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Honoring the Life of Dr. José Angel Cárdenas

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of IDRA's beloved Founder and Director Emeritus, Dr. José Angel Cárdenas.

On behalf of everyone at IDRA, I offer my deepest condolences to Laura Tobin Cárdenas, José's wife, and the entire Cárdenas family.

Dr. Cárdenas died on Saturday, September 17, 2011, in San Antonio, Texas. He was 80.

I received word of his passing just after a group of civil rights and education leaders had gathered at IDRA to launch a new phase of work to increase school funding equity in Texas. For us, there is no more fitting tribute than to continue the work that Dr. Cárdenas pioneered and to carry forward his vision for an equitable, excellent education for every child.



With deep roots in Laredo, Texas, José always knew that having more than one language and culture (a Spanish-speaking left foot as he put it, having been taught in the U.S. Army that the left foot always comes first), is not a deficit, but a reservoir of strength. He then went on—as teacher, principal, superintendent, university professor, researcher and advocate—to dedicate his life's work to fighting for an educational system that nurtured and recognized children's strengths. He was a champion for all children and carried their concerns from the streets and the schools to the legislature and the courts.

Dr. Cárdenas, it has been the greatest privilege for all of us to have known and worked with you. Your presence, whether we knew you as Pepe, Joe, José, JC or Doc, will be profoundly missed. But you have lit a torch. Within all of us, it burns on.

Gracias por todo, José Angel Cárdenas. I will miss you. Que en paz descanses amigo, educador, defensor de niños y eterna inspiración.

Dr. María "Cuca" Robledo Montecel, President and CEO

Intercultural Development Research Association

Celebration of Life Memorial Service

Celebration of Life Memorial Service for Dr. José Angel Cárdenas will be held this Thursday, September 22 at St. Luke's Catholic Church (4603 Manitou, San Antonio) at 10:00 a.m.

The Cárdenas family has asked that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the José Angel Cárdenas Valued Youth Stipend Fund, IDRA, 5815 Callaghan Road, Suite 101, San Antonio 78228.

If you are in the San Antonio area, we warmly invite you to visit our offices, where we have created a place to reflect, share stories and comfort, read Dr. Cárdenas' work, and leave messages for the Cárdenas family. If you wish to share thoughts online, we have set up an [online memorial webpage](#).

[Online memorial.](#)

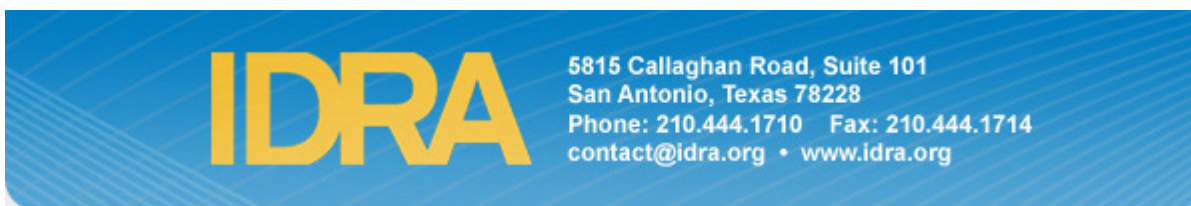
[Cárdenas, pioneering educator for Latinos, dies by Elaine Ayala, San Antonio Express News](#)

[Dr. José Angel Cárdenas, biography.](#)

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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