



THE PETE C. GARCIA
VICTORIA
FOUNDATION



14TH ANNUAL _____
Arizona Higher Education
AWARDS

Wednesday,
September 6, 2023



Chair's Message

Suzie Moreno

Chair, Board of Directors
The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

On behalf of the Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation, it is indeed an honor to welcome you to our 14th annual Higher Education Awards Event. A very special thanks to the Helios Education Foundation for hosting this significant event.

Our Higher Education Leaders being honored today have demonstrated sustained leadership in assisting our students and supporting academic programs that have directly impacted their educational journey. These leaders/scholars know that education wipes out wrong beliefs from our minds, provides clarity of the world around us and erases confusion. Education develops a perspective of looking at life. It helps us build opinions and have points of view on things in life. It kindles the flame of curiosity and helps awaken the abilities to question, and to reason.

Today's Higher Education Awardees' commitment has lead many youths to journey in the world equipped to succeed.

As we celebrate the work of these outstanding educators and their many accomplishments, we have to stop and ponder the future of education in Arizona and beyond. Until we, as a society, invest in education and our country's future, organizations like the Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation will work to provide funding for our youth to learn.

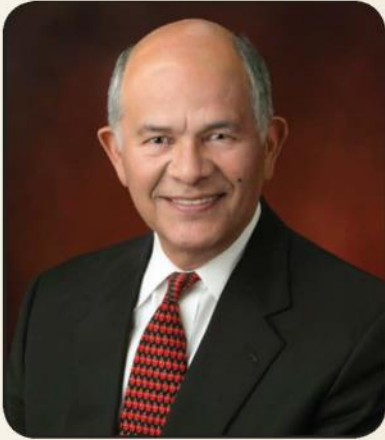
Our wish is to provide education for all, enabling our youth to learn and apply their knowledge to challenging work environments.

Respectfully,

Suzie Moreno

Ms. Suzie Moreno
Board Chair





President's Message

Dr. Loui Olivas

President,
The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation

Dear Friends:

The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation is proud to celebrate our Arizona Higher Education Awards, 14th Anniversary. Every September, we gather to recognize and honor "difference makers" in our institutions of higher education. Our Founding President, Pete C. Garcia, clearly understood that when you have individuals who know how to push agendas and support educational programs that benefit our community, our students flourish. Each of this year's award recipients exemplify, through their arduous work and accomplishments, why we continue with our Arizona Higher Education Awards Reception.

We believe in the importance of providing our students with educational support systems that will yield high returns on our scholarship investments, benefiting all communities. Our major goal is empowering our students through their educational attainments, thereby positioning these students to flourish.

Partnering with educational institutions, we have provided 1,603 dollar-for dollar scholarship matches that enhances our students' ability to complete their college degree. To-date, thanks to our sponsors and partners, we have invested \$1.6 million in our scholarship program. This significant investment propels our students' academic futures and encourages us to continue our fundraising efforts.

Thank you for being with us today to honor and support our Arizona Higher Education Award recipients. A special shout out to the Helios Education Foundation, our event host.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loui Olivas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Dr. Loui Olivas
President





THE PETE C. GARCIA VICTORIA FOUNDATION



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VICTORIA
FOUNDATION



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**Prensa Arizona proudly congratulates all of this year's
Arizona Higher Education Awards Recipients.**

**Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication
to our communities.**

¡Felicidades!



**Ranked #1 by the NAHP in 2022 as the Most Outstanding
Spanish language weekly newspaper in the United States**
prensaarizona.com

Program Agenda

Welcome

Suzie Moreno, Manager, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona and Chair of
The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation Board of Directors

Dr. Loui Olivas, President, The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation

Vince Yanez, Senior Vice President, Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships,
Helios Education Foundation

Awards Presentations

Dr. Loui Olivas, Distinguished Leadership

Recipient: **Dr. Nora Amavisca Reyes**
Senior Associate Vice President
Mesa Community College: A Maricopa Community College

Presented by

Charlene T. Vasquez
Director,
Strategic Partnerships and
Community Impact, Arizona
Coyotes and Board Member of the
Pete C. Garcia Victoria
Foundation

Dr. Loui Olivas
President,
The Pete C. Victoria Foundation

Dr. Alfredo G. de los Santos, Jr., Community College

Recipient: **Dr. Suzanne J. Desjardin**
Vice President of Student Affairs
Pima Community College

Steven R. Gonzales
Chancellor
Maricopa Community Colleges
and Board Member Pete C. Garcia
Victoria Foundation

Debbie Castaldo
Senior Vice President,
Corporate and Community Impact
Arizona Diamondbacks

Award Sponsor: Arizona Diamondbacks

Edith Sayre Auslander, Outstanding Support of Hispanic Issues in Higher Education

Recipient: **Dr. Judy Marquez Kiyama**
Professor Center for the Study of Higher Education
Department of Educational Policy Studies & Practices
University of Arizona

Raul Aguirre
President
REA Media Group and member of
The Pete C. Garcia Victoria
Foundation Board of Directors

Mark D. Breen
President,
Atlantic Development &
Investments, Inc.

