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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: October 5, 2009

Education Secretary Veronica C. García to Address National Latino Education Conference Tuesday in Washington DC

SANTA FE –Secretary of Education Veronica C. García will speak at a day-long national conference focused on Latino youth and education tomorrow, Tuesday, October 6, 2009, at the Pew Hispanic Center in Washington, DC.

The event, hosted by the Pew Hispanic Center, Education Writers Association, and the National Panel of Education Researchers, will bring together policymakers, journalists and academics to explore issues related to the schooling of Latino children.

Secretary García was invited to represent a state's perspective on the event's first panel, "The Federal Front: How will policy makers address Latino issues." The other two panelists joining Secretary García are Juan Sepulveda, executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans and Carmen Nazario, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families with the federal Health and Human Services Department.

"The Latino-Hispanic achievement gap is a serious issue with tremendous impact for both New Mexico and the nation," said Secretary García. "I'm honored to have been invited to provide my perspective in shaping future federal policies. It is my belief that we need to genuinely include Latino-Hispanic parents and communities as true partners in addressing the problem. The achievement gap and Latino-Hispanic student proficiency and graduation rates must be tackled with bold policies."

The Pew Hispanic Center will release preliminary finding from a survey of Latino teens and young adults about their attitudes toward high school and their plans for college or work, and a panel of Latino students will speak to the conference about their challenges for another panel.

Other featured speakers include prominent researchers from Arizona State University, Brown University, University of California-Berkeley, and New York University. Los Angeles school board member Yolie Flores Aguilar will discuss community responses to Latino children and youth.

For more information about the conference, contact Education Writers Association at 202-452-9830 or at www.ewa.org

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