

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EDUCATION EQUALITY PROJECT CO-FOUNDERS REVEREND AL SHARPTON AND CHANCELLOR JOEL KLEIN ANNOUNCE APPOINTMENT OF RAUL YZAGUIRRE TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Distinguished Advocate for Hispanic Civil Rights Adds Powerful Voice to Call for Public Education Reform**

NEW YORK, April 21, 2009 - The Education Equality Project co-founders Rev. Al Sharpton and New York City Schools Chancellor Joel I. Klein today announced that Raul Yzaguirre, Executive Director of the Center for Community Development and Civil Rights at Arizona State University and one of the country's leading advocates for Hispanic civil rights, has joined the Education Equality Project's Board of Directors.

"Raul Yzaguirre has been fighting for greater equity for Hispanic-Americans since he was a teen-ager in south Texas in the 1950s," Rev. Sharpton said. "During his remarkable career he built the National Council of La Raza into the country's leading voice of Hispanic advocacy and has advised U.S. Presidents, international corporations, and universities on civil rights issues. I'm thrilled that he has agreed to join the leadership of the Education Equality Project and fight for the public school reform our nation's underserved students urgently need."

"Raul Yzaguirre is a legend in the civil rights battles of the past half-century," Chancellor Klein said. "I'm thrilled that he has chosen to join the Education Equality Project in taking on the leading civil right issue of our day: the nation's dysfunctional urban schools and our failure to generations of educate inner-city children."

Mr. Yzaguirre began his career in the 1950s working to improve conditions for Hispanic World War II veterans in Texas. He later became President of the National Council of La Raza, a position he held for three decades; under his leadership the group grew from its origins as a southwestern Mexican-American rights agency to the nation's foremost Hispanic advocacy organization, with headquarters in Washington, D.C., and hundreds of affiliates across the country. He has received several national and international honors.

"I am pleased to join a distinguished group of American leaders in a challenging quest to bring about excellence and educational equity to our troubled systems of education. Nothing less than our economic well-being and our national security are at stake," Mr. Yzaguirre stated.

Mr. Yzaguirre will sit on the Education Equality Project's Board of Directors with Democrats for Education Reform Executive Director Joe Williams, who serves as President of the Board; past Colorado Governor and Strong American Schools Chairman Roy Romer; Marquette Institute Founder and Director Howard Fuller; and Harvard Business School Professor Stacey Childress.

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**ABOUT EDUCATION EQUALITY PROJECT**

The Education Equality Project is leading a civil rights movement to eliminate the racial and ethnic achievement gap in public education by working to create an effective school for every child.

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