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LONGTIME COMMUNITY ORGANIZER WORKING IN MS DELTA

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Lorena Quiroz Lewis, a professional with 30 years of experience in the nonprofit and
public health sectors, will assist Parents for Public Schools in the Mississippi Delta, continuing
the work of former PPS community coordinator Chiquikta Fountain. Fountain recently became
executive director of Delta Helping Hands, a nonprofit organization in Shaw, MS.

Lewis, a native of Ecuador and a former New Yorker, is not new to the Mississippi Delta.
She worked in the Delta previously, as well as in northern, coastal, and Jackson metro areas of
Mississippi. Her former work in these locations involved establishing culturally and linguisti-
cally appropriate programs for people who speak limited English. Educating communities in
grassroots organizing was a part of her work then and continues to be her major emphasis and
specialized skill.

Lewis’ longtime work in the nonprofit sector started at Goodwill Industries in New York,
where she was a coordinator and manager for the English as a Second Language Program and
The Arts activities.

Her well-rounded work history includes racial equity training, organizing workshops for
medical screening and intervention, and creating a language access coalition. She coordinated
the first language access symposium for the State of Mississippi. Currently a community fellow
for the Foundation for the Midsouth, Lewis is fluent in Spanish, French and English.

She is a graduate of Delta State University, with a master’s degree in education and an
undergraduate degree in international studies. Lewis also has several certifications, including
master trainer for Stanford University chronic disease workshops, certified lactation consultant,
certified Spanish teacher, master trainer of medical interpreters, and certified national change
coach.

Lewis serves on numerous boards and committees including the Mississippi Museum of Art
Advisory Council, International Medical Interpreters Association, Tobacco Coalition, Diabetes
Coalition, and the Language Access Coalition. She also is the outreach chairperson for the PTO
in the Ridgeland Public School District.

A mother of three teens, Lewis’ eldest daughter recently finished her first year of college.
Her other daughters are ages 13 and 15. A champion of the public schools, Lorena has nothing
short of praise for the high quality education all three daughters have received in Mississippi’s
public schools.

“We are pleased to have Lorena on board as a partner in our work,” says Joann Mickens,
executive director of PPS, Inc. “Her competence, experience, and knowledge of the Mississippi
Delta will serve us well as we seek to secure a high quality public education for every child.”

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Parents for Public Schools is a national organization of community-based chapters working with public school
parents and other supporters to improve and strengthen local public schools. Founded in 1989, there are 12 PPS
chapters in nine states.

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