Award Sponsor: Atlantic Development & Investments, Inc.

Program Agenda

Awards Presentations

Dr. Eugene Garcia, Faculty Research

Recipient: **Dr. Ramona Mellott**
Dean College of Education and
Professor of Educational Psychology
Northern Arizona University

Award Sponsor: Arizona Public Service (APS)

Presented by

Chuck Lotzar
*Attorney at Law,
Lotzar Law firm, P.C. and member
of the Pete C. Victoria Foundation
Board of Directors*

Dr. Eugene Garcia
*Professor Emeritus,
Arizona State University*

Silvia Capir
*Senior Strategic,
Partnerships Representative
APS*

Professor Alberto "Tito" Rios, Outstanding Literary/Arts

Recipient: **Natalie Diaz**
Professor, Department of English
Director, Center for Imagination In the Borderlands
2021 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry
McArthur Fellow 2028
Arizona State University

Award Sponsor: Celtic Properties Management, LLC.

Lourdes Sierra
*Vice President
Director of Client & Community
Services, PNC Financial Services
Group and Treasurer The Pete C.
Garcia Victoria Foundation Board
of Directors*

Professor Alberto "Tito" Rios
*Regents Professor,
Arizona Poet Laureate,
Arizona State University*

Dr. Jessica Raymond
*Owner,
Celtic Property Management, LLC*

The William Yslas Velez, S.T.E.M.

Recipient: **Dr. Elena Ortiz Zuazaga**
Faculty Member Biosciences
Phoenix College: A Maricopa Community College

Award Sponsor: Desert Diamond Casino West Valley

Francesca Cruz-Ortega
*Controller
Human Service Campus
and Board Member Pete C. Garcia
Victoria Foundation*

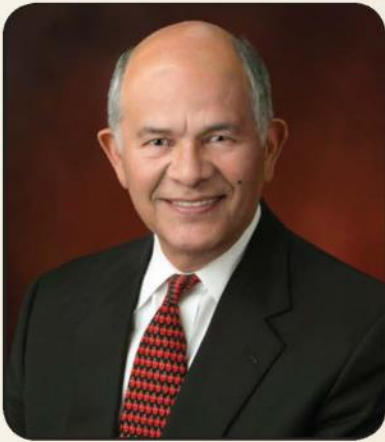
Dr. William Yslas Velez
*Professor Emeritus,
University of Arizona*

Treena Parvello
*Director of Government
and Public Relations,
Tohono O'odham Gaming Enterprise*

Closing Remarks

Suzie Moreno

Dr. Loui Olivas



Honored Award

Distinguished Leadership

Dr. Loui Olivas

**Professor Emeritus, Management Department
W. P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University**

Dr. Loui Olivas, a fourth-generation native Phoenician, joined Arizona State University (ASU) in 1979 as the assistant director of the Center for Executive Development and served as the director from 1982-86. Dr. Olivas served as the assistant vice president for academic affairs at ASU for 17 years until his appointment in 2006 to the position of assistant vice president for education partnerships. After 30 years of service, Dr. Olivas retired from ASU in 2009.

As a tenured professor in the W. P. Carey School of Business Department of Management, his teaching and research emphasis focused on entrepreneurship, small business management and Hispanic demographics—marketing perspectives. Published work by Dr. Olivas focuses on personnel, management, training and small business operations. Since 1999, Dr. Olivas has authored the annual DATOS Report, Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and since 1991, he has published the Annual Survey of Hispanic Owned Businesses in Arizona. He is also the editor of the 81st Arizona Town Hall Report entitled Arizona Hispanics: The Evolution of Influence. As president of Olivas and Associates since 1989, Dr. Olivas has worked with Fortune 500 corporations as a consultant in Hispanic demographics and marketing.

Prior to coming to ASU, Dr. Olivas served as the director of executive development and education for Western Savings and Loan Association, director of employee development with the City of Phoenix, and as a consultant, instructor and developer of various other executive development programs for Fortune 500 companies.

