to creating national policies that unequivocally leverage equity for each student
- Understands that systemic racism exists in schools and actively works to create policies that remove barriers that inhibit students from succeeding based on their race, ethnicity, language, gender identification, and socioeconomic status
- Promotes the importance of ensuring students have access to grade level material, scaffolded to meet their learning needs
- Empowers students to use their voice
- Ensures that quality preschool opportunities are afforded to every child
- Promotes dual credit and advanced placement programs as a way to reduce tuition to college and universities, while increasing access to all students
- Advocates to change punitive and inequitable systems of grading that disproportionately affect marginalized populations and inhibit their ability to access post high school opportunities
- Shares a belief that all students and their families have a right to the highest quality education, supported by highly trained professionals
- Advances ideas to change the unfair and biased ways discipline is executed, especially among students of color
- Affirms and validates identity through language and is a champion for dual language programs that embrace and value multilingualism
- Understands that students with different abilities are to be included in the learning environment while maintaining an asset view of their potential
- Advocates for excellence in schools through the teaching of social justice in each grade and within each content

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Empowering Students

- Understands the unique needs of emergent bilinguals and newcomers to the United States
- Supports the whole child: Mind, Body, Spirit
- Reinforces multiple measures of college and career readiness including the Seal of Biliteracy, Vocational School, 2 & 4 year post high school options, Trade Schools, and Entrepreneurial Study
- Advocates for the diversity among learners and their needs
- Ensures that students and their families see themselves in the curriculum, instruction, and standards of learning
- Champions the belief that students' brains are malleable (growth mindset) and that one can get smart through effective effort and quality instructional opportunities
- Understands the developmental stages of academic and language acquisition and how to support multilingual students

Supporting Educators

- Supports the partnership of the school, teachers, students, and families and communities
- Affirms and uplifts educators by showcasing their worth and value to schools and the communities they serve
- Advocates for schools to provide wrap-around services to students and their families through the hiring of nurses, social workers, and counselors in every school
- Champions teacher professional growth and multiple pathways to becoming an educator

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

BY MARY KASSIR, VICE PRESIDENT

**Language, Literacy & Numeracy:
Mitigating Learning Loss
EDUCATIONAL CONCLAVE**



Our Winter Educational Conclave is just around the corner, Saturday, January 30, 2021. Do not hesitate to get your proposal in to us by Monday, January 11, 2021. Our theme this year will mirror the theme of National ALAS: Language, Literacy, and Numeracy: Mitigating Learning Loss. Proposals should be submitted to Maria Burgos at: mburgos@ialas.org and/or Mary Kassir at: mkassir@ialas.org. Please don't hesitate to contact either one of us for any questions.

[Request For Proposal Form](#)

ALAS HOLIDAY DRIVE

BY DR. ELIZABETH ALVAREZ, PRESIDENT



***Let's bring some holiday cheer to others in need -
DONATE FOOD & TOYS ONLINE TODAY!***

Join our ALAS community across the USA in helping others this holiday season - it's easy to help!
[Click here](#) to purchase the goods you would like to donate in Illinois. You will be emailed a tax receipt at the time of purchase. All goods ordered online will be shipped directly to our charity partner after the drive ends.

Thank you! Your contributions will strengthen our community by helping others in need.



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ADVOCACY IN ACTION

BY DR. ELIZABETH ALVAREZ, PRESIDENT

Current Advocacy in action

- Schools/districts safety and support for families during COVID-19
- Equity and Race that reflect whole child
- Diverse, responsive and reflective Curriculum
- Student voice
- Social Emotional Learning and self-care

At IALAS we want to provide various articles to support our leadership as we advocate for best practices. The articles below provide research and/or opinions on ways to continue to work through the pandemic. There are others that assist with our emergent bilinguals and other topics around education that allow us to contemplate, utilize in brainstorming and be proactive in our field. We hope you find these articles useful.

Links to Articles

[How schools are preparing for the perfect storm of holiday travel and COVID-19](#)

[Millions of students have limited contact with teachers](#)

[6 Myths about emergent bilinguals](#)

[Teacher pay tops Biden's 5 priorities for K-12 education](#)

[Non-English speakers face challenges in virtual learning](#)

[Teacher shortages: Are we heading in the right direction?](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

January 11, 2021: Virtual Board Meeting

January 30, 2021: Virtual Educational Conclave & Gala

