



Transforming Education by Putting Children First

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IDRA Newsletter – This Issue's Focus: **50th Anniversary – Year in Review**

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Envisioning a Bright Future for All Students

Editor's Note: The following is the text of remarks by IDRA President & CEO Celina Moreno, J.D., at IDRA's 50th Anniversary Gala.

Thank you for celebrating with us tonight as we honor the bold legacy of Dr. José Cárdenas. I think about what it must have been like to take such a leap of faith to leave his superintendent position and start an organization from scratch. Such courage! 50 years later, our team is still driven by his vision.

We believe deeply that all young people have the right to graduate from high-quality public schools that are equitable and well-funded and that prepare every single young person to access and succeed in college – without being forced to abandon their language, gender or cultural identities in order to thrive.



[Keep reading envisioning a bright future article](#)

Anniversary Year in Review

Since the *Rodríguez v. San Antonio ISD* Supreme Court ruling in 1973 allowed a host of inequities in school funding to continue, IDRA has transformed public education by providing dynamic educator training, actionable research, innovative student and parent leadership programs, and bold policy advocacy in the southern United States and across the nation.

[Keep reading year in review article](#)



Highlights of IDRA's 50th Anniversary Calendar of Events

This year, IDRA held events to both celebrate our anniversary and, importantly, do so with members of the education community, public officials, and longtime supporters. These are people who have been part of IDRA's story since the beginning and those who are doing the work with us today.



[Keep reading highlights article](#)



**End of
Year
Giving**

Your end-of-year gift will help us continue our 50-year track record of change for excellence in education for all children.

[Donate Now!](#)

Recognitions in 2023

From proclamations and awards to media coverage, IDRA's anniversary received a number of recognitions this year.

[Read recognitions article](#)



Bold Legacy, Bright Future – IDRA's 50th Anniversary Gala

In November, our anniversary gala brought together over 300 educators, policymakers, researchers, students and advocates from across the nation for a celebration of five decades of advocating excellent and equitable public schools for all students.

It was a special evening to pay tribute to IDRA's bold legacy and to look to a bright future for the young people for whom, and with whom, we do this work.

[Keep reading gala article](#)



Applications are Open for IDRA's Youth Advisory Board in Texas



The graphic features a yellow background with an orange border. On the left, a red starburst says 'Apply Today!'. The text 'IDRA Youth Advisory Board' is prominently displayed in orange and blue. To the right is a photo of four diverse youth. Below the title, a list of activities is preceded by an orange checkmark icon. A circular logo on the right marks IDRA's 50th anniversary. Stacks of books are at the bottom corners, and the website 'www.idra.org' is centered at the bottom.

Apply Today!

IDRA Youth Advisory Board

- Build student networks with other groups of young advocates
- Learn to analyze education policies and research
- Create social media content to engage community members
- Host a youth led event

50th Anniversary IDRA

www.idra.org

We are looking for 9-12th grade public school students in Texas. IDRA values the voices and perspectives of all young Texans. Students with disabilities, LGBTQ+ students, and students from Black, Latinx/e, Arab, Asian, Pacific Islander, or Native communities are highly encouraged to apply

Selected board members will get:

- Virtual 40-week program with \$3,000 stipend (5 hours a week)
- Computer to use during the program
- Training on research, advocacy, and community engagement strategies to sharpen relationship-building and presentation skills
- At least two in-person meetings to strengthen relationships with IDRA staff and other Youth Advisory Board members

Application Deadline: Friday, January 12 @11:59 pm CT

[Learn More & Go to Application](#)

