



NATIONAL
DROPOUT
PREVENTION
CENTER/NETWORK

209 Martin Street Clemson University Clemson, SC 29631 www.dropoutprevention.org

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Additional Information Contact:

Dr. Sandy Addis, Director
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
Phone: 864-656-2599
Email: ndpc@clemson.edu

Edward Lee Vargas Elected to National Dropout Prevention Network Board of Directors

Clemson, S.C. (December 2015) – On October 25, 2015, in San Antonio, Texas, Dr. Edward Lee Vargas and five other nationally-recognized individuals were elected to seats on the National Dropout Prevention Network (NDPN) Board of Directors. The National Dropout Prevention Network Board is a body of 25 national education, business and government leaders who guide the research, services and initiatives of the National Dropout Prevention Network, the nation's oldest and most comprehensive provider of school dropout prevention resources.

Dr. Edward Lee Vargas serves as Executive Vice President of the AVID Center, a non-profit organization whose mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. Prior to joining AVID, he served several large urban school districts in the western United States. He was twice named State Superintendent of the Year (in 2006 in California and in 2014 in Washington). Most recently, as Superintendent of one of the largest and most diverse school districts in the state of Washington, he led initiatives that increased graduation rates from 69% to 92%. Dr. Vargas has expertise in numerous areas including technology integration and dropout recovery. He currently serves as President of ALAS, the National Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents based in Washington, DC. He earned his Doctorate in Education from the University of Washington.

Dr. Vargas and the other individuals elected to the Board represent practitioners, researchers, government leaders and product developers who are on the cutting edge of local, state and national efforts to improve the nation's high school graduation rates. Bob Collins, Chair of the NDPN Board, stated, "These new Board members significantly enhance leadership of the National Dropout Prevention Network. Dr. Vargas is an accomplished school system leader who has shown that graduation rates can be significantly improved in a variety of settings and for all student groups. His experience and knowledge will be invaluable to work of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network."

Dr. Sandy Addis, Director of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network at Clemson University, stated, "We are fortunate that Dr. Vargas has joined the NDPN Board. As one of the

nation's most respected school district superintendents, he can guide us to better support district leaders. He is now a senior leader of the AVID Center, where he leads the deployment of AVID strategies dedicated to accelerating the achievement of the underrepresented in college, career and life. His perspective will add additional knowledge and experience to our governing board."

Other national leaders joining the NDPN Board of Directors include Ms. Sari Factor, Chief Executive Officer of Edgenuity, Inc.; Dr. Emily Hernandez, Assistant Professor of Education at California State University, Los Angeles; Mr. Thom Jackson, Owner, President and Chief Executive Officer of EdisonLearning, Inc.; Mr. Robert Sainz, Assistant General Manager for Economic and Workforce Development for the City of Los Angeles; and Dr. Linda Sue Warner, Special Assistant to the President on Tribal Affairs at Northwestern Oklahoma A&M College.

The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network was established at Clemson University 1986 to support the efforts of educators, government and community leaders who strive to see every child graduate from high school ready for a career and/or college. The National Dropout Prevention Network Board of Directors guides and supports the organization in the planning and conduct of conference events, research, publications and service development. The Board meets three times per year and maintains ongoing involvement and support through conference calls and committee assignments.

About the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (NDPC/N)

Established in 1986 with a mission to reduce dropout rates, the NDPC/N shares solutions for student success and dropout prevention through its clearinghouse function, active research and evaluation projects, publications, and a variety of professional development activities and conferences. The organization's website—www.dropoutprevention.org—is the nation's leading resource in providing effective, research-based solutions to engaging students and reducing dropout. The NDPC/N is housed in the Eugene T. Moore School of Education at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina.

-end-