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MEDIA CONTACT: Juan Alanis

(832) 859-4207

Juan@bigoaaktreemedia.com

AAMA's Joe Jimenez to Step Down as President and CEO

Debbie Ortiz to serve as Interim President and CEO

Friday, March 25, 2022 (Houston, Texas) – After six years of serving Houston through his leadership at the Association for the Advancement for Mexican Americans (AAMA), Joe Jimenez has announced his resignation as its President and CEO effective April 30, 2022. Jimenez has led AAMA since 2016 when he first joined the landmark nonprofit organization, which last year celebrated its 50th anniversary.

AAMA was formed in 1970 by a group of Mexican American business owners and community leaders who were motivated to address key issues in Houston's East End, including drug use and low school completion. Today, AAMA is a leading nonprofit organization in Texas working with nearly 10,000 individuals each year to achieve financial security, well-being, and self-actualization.

“Having served as AAMA's President and CEO has been one of my life's greatest joys. Serving Texan families and individuals – from the youngest to the youngest-at-heart – through AAMA has been a tremendous personal accomplishment for myself. I am proud of the work our staff and leadership have accomplished during this time, even despite natural disasters such as hurricanes, emergency situations, and a global pandemic,” Jimenez shared. “AAMA is poised to continue leading in the region and beyond, supporting the interests of our state's rapidly-growing Latino and multicultural communities.”

As President and CEO, Jimenez oversaw the expansion of AAMA's overall programs and services, including the expansion of its two charter schools in the Houston area, the inauguration of its Work and Learn Center for opportunity youth ages 16-24 years-old, continued growth of its prevention and counseling services in Houston and Laredo, as well as its early childhood education services. During the global pandemic AAMA served as a critical resource for those most at-risk, and operated a weekly food pantry, as well as testing and vaccination clinics.

Prior to joining AAMA, Jimenez served with various organizations as President and CEO throughout Texas - including hospitals, homecare companies, and post-acute healthcare facilities.

“Joe has been instrumental in helping us increase our reach and the programs and services we operate. He stepped in and led AAMA forward, reinvigorating the excitement and support around

our nonprofit organization's presence in the communities we serve," said Benjamin Hernandez, Board Chair for the AAMA Board of Directors. "He will absolutely be missed, and we are indebted to him for his unwavering commitment to AAMA."

AAMA's Chief Development Officer Debbie Ortiz, who joined AAMA in 2017, will serve as Interim President and CEO until a new permanent President and CEO is named.

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About AAMA

AAMA began in 1970 as the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans. AAMA provides services to nearly 10,000 individuals annually. The nonprofit's efforts are focused in the areas of educational attainment, workforce readiness, and leadership development. The mission of AAMA is to inspire and empower Latinos to pursue their potential and achieve success. For more than 50 years, AAMA has been one of the most effective organizations in the state to help Latino families to become healthy and productive citizens. AAMA's vision is a community of Latinos who have achieved financial security, well-being and self-actualization.