

DR. BLANDINA CARDENAS

Dr. Blandina Cardenas is currently Professor of Educational Leadership and Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

She has served as the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Educational Testing Service, a founding member of the Board of the Fundacion Solidaridad Mexicana Americana, a member of the board of The American Association of Higher Education, and a leader of numerous state and local organizations in education, voting rights, public service, leadership development and children's concerns.



From 1989 to 1992 she served as Director of the Southwest Center on Values, Achievement and Community in Education, affiliated with the LBJ Institute at Southwest Texas State University. She came to SWT after three years as Director of the Office of Minorities in Higher Education at the American Council on Education.

In January of 1993, she completed her second six-year term as a member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

She has served as Vice-President for Institutional Advancement at Our Lady of the Lake University and as Director of Training at the Intercultural Development Research Association. In 1977, she became Commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare where she led the nation's Head Start Program, the Child Welfare Program, the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, the Day Care Service Program, the Youth Services Program and the Child Development Research Program.

Formerly a teacher of both the pre-school and high school levels, Dr. Cardenas also served as Director of Development of Innovative Programs at the Edgewood Independent School District, where she designed an extensive array of programs which became national models. As early as 1969, Dr. Cardenas pioneered the implementation of bilingual infant stimulation programs, bilingual early childhood education for severely handicapped children, programs to credential teachers' aides, and youth tutoring youth and youth involvement in experiential learning.

She has served as an expert witness in numerous cases pursuing equity for disadvantaged children and as a consultant to the U.S. Justice Department and the Department of Education Office of Civil Rights. She has also served as a consultant to Children's Television Workshop, Bilingual Children's Television, and more than 200 national, state and local educational agencies and organizations.

Dr. Cardenas has been an official United States representative to education and children's organizations in the People's Republic of China, the Inter-American Children's Institute of the Organization of American States, UNESCO, and the Organization for Economic and Cultural Development in Paris, France. In 1980, she served as an official delegate to the United Nations World Conference on Women in Copenhagen, Denmark.

A native Texan, Dr. Cardenas received her bachelor of journalism from The University of Texas at Austin and her doctorate in Education Administration from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.