



## New Research on State Investment in School Facilities

U.S. Plus Case Studies on: Massachusetts  
• New Jersey • Ohio • Texas • Wyoming



### IDRA José A. Cárdenas School Finance Fellows Program Symposium ~ April 28, 2017

#### 10:00 am Symposium Opening

##### Introductions & Significance of the Research

David G. Hinojosa, J.D., IDRA National Director of Policy

#### 10:10 am Research Briefing: "What about the Schools? - Factors Contributing to Expanded State Investment in School Facilities"

Marialena Rivera, Ph.D., IDRA 2016 José A. Cárdenas School Finance Fellow, and Assistant Professor of Education and Community Leadership, Texas State University College of Education

#### 10:30 am Panelist Discussion

Mary Filardo, Executive Director, 21st Century School Fund

Jeffrey M. Vincent, Ph.D., Deputy Director and Cofounder of the Center for Cities & Schools at the University of California, Berkeley

Raul Villaseñor, Managing Director FirstSouthwest, a Division of Hilltop Securities, Inc.

#### 11:00 pm Q&A Discussion

#### 12:00 p.m. End

This symposium is being streamed live by NOWcastSA. The video will be available for viewing after the event as well.



<http://budurl.com/IDRAncS17>

Share your ideas and reflections and connect with us online.  
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“We believe that equal access to a quality education is the civil rights issue of our generation, and we work in every way to make educational opportunity a reality.”

– Dr. María “Cuca” Robledo Montecel, IDRA President & CEO

## **Message from Dr. María “Cuca” Robledo Montecel, IDRA President & CEO**

Welcome to IDRA's second José Angel Cárdenas School Finance Fellows Program Symposium. At IDRA we have an unshakable conviction: that all children are valuable. We believe that equal access to a quality education is the civil rights issue of our generation, and we work in every way to make educational opportunity a reality.

We know that our kids, of any color and speaking any language, with or without immigration papers, are valuable. Yet, millions of students across the country receive the opposite message as they walk through the doors of broken and neglected school facilities. Clearly, the quality of the learning environment affects the learning that goes on there. And school districts often have to rely on the wealth of their communities for renovations and new construction. As a result, once again, the quality of a child's schooling is frequently determined by where that child happens to live.

At our symposium, Dr. Marialena Rivera, our second José Angel Cárdenas School Finance Fellow, presents her research findings on the factors contributing to expanded state investment in equitable public school facilities and how those factors can be leveraged to encourage states that make minimal investments to expand their support for facilities funding. A panel of discussants will explore important implications of the research and dialog with our guests, both in person and online.

We look forward to sharing this research and its implications to help move us closer to the promise of equal educational opportunity for every child through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college.

Thank you for your participation and insights.

## IDRA José A. Cárdenas School Finance Fellows Program

The José A. Cárdenas School Finance Fellows Program was established by IDRA to honor the memory of IDRA founder, Dr. José Angel Cárdenas. The goal of the program is to engage the nation's most promising researchers in investigating school finance solutions that secure equity and excellence for all public school students. Under the leadership of Dr. María "Cuca" Robledo Montecel, IDRA President & CEO, the José A. Cárdenas School Finance Fellows Program focuses on and funds school finance research that builds cross-disciplinary and inter-sector perspectives on equity.

Dr. Cárdenas was actively involved in the school finance reform efforts since the early days of the *Rodríguez vs. San Antonio ISD* litigation when he was superintendent of Edgewood ISD. Following the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court reversal of the *Rodríguez* decision that found the Texas system of school finance unconstitutional, he resigned from Edgewood ISD to establish IDRA to advocate for school finance reform and improved educational opportunities for all children. He led decades-long efforts to achieve school

finance equity and was instrumental in the *Edgewood* court cases. His research, articles and books provided a blueprint for those interested in bringing about future reform in schools and other social institutions.

In the foreword of Dr. Cárdenas' book, *Texas School Finance Reform: An IDRA Perspective*, Dr. James A. Kelly stated: "He worked hard, he played hard. And in doing so, never lost sight of his goal. Because, for José, school finance reform was never really an end in itself. It remained a means to a larger end: to improve teaching and learning for all children; in particular, to improve the life chances of the poor and dispossessed."



