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New Jersey Public Charter School Leaders Release Statement Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month

(Newark, NJ) – As we enter the second half of Hispanic Heritage Month, public charter school leaders across New Jersey are highlighting the contributions that Hispanic-Americans have made in their communities, and the vital role that Hispanic heritage plays in the United States. New Jersey’s Public Charter School students are 37% Latinx, and Latinx students in charter schools are not just adding to the vibrancy of their school communities, but also achieving comparatively stronger academic outcomes.

“Public charter schools across New Jersey believe in giving students of all backgrounds and from every zip code access to quality public education. New Jersey’s public charter school students are 37% Latinx, and our schools are making a real difference in the lives of Hispanic students and their families every day. This month is about them, and we will be spending this month celebrating Hispanic heritage and honoring our Hispanic students and community members,” said Harry Lee, President and CEO of the New Jersey Public Charter School Association.

“Equity and excellence go hand in hand. At our school, we celebrate diversity and inclusivity. Our Hispanic students and their families are an integral part of our community, and we are proud to celebrate them and their cultures this month. Our community is made stronger by our diversity, and Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to honor the value that our Latinx families bring to our community,” said Monica Villafuerte, Executive Director and Founding Principal of Crethaven Academy Charter School.

“At the Learning Community Charter School, we pride ourselves on teaching acceptance and embracing cultural differences. Our Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Leadership Committee formed last year was thrilled to provide our teachers a catalog of resources to use in their classrooms to teach our 640 students about LatinX history, traditions and how we are significant members of society. We are proud to see our LatinX community share their culture with one another and embrace diversity since these are the significant groundings that will create an equitable and inclusive learning environment,” said Felicia Henderson, 1st Grade teacher and BIPOC Leadership Committee Chair at Learning Community Charter School.

“New Jersey’s public charter schools are serving so many of our Hispanic students in the state, and I thank them for all they do to ensure that every child, no matter their background, has the tools they need to succeed. I am thrilled to join them in celebrating Hispanic Heritage month in communities across our state and honoring all that Hispanic heritage has brought to New Jersey, and this country,” said Senator Nellie Pou, Chair of the Legislative Latino Caucus.

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About New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association

The New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association (NJPCSA) is the non-profit membership association that represents the state's charter school community and, by extension, charter school students and their parents. There are currently 87 charter schools in New Jersey serving 60,000 students. We are committed to advancing quality public education for New Jersey's children through the cultivation of excellent public charter schools. The Association seeks to influence legislative and policy environments, leverage collective advocacy, and provide resources to support our members in developing and operating high quality, public charter schools.