Alamo STEM Ecosystem Professional Development Conference

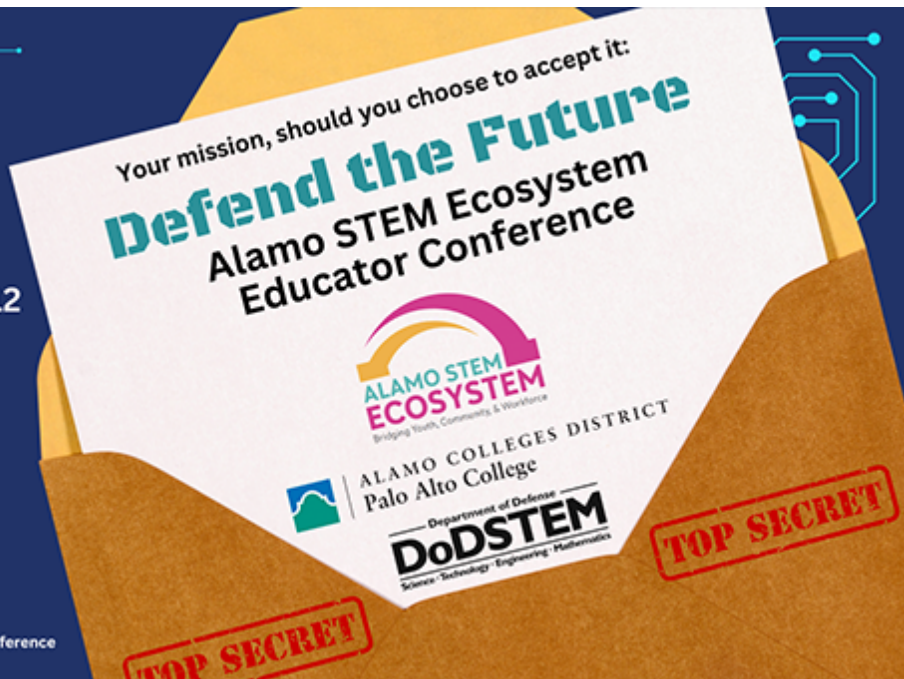


Calling all pre-
and in-service
teachers
interested in K-12
STEM learning!



February 3, 2024
8:30-2:30 pm CT
Free, 6 CE Hours
Palo Alto College

www.alamostemecosystem.org/conference



The Alamo STEM Ecosystem Professional Development Conference is an annual event for San Antonio-area teachers and pre-service teachers. San Antonio is a city rich in STEM-related organizations that provide innovative and relevant resources for teachers. The conference goal is to provide access to and information about these innovative resources through a free, one-day conference specifically for teachers at all career stages. Co-led by IDRA, the Alamo STEM Ecosystem is pleased to announce the 2024 conference will be 100% in-person, hosted by the Palo Alto College STEM Center.

[Register & See Call for Presentation Proposals](#)

Recent News

Media Coverage

PEN America Joins Seven Other Groups to Support Lawsuit to Overturn Texas Book Ban Law As Unconstitutional, November 30, 2023

IDRA President and CEO Celina Moreno | ¡Nosotros! with Elaine Ayala, November 17, 2023

Parents Are People, This American Life podcast, Chana Joffe-Walt from WBEZ Chicago, November 10, 2023

Commentary: Civil rights icon Dolores Huerta, 93 and 'still raising hell,' by Nancy M. Preyor-Johnson, San Antonio Express-News, November 3, 2023

Critics Warn Passing Vouchers in Texas Will Revive Segregated Schools, by Simone Carter, Dallas Observer, November 3, 2023

Markey Joins Murphy, Pressley In Announcing Bicameral Legislation to End Criminalization of Students, Invest in Counselors, Safer Environment for Kids, November 2, 2023

Black Students Retaliated Against By Administration After Being Called: "Porch Monkeys" and "N-Words," by Observer Staff, October 31, 2023

Podcast: Knowledge is Power: 50 Years of Advancing Education Equity with IDRA, by Scott Atnip, Weekly Witness by Texas Impact, October 27, 2023

IDRA 50th Anniversary, Celina Moreno and Aurelio Montemayor with host Martha Tijerina, CTSA Catholic Television of San Antonio, October 26 (also ran on Spectrum Channel News 15)

[See these news stories and other recent media coverage with links on our website.](#)

Other IDRA News

December 13, 2023 – Texas School Counselors Raise Concerns about College Advising – IDRA Releases Study of the Role of Middle School Counselors in Supporting Students' College Readiness

December 12, 2023 – Southern Education Policy Update: Focusing on School Discipline and School Policing

December 11, 2023 – Youth Advisory Board Call for Applications

November 28, 2023 – Giving Tuesday – Support educational justice

November 15, 2023 – IDRA 50th Anniversary Gala Highlights

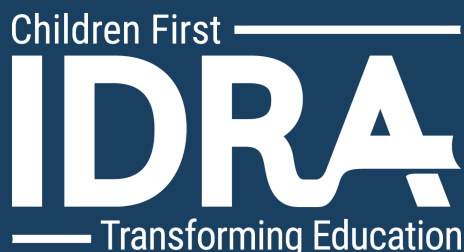
November 10, 2023 – Invitation – Paving the Way for Educational Justice – IDRA Archives Donation Reception

November 8, 2023 – Texas Education Policy Update – Alert: The Texas Legislature and Texas Education Agency Need to Hear from You! (English) • (Español)

October 31, 2023 – October 2023 Issues of the IDRA Newsletter – This Issue's Focus: Opportunity

October 16, 2023 – Texas Education Policy Update – Alert: Third Special Session Called!

[See these eNews with links on our website.](#)



IDRA is an independent, non-profit organization. Our mission is to achieve equal educational opportunity for every child through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college.

[Reach Out To Us](#)

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