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TO: Oregon Education Investment Board
FROM: Carmen Rubio, Latino Network

Latino Network is a community-based nonprofit organization that serves the Latino community in Multnomah County. Our mission is to provide transformative opportunities, services and advocacy for the education, leadership and civic engagement of our youth, families and communities. As an advocate and service provider, we work to improve education opportunities and connect families to the education process, bridge the achievement gap, and ensure a successful future where our children may thrive.

We appreciate any opportunities to participate in today's effort about the development of new and innovative education strategies for Oregon children. However, we are disappointed that we were not more deeply engaged in these ongoing dialogues prior to today. We hope that in the future we will be able be more intentionally connected and participatory as this endeavor moves forward.

We also learned from our colleagues in other diverse communities that you have recently met with certain stakeholder communities on education issues. As Latinos in Multnomah County comprise the largest ethnic/racial population at 12%, we urge you to consider expanding your network to work more closely with Multnomah County Latinos and Latino-based organizations – particularly those whose services include experienced "Jaime Escalante" practitioners in pre-kindergarten through high school education programs.

As organizations working to end poverty and educational disparities of Latino youth and families, Latino Network, Hacienda CDC, and Catholic Charities respectfully request an additional Latino community stakeholder meeting about the education crisis in this growing community be scheduled in Multnomah County with your representatives. Our collaborative would welcome the opportunity to host this much-needed conversation.

My colleagues and I look forward to working together for the success of children in Oregon. I can be reached at 503-283-6881 or Carmen@latnet.org.

Gracias,

Carmen Rubio
Executive Director