

For Immediate Release
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**MANA MEETS WITH U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION TO
DISCUSS REAUTHORIZATION OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**

MANA, A National Latina Organization (MANA), met with U. S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings on February 2, 2007 to discuss the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). MANA President and CEO Alma Morales Riojas attended a meeting of national Hispanic organization leaders with Secretary Spellings to discuss the proposed *Building on Results: A Blueprint for Strengthening the No Child Left Behind Act*.



Sec. Spellings (left) and Alma Morales Riojas.

Building On Results is designed to provide additional tools to schools and educators by 2014 to help students read and do math at grade level. The program would give states more flexibility to measure and increase student progress, encourage rigorous coursework particularly in high school math and science, and provide new options and choices for families whose children remain in underperforming schools.

“We are pleased with Secretary Spellings’ open door and outreach efforts to Hispanic organizations, and appreciate her request for comments and input on the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act,” said Ms. Morales Riojas. In line with MANA’s experience in communities across the country, MANA is requesting new provisions for student mentoring programs, parental involvement programs, and mental health programs. “Additionally, the Act should be expanded to include support through community based organizations to utilize their existing close connections and relationships with Hispanic families. This will have the added benefit of relieving overburdened school systems,” concluded Ms. Morales Riojas.

MANA offers the HERMANITAS® program, the only national Latina mentoring program for girls from ages 11 to 17, and the HERMANITAS® Leadership Institute in Washington D.C. every July.

Founded in 1974, MANA, A National Latina Organization® (MANA) is a national grassroots membership organization with chapters, individual members and affiliates across the country. MANA’s mission is to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service, and advocacy. Its four national goals are to: strengthen Latinas as community leaders; create vital Hispanic communities; advance public policy for an equal and just society; and grow and sustain a healthy organization. MANA achieves its mission and goals through its two premiere programs, the AvanZamos® Program, an adult Latina leadership training program and the HERMANITAS® Program for young Latinas.