

Angela Valenzuela, Ph.D.



Angela Valenzuela is a professor in both the Educational Policy and Planning Program within the Department of Educational Administration at the University of Texas at Austin and holds a courtesy appointment in the Cultural Studies in Education Program within the Department of Curriculum & Instruction. She also serves as the director of the University of Texas Center for Education Policy.

A Stanford University graduate, her previous teaching positions were in Sociology at Rice University in Houston, Texas (1990-98), as well as a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Houston (1998-99). She is also the author of **Subtractive Schooling: U.S. Mexican Youth and the Politics of Caring and Leaving Children Behind: How "Texas-style" Accountability Fails**

Latino Youth. She also founded and operates an education blog titled, **Educational Equity, Politics, and Policy in Texas**.

She served as co-editor of the *Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, as well as the *Anthropology and Education Quarterly*. A recent Fulbright Scholar, Valenzuela spent her 2007-08 academic year in Mexico where she taught in the College of Law at the University of Guanajuato in Guanajuato, Guanajuato and conducted research in the areas of immigration, human rights, and binational relations. She has also been a Cissy McDaniel Parker and Haskew Fellow. Valenzuela's research and teaching interests are in the sociology of education, minority youth in schools, educational policy, and urban education reform.

Valenzuela is also the new director of the **National Latino Education Research Agenda Project (NLERAP)** that aims to create a teacher education pipeline for Latino/a youth, nationally. With support from a grant from the Ford Foundation, this work builds on the efforts and advocacy of Latino/a education and business leaders nationwide. NLERAP has been housed at the University of Texas at Austin since November 6, 2009.

Paul Saldaña



Born and raised in Austin, Texas, Mr. Saldaña has spent more than 25 years in local government affairs, public policy, public relations and political consulting. Saldaña served as a Political Consultant, Campaign Director and the Chief of Staff for the first elected Hispanic Mayor of Austin, Gus Garcia. As Chief of Staff, he served as the lead policy advisor to the Mayor developing comprehensive public policies and strategies in the areas of public safety, transportation, affordable housing, telecommunications, public finance, water/wastewater issues, economic development, public education, MBE/WBE issues and health care. In addition, he was directly responsible for managing media, community and intergovernmental relations.

Saldaña serves as a President and Principal of Saldaña Public Relations, a strategic consultant, advisor and contributor on quality of life issues including public education, voting, economics, healthcare, redevelopment, gentrification, and affordable housing to governmental entities, clients and the media. Saldaña also serves as a political consultant and contributor on national, state & local campaigns.

Mr. Saldaña is a firm believer in giving back to the community through volunteer work, service on various Boards and Commissions and being actively involved in issues that enhance and impact the quality of life for all citizens of Austin. He is Co-Founder of Hispanic Advocates Business Leaders of Austin (HABLA) a local Hispanic Think Tank group committed to developing sustainable solutions to quality of life issues. Saldaña currently serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the Austin Geriatrics RBJ Senior Housing Center in Austin. In 2013, he was elected to the National Board of Directors of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR). He previously served as the Chairman of the Board for the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Executive Board of Directors for the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, Executive Board of Directors and Vice Chair of Legislation for the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce (TAMACC). In June, 2016 the Young Hispanic Professionals Association of Austin awarded Saldaña the Legacy Award for his years of community advocacy, leadership and commitment to quality of life issues.

In 2007, Saldaña was also among thirty-five national Hispanic executives selected to participate in the Inaugural National Hispanic Executive Leadership Academy at the prestigious University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. In 2014, Saldaña was elected to a four- year term to the Austin Independent School Board of Trustees, as the Trustee for District 6, which includes 19 AISD campuses. In January 2016, Saldaña was elected as Vice-President of the AISD Board of Trustees by his colleagues. Saldaña serves as Chair of the AISD Board Oversight Committee on Educational Excellence Through Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. And represents AISD on the Joint Intergovernmental Subcommittee of the City of Austin, Travis County and AISD and Vice Chair of the City of Austin's Regional Affordability Committee.

Saldaña is married to Ms. Lisa Vasquez-Saldaña, an elementary bilingual & special education school teacher and has four sons, Ryan Alexander, age 24, Joshua Daniel, age 21, Jacob Nicholas, age 7 & Jonathan Luke age 3.