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President Obama set to sign Executive Order on Hispanic Education; IDRA president & CEO, Dr. Robledo Montecel will join signing ceremony

On Tuesday, October 19, President Barack Obama will sign a new executive order to renew the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. IDRA president & CEO, Dr. María "Cuca" Robledo Montecel will be an invited guest at the signing.

Hispanics are more likely than Whites or African Americans to attend the nation's largest high schools, its poorest and most under-resourced schools, and schools with inferior instructional resources. And schools across the country are losing one out of every two Hispanics before they graduate from high school.

"It is no longer viable for schools in this country to continue to see Hispanic youth as 'outsiders' in our schools. About one-fourth of the nation's kindergarteners are Hispanic, and one in five students in public schools are Hispanic," stated Dr. Robledo Montecel. "We need a new national commitment such as this, a commitment to high school graduation for all – and 'all' must mean 'all' – with a path to higher education."

The renewal of the initiative demonstrates the president's strong support for the critical role Hispanics play in the overall prosperity of the nation. IDRA commends the administration's dedication to expanding education opportunities and improving education outcomes for all students.

The White House Initiative Executive Order Signing Ceremony will take place at noon (CST) at the White House. The event can be seen online live at www.whitehouse.gov. The signing will be preceded by a national education summit and call to action event on Monday with key education department and Obama Administration officials and national Hispanic education, community and business leaders. [Details](#) about the summit and executive order signing ceremony are online.

Dr. Robledo Montecel served as an expert panelist for the initiative in 1995, and, this summer, Mr. Juan Sepúlveda, director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, participated in IDRA's ¡YA! Es Tiempo event, a gathering of more than 140 parents, community leaders, students, educators, public officials, and policymakers focused on improving the quality of education for all students in the Rio Grande Valley. Visit IDRA's new web feature, [Courageous Connections](#), to see video highlights.

At that event, IDRA released a [new book](#), *Courage to Connect: A Quality Schools Action Framework*, that shows how communities and schools can work together to be successful with all of their students. IDRA's Quality School Action Framework guides communities and schools in identifying weak areas and strengthening public schools' capacities to graduate and prepare all students for success.

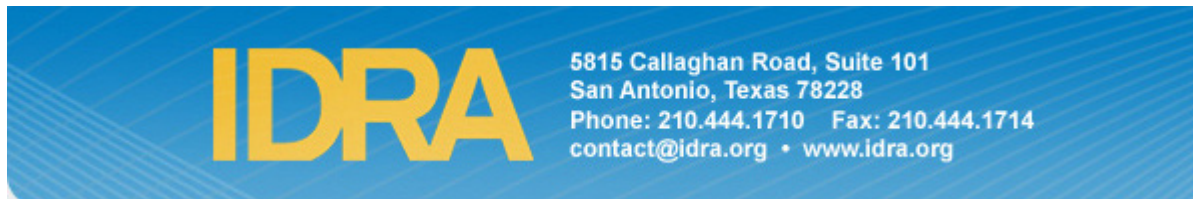
Links

- [White House Initiative Summit and Signing Ceremony](#)
- [Summit livestream \(streaming now\)](#)
- [Courageous Connections](#)
- [Courage to Connect: A Quality Schools Action Framework](#)

The **Intercultural Development Research Association** is an independent private non-profit organization dedicated to realizing the right of every child to a quality education. IDRA strengthens and transforms public education by providing dynamic training; useful research, evaluation, and frameworks for action; timely policy analyses; and innovative materials and programs.

IDRA works hand-in-hand with hundreds of thousands of educators and families each year in communities and classrooms around the country. All our work rests on an unwavering commitment to creating self-renewing schools that value and promote the success of students of all backgrounds.

We are a small organization with a powerful mission: to create schools that work for *all* children.



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