



League of United Latin American Citizens

CELEBRATING The 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSENT DECREE IN LULAC V. FLORIDA BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, 86 years ago, the founders of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), joined together to establish an organization that would become the largest, oldest and most successful Hispanic civil rights and service organization in the United States; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, LULAC has championed the cause of Hispanic Americans in education, employment, economic development and civil rights, and

WHEREAS, LULAC members throughout the nation have developed a tremendous track record of success advancing the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of the population of the United States, and

WHEREAS, LULAC Florida, along with seven other organizations (ASPIRA of Florida, Farmworkers Association of Central Florida, Florida Conference NAACP, Haitian Refugee Center, Spanish American League Against Discrimination, American Hispanic Educators Association of Dade, and the Haitian Educators Association) became plaintiffs in LULAC v. Florida Board of Education, represented by Multicultural Education Training and Advocacy, Inc. (META), and

WHEREAS, after a year of negotiation, the case resulted in a settlement agreement with the Florida State Board of Education and a consent order signed by Judge James Lawrence King, State District Court For The Southern District of Florida, on August 14, 1990, and

WHEREAS, the LULAC Consent Decree specified rights and provided protections to students whose language is other than English and provided court power to enforce the agreement, and

WHEREAS, the Consent Decree set standards for the proper identification, placement, and provision of programming, for assessment and monitoring of performance of linguistic minority students; and for training all teachers of any subject to English Language Learners, and

WHEREAS, the Consent Decree became Florida's framework for meeting legal obligations under federal and state law and regulations including the federal Equal Educational Opportunity Act [20 U.S.C. 170 3(f)], Title VI of the federal Civil Rights

Act of 1964, the Florida Educational Equity Act, and related federal and state provisions regarding compensatory, migrant, and special education, including the state's obligation to set standards for school districts and to enforce such standards; and

WHEREAS, this year the Florida League of United Latin American Citizens celebrated 25 years of the implementation of the Consent Decree at its state convention;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by National LULAC that the week of August 14, 2015 be designated as,

"LULAC CONSENT DECREE WEEK"

and that National LULAC ask LULAC Councils nationwide to join Florida LULAC in celebrating the Consent Decree's twenty five years of achievements in the education of Florida's English Language Learners and the outstanding contributions LULAC has made in pursuing equality of opportunities in our country.

Approved this 11th day of July 2015

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President