



MASBA May E-Newsletter

Irene Galan-Rodriguez
MASBA President
Big Spring ISD Board Member

My Fellow MASBA Members, Sponsors, and Friends of Public Education,

The Mexican American School Board Members Association was founded in 1970 by José A. Cárdenas, superintendent of the Edgewood Independent School District in San Antonio. Although Mexican Americans were a substantial part of the population, they were poorly represented on most public school boards in the state. In the early 1970s, for instance, only around 400, or 4 per cent, of 10,000 school board members in 1,400 school districts were Mexican Americans. MASBA was incorporated on December 6, 1973...to promote educational opportunities for all public school children.

Although the numbers of school districts has dropped to approximately 1266 over the last 40 years since the inception of MASBA, Hispanic students, according to the Texas Education Association [2014], now make up 51.6% of state-wide enrollment. Highlights from the 2016 TASB Member Survey identified 18% of Texas School Board Members as Hispanic.

Hispanics represent half of our state-wide student enrollment, yet less than a fourth of school board members state-wide are Hispanic. (Maybe the TEA Commissioner will soon appoint a Hispanic to one of the [vacant Deputy positions](#)? As there are many qualified individuals who would be an asset to the organization.)

Recent numbers from the Office of the State Demographer, which says Hispanics will outnumber Anglos by 2020 — that's four years from now — and will account for more than half of the state's population by 2042.

When MASBA updated its mission in the early 90s, it identified four major areas:

- A. **Make high quality education possible to ALL students.**
- B. **Increase parental and community participation in public governance.**
- C. **Improve academic achievement.**
- D. **Advocate equitable school finance.**

Highlights from the 2016 TASB Member Survey has identified the following areas from its members as areas of importance and focus over the next five years. The top five in order were:

1. **School finance**
2. **Advocacy**

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3. Promoting public education
4. Training
5. Standardized testing

I am proud to announce the MASBA/TASB partnership. MASBA and the TASB affiliates, who have been a long time supporter of the MASBA vision, have agreed to a partnership. This partnership will allow MASBA to carry its vision and commitment to advocacy throughout the school districts of Texas. Additionally, MASBA members will learn how TASB's commitment and services will benefit their school districts.

MASBA's mission coupled with the TASB's focus initiative will be an asset to all Texas school districts. The MASBA/TASB partnership will contribute to the betterment of education - ensuring and advocating quality education for ALL.

Juntos Podemos!

Best Regards,



Irene Galan-Rodriguez
MASBA 2016 President

MASBA Announces 2016 Scholarships

Available to MASBA Member District Senior Students



MASBA will award \$10,000 in scholarships for 2016 at the MASBA Summer Reception, June 17, 2016 at the La Quinta Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX, during TASB SLI South. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. \$5,000 will be awarded by the ERO/MASBA Dream Scholarship Award, \$3,000 will be awarded through MASBA, the El Paso Stem Foundation and Johnson Controls (JCI) and MASBA will award \$2,000. The



scholarships are available to all MASBA member district senior students.

2016 Molcajete & La Campana Award Recipient



Congratulations to Congressman Rubén Hinojosa

Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (TX-15)
Member of Congress

Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX) was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1996. He is presently serving his tenth and final term as the representative for the 15th Congressional District of Texas.

Throughout his career in the private sector, where he served twenty years as President and Chief Financial Officer of a family-owned food processing company, and now in public service, Rubén Hinojosa has consistently displayed his dedication to educational excellence.



Early in his career, Hinojosa was elected to the local school board and worked to address these issues in his community. From the school board, he moved to the Texas State Board of Education, where he served for 10 years through 1984. Soon after that he was elected Founding Chairman of the Board of Trustees for South Texas Community College, a position he held from 1993 through 1996. Hinojosa was instrumental in leading the efforts to successfully create the South Texas I.S.D. magnet high schools system and the new South Texas Community College.

Currently, Congressman Hinojosa serves on two committees: the Committee on Education and the Workforce, where he has served as chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training since 2007, and the Committee on Financial Services.

For nearly two decades, Congressman Hinojosa fought vigorously to increase federal investments in education and other issues.

Congressman Hinojosa is recognized nationally as a powerful voice for communities traditionally left behind in America's education system: low-income families, students of color, students with disabilities, English language learners, DREAMERS, and the children of migrant and seasonal farm workers. In 2015, Congressman Hinojosa joined President Obama for the signing of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and believes that all students should have access to a

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MASBA
Education Service Center (ESC)
Members:



well-rounded, high-quality education. In his Congressional District, he also worked to promote STEM education through "The Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology Week (HESTEC) hosted at the University of South Texas Rio Grande Valley and with the South Texas Literacy Coalition to promote reading and writing literacy in schools served by Region I Education Service Center.

As chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' (CHC) Education Task Force for many years, Congressman Hinojosa has focused on federal education programs that are critical to Latino students and families, often referred to as the Hispanic Education Action Plan (HEAP). Through this plan, the Congressman has worked with his CHC colleagues to secure federal investments in education - starting with \$8.5 billion in 1998 and growing to over \$17.6 billion in FY10.

In the 1998 amendments to the Higher Education Act, the Congressman succeeded in establishing a separate Title V dedicated to the development of HSIs. Congressman Hinojosa's leadership has also enabled the passage of an unprecedented number of measures that boost the achievement of Hispanics in higher education. As chair of the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness, Congressman Hinojosa helped guide into law the historic College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007.

On March 30, 2010, Congressman Hinojosa joined President Barack Obama for the signing of H.R. 4871 – the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. This legislation represents the single largest increase in student financial aid since the G.I. bill was signed in 1944. This bill invests \$2.55 billion in historically Black Colleges and Universities and in Hispanic-Serving Institutions and other Minority Serving Institutions.

Congressman Hinojosa earned a Bachelor's in Business Administration and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Texas in Austin and in Edinburg, respectively. He is married to Martha Lopez Hinojosa and has one son, Ruben Jr., and four daughters Laura, Iliana, Kaitlin and Karén.

During the incorporation and early years of MASBA, Congressman Hinojosa, who at the time was a Mercedes ISD board member, was president of MASBA, leading the organization. Over forty years later, the ground work and vision of Congressman Hinojosa and early founders remains strong. Congressman Hinojosa provided the "ingredients" of change and direction - and has truly *answered the bell*. Congressman Hinojosa is the first recipient of both of the coveted MASBA awards.

About MASBA

The Mexican American School Board Members Association (MASBA) is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization.

Our members are school districts, their board members/trustees, administrators and education service centers.

The mission of the Mexican American School Board Members Association is

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MASBA Points of Contact

to:

- Make high quality education possible to ALL students.
 - Increase parental and community participation in public governance.
 - Improve academic achievement.
 - Advocate for equitable school finance.
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[Sam Guzman](#)

Director

Operations & Development

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Communications

Membership/Sponsorship