In addition to the numerous national and local awards he has received for his work in business, education and the community, honors given to Dr. Olivas include the “Outstanding Teaching Award” by ASU undergraduate students and the “Teaching Excellence Award” for ASU Center for Executive Development. AZ LULAC also named him “Educator of the Year.” The American Higher Education Association bestowed upon him their prestigious “Higher Education Leadership Award.” The Be A Leader Foundation established an endowed scholarship in his name to honor his sustained efforts in mentoring business students. He is also the recipient of the Valle del Sol Hall of Fame Award.

Dr. Olivas has provided leadership and service to numerous national and local boards and commissions, such as the founding dean of the National Hispanic Corporate Council Institute; the founding president of the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education; secretary-treasurer for Project ChalleNGe Foundation; director of the U.S./Mexico Solidarity Foundation; member of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Council of Economic Advisors; board member of Angelita’s Amigos Inc.; board member of St. Joseph’s Hospital Foundation; and a founding board member of Sonoran Bank, Arizona. He is also a founding director of Construct Net International and was a founding board member of QuePasa.com, a publicly traded company on NASDAQ. In addition, Dr. Olivas is a retired colonel from the Arizona Air National Guard, having served a distinguished 29-year military career. He greatly enjoys his family, the outdoors and the beauty and excitement of nature.



Award Recipient

Dr. Loui Olivas - Distinguished Leadership

Dr. Nora Amavisca Reyes Senior Associate Vice President Mesa College: A Maricopa Community College

Nora Amavisca Reyes was born in Roll, Arizona, the youngest of seven children and the only one born in the United States after her family immigrated from Mexico. Nora graduated valedictorian from Antelope Union High School in Wellton, Arizona and continued her education at Arizona State University, completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education, a Master of Education degree in Multicultural/Bilingual Education, and a Doctor of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in bilingual education.

Dr. Reyes began her teaching career as a bilingual second grade teacher in South Phoenix then shifted her focus to teacher education when she was hired at Mesa Community College (MCC) as Residential Education Faculty. As a native Spanish speaker and first-generation college student from an immigrant Mexican family, she strongly relates to the richness, challenges, and opportunities that emerge from the realities faced by our diverse population, ultimately leading her to serve in faculty and administrative roles within the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD), where she has engaged in numerous partnerships to connect with students, other educational agencies, and local as well as international institutions. These partnerships have focused on maximizing resources, maintaining quality, and providing equitable access to educational opportunities by:

- working with Title I schools that have a high percentage of students from low-income families to provide service-learning opportunities for college students as well as professional development for P-20 teachers and staff.
- establishing Memorandums of Understanding with universities focused on transfer programs in high need areas of the workforce and study abroad programs focused on increasing Spanish language proficiency as well as cultural awareness/responsiveness; and
- administering multi-million dollar grant projects to support student success, professional development, and workforce needs, including two HSI grants.

She has served in numerous leadership roles, including Education Studies Department Chair, Chair of MCC's Department Chair Association, Education Instructional Council and Articulation Task Force Chair, Guanajuato and Xalapa Study Abroad Director, Teachers of Language Learners Learning Community (TL3C) Grant Project Administrator, Acting Dean of Innovative Learning and Academic Support, President of Arizona Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (AZTESOL), Vice Provost for the MCC Red Mountain Campus, Senior Associate Vice President and College Academic Officer. She is currently completing an Innovation Internship Project focused on identifying and partnering with international institutions of higher education to increase international student enrollment, develop student teaching exchange programs, and increase opportunities for language learning in alignment with workforce needs.