**"Every child has the right to a quality education."  
"Todo niño tiene el derecho a una educación de primera clase."**

## 2016 IDRA José A. Cárdenas School Finance Fellow



### **Marialena Rivera, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Education and Community Leadership,  
Texas State University College of Education

Dr. Rivera earned her Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley's Graduate School of Education in education policy. Her mixed methods research focuses on the politics of education policy, educational equity and access, educational privatization, school finance, and school leadership for school improvement. She studied government and business administration as an undergraduate at the University of Texas at Austin and earned a master of science for teachers at Pace University while teaching middle school in the Bronx, New York, and a master of public policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley.

## **IDRA José A. Cárdenas School Finance Fellows Program - 2016 Advisory Committee**

Dr. Jaime Chahín, Dean and Professor of the College of Applied Arts, Texas State University

Dr. Albert Cortez, Retired Director of Policy, IDRA

Mr. Al Kauffman, J.D., Professor of Law, St Mary's University School of Law

Ms. Celina Moreno, J.D., Legislative Staff Attorney, MALDEF

**Watch for our next Call for Applications for the José A. Cárdenas School Finance Fellowship. Sign up for IDRA emails to make sure you receive the notice.**

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**Mary Filardo, M.A.**  
Executive Director,  
21st Century School Fund

Mary Filardo is a leading national authority and advocate for improving the equity, efficiency and quality of public school facility policies and practice for planning, design, construction, management and financing. She has written extensively on these public school facility issues, and developed software to support long-range facilities master planning. She worked in the private sector in residential construction management and was an active parent advocate during the 19 years her children were in the D.C. public schools. She received a bachelor's degree in philosophy and mathematics from St. John's College, is a 1979 Truman Scholar from the District of Columbia, and completed a master's in public policy and public finance at the University of Maryland.



**Raul Villaseñor**  
Managing Director FirstSouthwest, a  
Division of Hilltop Securities, Inc.

Mr. Raul Villaseñor is a managing director with FirstSouthwest, a division of Hilltop Securities a national investment banking firm with headquarters in Dallas. Mr. Villaseñor has been associated with public school finance since being elected as a trustee in 1980 to the Edgewood Independent School District school board in San Antonio. He was on the Edgewood ISD school board that filed the lawsuit, Edgewood v. Kirby, which led to the Texas Supreme Court declaring the Texas public school system unconstitutional. Mr. Villaseñor received his bachelor's degree in computer science from Rusk School of Business at Stephen F. Austin State University in 1974. Mr. Villaseñor has provided investment banking services to Texas public schools since 1983 and spends most of his time advising public school districts in the development of plans of finance to support their capital improvement programs. He is a registered representative of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB), and the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) and holds various securities licenses.



**David G. Hinojosa, J.D.**  
National Director of Policy, IDRA

David G. Hinojosa, J.D., IDRA's National Director of Policy, supports integration and coordination of national policy reform efforts impacting the education of all students, with special emphasis on minority, low-income, ELL and recent immigrant populations. Mr. Hinojosa directs the IDRA EAC-South, spearheading its work in assisting states and school districts to desegregate their educational programs in the area of race, sex, national origin and religion. Mr. Hinojosa received his bachelor's degree with honors certificate from New Mexico State University and earned his J.D. from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law in 2000. Previously, Hinojosa served as a staff attorney, senior litigator, and, for three years, as Southwest Regional Counsel, directing the office's litigation and policy work for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). While with MALDEF, he became a leading litigator and advocate in the area of civil rights, with a focus on educational civil rights impact litigation and policy.



**Jeffrey M. Vincent, Ph.D.**  
Deputy Director and Cofounder of the  
Center for Cities & Schools at the  
University of California, Berkeley

Jeffrey M. Vincent, Ph.D., is deputy director and cofounder of the Center for Cities & Schools (CC+S) at the University of California, Berkeley. CC+S is a policy research and technical assistance center, promoting high quality education as an essential component of urban and metropolitan vitality to create equitable, healthy, and sustainable cities and schools for all. Dr. Vincent has a Ph.D. in city and regional planning from the University of California, Berkeley. His policy and research interests lie at the intersection of land use planning, community development, and educational improvement, with a particular focus on how school facilities serve as educational and neighborhood assets. His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, practitioner-oriented journals, books, and other outlets on a variety of issues, including school siting and design, housing redevelopment, state school construction policies, and joint use of schools. He has also served as a researcher with Building Educational Success Together (BEST), a national collaborative providing research and resources to improve public school facilities.



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