



NEWS RELEASE

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Republican Leadership Opt Out of Engaging Nation's Largest Gathering of Latino Policymakers at NALEO 35th Annual Conference

Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel and U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta to skip event that has longstanding tradition of bringing leaders from both parties together with more than 1,000 Latino leaders from across nation

Phoenix – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) today issued a statement following Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel and U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta pulling out of the NALEO 35th Annual Conference taking place in Phoenix this week:

“Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel and U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta are missing out on a golden opportunity to engage the nation’s largest gathering of Latino policymakers at the NALEO 35th Annual Conference taking place in Phoenix this week.

“While we do not know their motivations for missing this critical event, we do know the impact. For the first time in recent history, the NALEO Annual Conference will take place without the participation of a single high-ranking Republican official from the President’s cabinet, Congress, and Republican National Committee.

“As the nation’s Latino political convention, the NALEO Annual Conference has a rich and longstanding tradition of bringing top Republican and Democratic officials together with Latino policymakers from all levels of office to engage in a dialogue of how best to work together to move the Latino community and nation forward.

“In previous years, NALEO has had the privilege of hosting the nation’s foremost Republican leaders at its annual conferences, including Governor Mitt Romney, Governor Jeb Bush, Governor Rick Scott, U.S. Senator John McCain, U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, U.S. Senator John Cornyn, Former U.S. Senator Mel Martinez, Former Kay Bailey Hutchison, Former RNC Chairman Reince Priebus, U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson, U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and more.

“While in Phoenix this week, we will once again be presenting a Republican leader with the organization’s highest honor, the NALEO President’s Award, as we recognize U.S. Senator John McCain for his bold and courageous leadership championing issues on behalf of Latinos and all Arizonans.

"At a time of ever increasing partisanship and political hostility, we need our nation's Republican and Democratic leaders to come together to form consensus around the issues of most importance to the Latino community and all Americans. We will continue to work toward this goal while addressing a robust policy agenda here in Phoenix, and next year when we convene the nation's Latino political convention once again in Miami for the NALEO 36th Annual Conference from June 20-22, 2019."

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About NALEO

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation's more than 6,600 Latino elected and appointed officials.