Dr. Almi G. Abeyta, Showcased By Influential Women, Champions Equity, Leadership, And Student Success In Urban Education

CHELSEA, MA, UNITED STATES, September 23, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A Nationally Recognized Education Leader, Mentor, and Superintendent, Almi is Dedicated to Helping Students Get “To and Through” College



Chelsea, Massachusetts – For Dr. Almudena “Almi” G. Abeyta, educational leadership begins with a simple but powerful question: What do students need to succeed? As Superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools, Almi has centered her leadership on instructional excellence, equity, trust, and ensuring that every student has access to the opportunities necessary to thrive. Her approach is grounded in the belief that students succeed when educators know them by name, understand their strengths and stories, and remain committed to supporting them throughout their educational journeys.

A proud product of public schools in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Almi understands firsthand the transformative role that public education can play. She entered education as a classroom teacher in 1996 and went on to serve in progressively broader leadership roles, including principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent. Across each position, she has remained focused on teaching and learning, while developing systems that support educators and expand opportunities for students.

For the past seven years, Almi has led Chelsea Public Schools as superintendent. She views her role as that of the chief executive of the school system, responsible for establishing vision and direction while empowering a strong leadership team to carry that vision across departments and throughout the district. At the same time, she believes effective district leadership requires

visibility and connection. She makes it a priority to be present in schools, maintain close relationships with principals, and keep instructional practice at the heart of important decisions.

Her leadership philosophy is built on trust, collaboration, authenticity, and the belief that talented educators can create meaningful change when they are properly supported. Rather than attempting to manage every aspect of a complex school system herself, Almi works to establish clear expectations and empower capable leaders to execute them.

“As a leader, I have a different view of the chess board,” Almi explains. “I am not asking for you to understand my decisions. I am asking you to trust me.”

That perspective reflects her understanding of the superintendent’s responsibility. Leadership often involves seeing the broader picture, making difficult decisions, and maintaining focus on long-term goals, even when individual decisions may not immediately be understood by everyone involved.

A Career Grounded In Public Education

Almi’s educational journey began in the classroom, giving her a practical understanding of the work educators undertake every day. Her progression through school and district leadership has allowed her to view education from multiple perspectives, from direct classroom instruction to the broader systems that shape student outcomes.

Her academic preparation has been extensive. She earned her Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she also earned two master’s degrees. Prior to her graduate studies at Harvard, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Communication and Journalism from the University of New Mexico. She also holds school leadership and superintendent certifications.

These experiences have complemented her professional leadership and reinforced her commitment to continuous learning. Almi understands that educational systems must evolve while remaining firmly focused on their central purpose: serving students.

Her work has also earned national recognition. Among her honors are Latina Administrator of the Year, the La Lucha Award, Massachusetts Commonwealth Heroine recognition, and recognition as an ALX100 Honoree. She has participated in fellowships and national education leadership initiatives and has contributed as an author, further extending her influence beyond her own district.

Mentoring The Next Generation Of Women

For Almi, influence is not simply about holding a leadership position. It is about creating opportunities for others to become leaders themselves.

She believes being an influential woman means mentoring the next generation of women who aspire to lead in education. Leadership development is deeply important to her, and she sees a responsibility to lift up the women around her.

Almi describes this philosophy as paying it forward. The support she has received throughout her own career has shaped her understanding of the importance of mentorship, and she wants to ensure that future generations have access to the same kind of encouragement and guidance.

Her advice to younger women is straightforward: find mentors and ask.

She encourages aspiring leaders to identify women they admire and reach out to them directly. A simple email asking someone to meet for coffee and share their experiences can be the beginning of a valuable mentoring relationship.

Almi has experienced this from the other side as well. Younger women have reached out to her, and she treasures those moments. She enjoys learning about their ambitions, helping them navigate challenges, and encouraging them as they prepare to become the leaders who will eventually take her place.

For Almi, mentorship is therefore not an occasional activity. It is part of leadership itself.

Hard Work, Authenticity, And Difficult Decisions
When reflecting on the foundation of her own success, Almi points to hard work. She was taught from an early age that meaningful accomplishments require commitment and perseverance, and she has carried that lesson throughout her career.

She also understands that leadership requires the willingness to make difficult decisions. In complex educational environments, leaders frequently face competing priorities, challenging circumstances, and decisions that may not satisfy everyone. Almi believes effective leadership requires remaining grounded in the larger mission and having the courage to make choices that serve that mission.

Another principle that has remained central to her leadership came from a professor during her studies to become a school administrator. The advice was to be genuine and not change who she was simply to fit an expected image of leadership.

Almi has carried that lesson throughout her career. Authenticity, she believes, matters because leaders cannot effectively serve their communities if they are constantly trying to become someone they are not.

Keeping Students At The Center
The challenges facing education are complex, but Almi consistently returns to the same priority:

students.

She is particularly focused on making sure students receive the support they need to succeed and that no child falls through the cracks. Academic fundamentals, including ensuring students are reading at grade level, remain important elements of that work.

Her commitment extends beyond high school graduation. Almi wants students to attend college and, importantly, successfully complete their degrees.

Working in an urban school district means supporting students who may be the first members of their families to attend college. These students may have the academic ability and ambition to succeed but lack familiarity with the systems involved in applying, financing, and navigating higher education.

Almi and her colleagues therefore work diligently to explain those systems, including how students can avoid unnecessary debt and make informed decisions about college.

For first-generation college-going students, getting accepted is only one part of the journey. Almi describes the goal as getting students “to and through” college.

She encourages students to return for support if they encounter difficulties during their freshman year. Whether they need help identifying campus resources, navigating a challenge, or simply finding the right direction, she wants them to know that their educators remain invested in their success.

Getting students into college matters. Helping them graduate matters just as much.

A Leadership Philosophy Rooted In Faith And Family
Almi’s professional leadership is also shaped by the values that guide her life beyond the school system. She identifies faith, family, and work as her three central priorities, in that order.

She is a wife and mother before she is a superintendent, a distinction that reflects her understanding of leadership as one part of a much larger life.

That grounding gives context to the way she approaches education. Her work is demanding, but she remains connected to the reasons she entered the field in the first place.

She encourages young women entering education to remember their own “why.” Leadership can be difficult, and the challenges can sometimes become overwhelming. For Almi, returning to the students and remembering why the work matters provides the foundation necessary to continue.

Her professional memberships include the Association of School Administrators and

Superintendents (AASA), District Administration, the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS), and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. She is also a former president of Chelsea Rotary.

Through her leadership, mentorship, scholarship, and commitment to educational equity, Almi continues to demonstrate the importance of investing in both students and the people who serve them. Her vision reaches beyond immediate academic outcomes toward a broader goal: creating schools where students are known, supported, challenged, and prepared for what comes next.

For Almi, influence ultimately means making sure others are prepared to lead after her. By mentoring emerging women leaders, supporting educators, and keeping students at the center of decision-making, she continues to shape a model of leadership rooted in authenticity, service, opportunity, and the belief that every student deserves a genuine path to success.

Learn More about Almi G. Abeyta:

Through her Influential Women profile, https://influentialwomen.com/connect/almi-abeyta

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