

AVANCE Names Rick Noriega to Serve as President and CEO

Houston, Texas-AVANCE Inc. announces the appointment of Rick Noriega to lead the 36-year-old nonprofit organization as its president and chief executive officer.

Robert Erbrick, AVANCE's national chairman of the board stated, "The National Board of Directors could not be more pleased to have Rick Noriega as the new President and CEO of AVANCE. We are fortunate to have someone of his caliber take the reigns as we move forward to expand AVANCE, furthering our mission to have a positive impact on children and families living in at-risk communities throughout the country.

Noriega expressed, "It is an honor to have this opportunity to work for an organization with such a critical mission: giving parents the tools they need today to teach their children to be the leaders of tomorrow. Early childhood education is a proven game-changer, and this is a game we must win if our nation is to continue to prosper." Noriega further stated, "We will build on the great work of my predecessors Sylvia Garcia and Dr. Gloria Rodriguez to make the 21st century AVANCE the organization that transforms current trends."

Noriega assumes his duties September 21, 2009. He succeeds Sylvia G. Garcia, a 30-year AVANCE employee who served as president and chief executive officer since 2006. Ms. Garcia will continue as president emeritus during the period of transition.

AVANCE-Houston joined the AVANCE national network in 1988, and is one of 12 chapters in Texas and California and New Mexico. Since then, AVANCE-Houston has served more than 30,000 children and their parents through comprehensive, community-based education programs. In partnership with other agencies, AVANCE offers programs in 16 sites throughout greater Houston.

For the past 2 years, *Hispanic Business Magazine* has ranked AVANCE among its Top 10 US Nonprofits serving Hispanics.