FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2024

CLLARO Announces CEO Transition

Dr. Michael Cortés appointed interim President and CEO

DENVER — Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization (CLLARO) announced today that Dr. Michael Cortés will become the organization's interim president and CEO on March 18, 2024, following the departure of current president and CEO Mario M. Carrera on March 15, 2024.

Under Mario's leadership since 2022, CLLARO has made significant strides in expanding the organization's programs and deepening relationships with Colorado partners, legislators, and nonprofits.

"On behalf of the Board, I want to thank Mario for his valuable contributions over the past two years. Mario elevated CLLARO to new heights with a substantial increase in the budget, creation of a new Research Institute, and establishment of a statewide Latino Summit," said Federico F. Peña, Board Chair of CLLARO.

"It's been a privilege to serve as the leader of CLLARO and work alongside a passionate and driven team who care deeply about our Colorado Latino communities," said Mario M. Carrera, President and CEO of CLLARO. "I'm thankful for the team's support after two years of elevating CLLARO and am confident in Michael's continued commitment to lead CLLARO on an interim basis as the Board searches for a permanent replacement. I am grateful for this opportunity and appreciate the Board and staff for their understanding during this unexpected but necessary transition given my family's health challenges."

Dr. Cortés is Scholar in Residence at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work. He previously served as Executive Director of CLLARO from 2018 to 2021 and has been a board member since 1994. He brings over 50 years of experience in teaching, research, and community service, including helping nonprofits build their capacity for conducting public policy research and analysis.

“I look forward to supporting the CLLARO team and am grateful for their trust in continuing our efforts to evolve the organization and empower our Latino communities,” said Cortés.

All plans remain in place for the 2nd Annual Latino Summit and 29th Bernie Valdez Awards scheduled for August 8th and 9th this year at the Auraria Campus and the Bronco’s Empower Field at Mile High.

About CLLARO
The Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization (CLLARO), formerly known as LARASA, is a non-profit organization established in 1964. CLLARO’s mission is to empower Latinos through leadership development, advocacy, and policy research to strengthen Colorado. CLLARO’s vision for the future is a State of Colorado where Latinos achieve their fullest potential. For more information, visit https://www.cllaro.org/

###

Media Contact
Geneva Rodriguez
Marketing & Communications Manager, CLLARO
Email: geneva.rodriguez@cllaro.org
Phone: 303-722-5150