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Ruth N. López Turley is Professor of Sociology and Director of the [Kinder Institute for Urban Research](#) at Rice University, which brings together data, research, engagement, and action to improve lives. In 2011, she founded the [Houston Education Research Consortium](#) (HERC), a research-practice partnership between Rice University and eleven Houston area school districts, representing over 700,000 students. A program of the Kinder Institute, HERC works to improve educational equity by connecting research to policy and practice, working directly with district leaders. She directed HERC from 2011 to 2022, during which she raised over \$30M so that school districts would not have to pay for research. She also founded the [National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships](#), which connects and supports over 60 partnerships between research institutions and education agencies throughout the country. In 2022, President Biden appointed her to the [National Board for Education Sciences](#), which advises and approves priorities for the research arm of the US Department of Education. She is a graduate of Stanford and Harvard and is originally from Laredo, Texas.