

Allison R. Kokkoros Named Executive Director/CEO of the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School

August 13, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Mandy Toomey, Communications Coordinator
202-797-4700 ext. 207 | mtoomey@carlosrosario.org



Allison R. Kokkoros has been unanimously selected by the School's Board of Trustees as the new Executive Director and CEO of the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School, the nation's first charter school for adults and an organization known across the nation as a model for immigrant and adult education. Kokkoros has been with the organization for 20 years, most recently as Executive Vice President.

"We warmly welcome Allison to this role. She has demonstrated a unique combination of the leadership qualities and experience that we need to take the School forward. She is a passionate advocate for adult education and immigrant integration," said Carlos Rosario School Board Chair Alberto Gomez. "We are confident in her abilities to lead the school in providing our immigrant communities with the education, resources, and support that transforms individuals, families and communities."

Gomez added that Kokkoros' personal connection to immigrants informs her ability to truly understand the needs of new Americans. Members of Kokkoros' family immigrated to this country as young adults. Like many of the School's students today they had been directly impacted by the ravages of war and sought better opportunities in the U.S. Also during travels in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, Kokkoros witnessed first-hand how limited economic and educational opportunities inform patterns of immigration to the United States.

"I am honored and humbled to step into the role of Executive Director and CEO of the Carlos Rosario School. I have seen the impact we can have on the community by serving the new Americans who have found their way to our nation's capital and helping them realize their dreams. I look forward to building upon the foundation Sonia Gutierrez has built over the past four decades in partnership with our students and staff," says Kokkoros.

Ms. Kokkoros succeeds her long-time mentor, Latina visionary Sonia Gutierrez who founded the School more than 40 years ago. Ms. Gutierrez, nationally recognized for her leadership and activism in immigrant communities around Washington, D.C., will continue her work with the School in an advisory role and as a board member.

"I have known for a long time that Allison should be the one taking my place. She is an extremely competent professional totally committed to our school and our students. She has been working at my side for the last 20 years and I firmly believe no one is more qualified than her to take my position," said Gutierrez.

For more than 40 years, the Carlos Rosario School has transformed the lives of more than sixty thousand immigrants by investing in and supporting their journeys to achieve the American Dream. Thanks to the School's programs tens of thousands of adults have obtained high school diplomas; become U.S. citizens; gained the English skills necessary to advocate for their children; obtained college degrees and workforce certifications; and entered into careers and climbed career ladders.



###