



For Immediate Release
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MANA Supports Work to Curtail Dropout Rate in the United States

MANA, A National Latina Organization, is encouraged by the work the National Education Association (NEA) is currently doing to make strides in the fight against the staggering dropout rate in the United States. Latinos are especially at-risk, with dropout rates near 50 percent across the nation. NEA addresses the epidemic with a 12-point action plan that incorporates schools, families, communities, businesses and government, to help curb this growing problem.

“Our students and families nationwide need to see that there are supportive organizations that truly want to see them succeed despite the odds. MANA works very hard across the nation to provide that support in the form of mentoring through our Hermanitas program. It is great to see other national organizations taking up the fight to better educate young people and making provisions for their futures. Working with our communities and keeping education and graduation rates a priority will help ensure success,” stated Alma Morales Riojas, National President and CEO of MANA.

MANA is pleased to help generate the dialogue in the continuing quest to educate and graduate Latino students across the nation. NEA has made a bold first step and, along with the input from other national organizations, is working toward the ultimate goal of reducing dropout rates.

This dialogue is significant to future generations and the overall economic well-being of Latinos and the nation as a whole. Education is the foundation upon which people of all ages can level the playing field, become increasingly competitive and ultimately achieve the American Dream. We encourage communities, businesses and government to invest in students and support school and extra-curricular programming that focuses on the skills necessary for students to compete and deters dropping out of school.

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, and adult Latina leadership training program and the HERMANITAS® Program for young Latinas.

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