LULAC NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTERS (LNESC)

**Mission** - To provide the Latino community with the highest quality educational opportunities needed for the development of lifelong learners and leaders.

LULAC National Educational Service Centers, Inc. (LNESC) was established in 1973 by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) to provide direct educational services to underserved communities throughout the US & Puerto Rico. LNESC serves more than 11,000 students each year, providing educational counseling, scholarships, mentorships, leadership development, and literacy and technology programs through its network of 14 educational centers. Since 1973, LNESC has assisted over 500,000 students, sent 140,000 on to college, and awarded over $20 million in scholarships.

**Center Locations** – Albuquerque, NM; Bayamón, PR; Chicago, IL; Colorado Springs, CO; Corpus Christi, TX; Dallas, TX; El Paso, TX; Houston, TX; Kansas City, MO; Miami, FL; Philadelphia, PA; and San Antonio, TX

-**Core Programs & Services**-

♦ **Upward Bound** - LNESC has made an impact on Hispanic education through the Department of Education's TRiO programs. Talent Search, Gear Up and Upward Bound all provide educational advisement and financial aid assistance services to low-income students in order to prepare them for post-secondary education. Through LNESC’s Upward Bound, LNESC provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in higher education.

♦ **Talent Search** - Identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. LNESC’s trained educational advisors provide students with academic, career, and financial counseling and encourage them to graduate from high school and to pursue college degrees.

♦ **More than a Dream (Más Que Un Sueño)** - Project is a sexual health and teen pregnancy prevention program for Latino youth. The program consists of a series of interventions for youth and their parents utilizing culturally sensitive based multimedia developed by the Education Development Center (EDC).

♦ **Young Readers** - Targeting kindergarten through second grade students, Young Readers is an innovative program that utilizes technology and interactive curriculum to raise the reading levels of its participants. LNESC has experienced tremendous success with the Young Readers Program, which has grown to over 15 programs in operation throughout the US.

♦ **Science Corps** - Launched in 1994, the LNESC Science Corps program aims to inspire middle school students to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through an interactive curriculum. The program exposes participants to STEM professionals with the goal of increasing minority representation in applied science majors and in STEM fields.

♦ **LNESC’s Adelante!** - A leadership development program that introduces middle and high school participants to leadership roles and techniques through interactive lectures with local political, civic and corporate leaders. Program also contains strong exposure to career exploration activities, personal development curricula, community service opportunities and cultural awareness events.

♦ **Washington Youth Leadership Seminar (WYLS)** - A four day annual event hosted by LNESC that brings student leaders from across the United States and Puerto Rico together in Washington D.C. to work on public policy issues and meet with national leaders from Congress, corporate America and other institutions.

♦ **LULAC National Scholarship Fund (LNSF)** - A joint effort of LNESC and LULAC, the LNSF matches grassroots dollars with corporate funds to finance education for high-need Latino students. The LNSF has awarded 18 million dollars in scholarships to almost 28,000 students. Through its network of councils, LULAC raises scholarship funds from communities across the country. Each dollar raised by the councils is matched at a percentage by corporate contributions.