



Pendergast Chief Financial Officer Chosen for Prestigious National Academy

Joanne Fimbres selected for the 2018-19 ALAS Superintendents Leadership Academy



August 5, 2018 – (Phoenix, Arizona) – Joanne Fimbres, Chief Financial Officer for the [Pendergast School District](#), has been selected to participate in the National Association for Latino Superintendents and Administrators (ALAS) [Superintendents Leadership Academy](#). Fimbres has served as the Pendergast CFO since January 2017 and is responsible for directing, managing, and coordinating the business and financial services related to the planning, development, and implementation of policies, programs, and practices in support of the entire district.

Fimbres was recommended by Pendergast Superintendent, Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux, who attended the Academy in 2012. According to DeBlieux, “Joanne has been a visionary leader in the Pendergast District and has received multiple awards for her work in keeping our district in outstanding fiscal shape. She will contribute her skills and talents to the Academy and grow as a leader of the future. We are grateful for this opportunity for her and the district.”

The goal of the Superintendents Leadership Academy is to recruit and prepare Latino school system leaders to become Superintendents of school districts in the U.S., with an emphasis on Hispanic serving school districts that have a Latino population of 20% or higher. The academy is an exclusive yearlong leadership training institute that allows the participants to continue in their current positions while being trained, coached, and mentored by high powered, successful practitioners. The selection process is highly competitive due to the limited number of slots available. The SLA accepted 17 participants for this upcoming Cohort VIII. Those chosen have a proven track record of leadership in an educational organization, with most serving at the executive level.

Participants must have the ability to understand, lead and manage in a complex political organization and work well in a diverse setting. Additionally, they must have a high level of energy, determination, and perseverance to act as a change agent in a demanding organization.



Fimbres shares her enthusiasm in being a selected participant, “I was thrilled to be chosen for this honor to participate as it will not only enhance my leadership skills, but also enable me to share my passion for improving public education with a long term commitment to our Preschool – 8th grade system. Our students deserve the very best educational experience and having a chance to learn from the finest practitioners across the nation will benefit not only me, but also the students, staff, families and the communities we serve. I am grateful for the support Pendergast District provides, and the encouragement to grow and collaborate.”