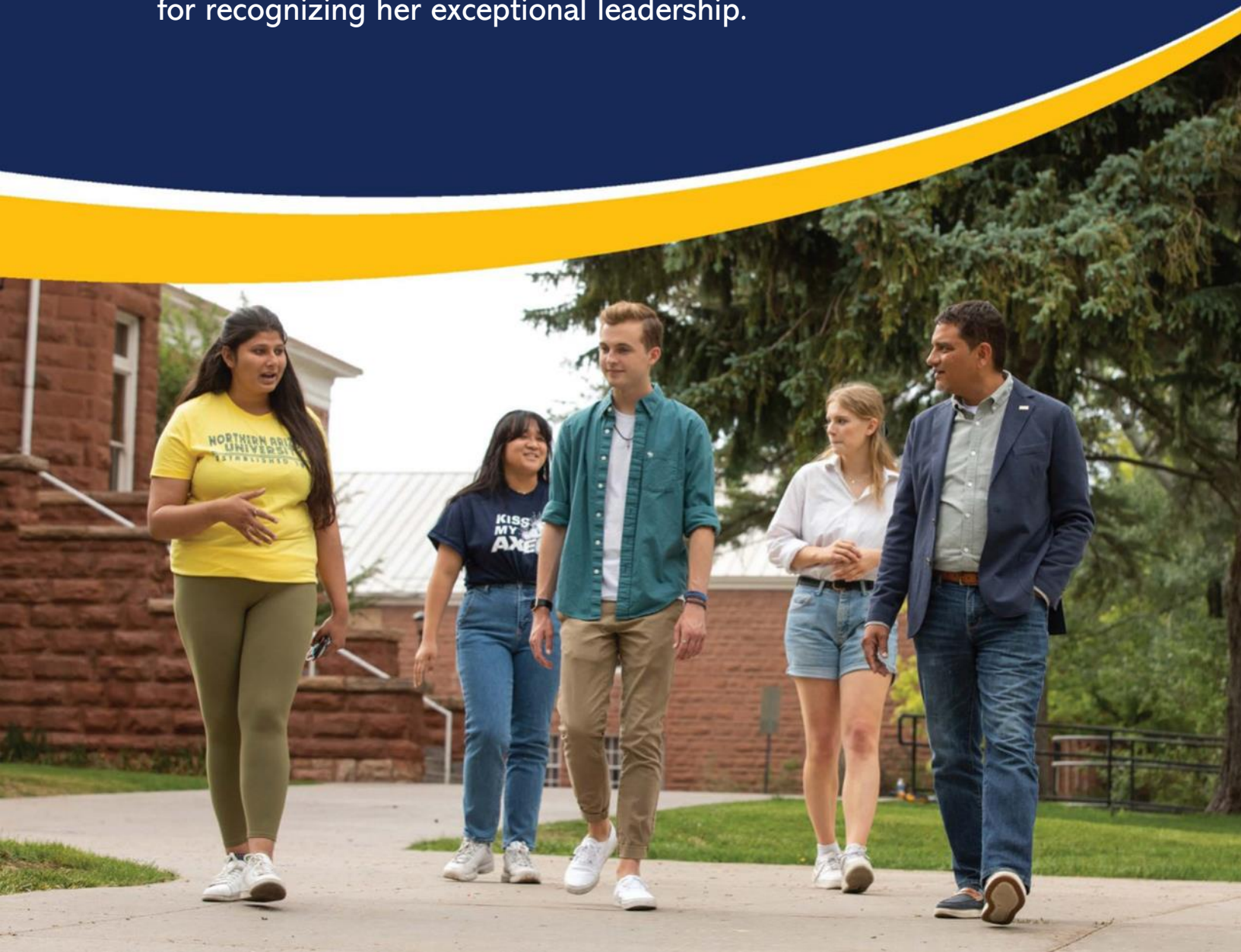
One of the reasons Dr. Reyes initially chose and continues to work at the community college level for more than 25 years is to serve as a liaison between local educational agencies, university partners, and other community organizations to ensure high quality, equitable, and accessible educational opportunities for our youth, professionals, and community members. Beginning with her experiences as a bilingual elementary school teacher, throughout her tenure as a community college faculty member, and in her administrative roles, building community has been a central focus of her work, established through inclusive, collaborative efforts and open communication. Her leadership approach intentionally taps and builds upon available resources and addresses opportunity gaps with a goal of building upon the richness of our diverse communities to collectively create environments that both reflect and empower communities served. With deep passion for empowering individuals and communities through education, she enthusiastically welcomes opportunities to contribute to existing and evolving efforts that ensure high quality educational programs that build individual capacity and community cohesiveness.

Nora is happily married to her high school sweetheart, is the proud mother of three, and now also enjoys her most valued title of "nana" of three. To maintain a healthy balance in life, she regularly and intentionally incorporates yoga, hiking, playing the ukulele, and spending time with family.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Mesa Community College's Dr. Nora Amavisca Reyes,
recipient of the Dr. Loui Olivas Distinguished Leadership in Higher
Education Award, for her unwavering commitment to accessible
higher learning for all Arizonans.

Thank you, Dr. Olivas and the Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation,
for recognizing her exceptional leadership.





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Working with others to influence change and improve lives in Arizona is the driving force behind the Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Arizona Foundation for Community & Health Advancement. By partnering with innovators and problem solvers, we can make a measurable difference on individual and community health across Arizona. Together, we can mobilize changemakers to reduce the negative effects of chronic health issues, increase health equity, protect mental health, and overcome substance use disorder.

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Honored Award

Community College

Dr. Alfredo G. de los Santos, Jr.
(1936 - 2020)

**Research Professor, Hispanic Research Center
Arizona State University**

Since January 2000, de los Santos has been a research professor at Arizona State University Main, Tempe, Arizona, with research and development responsibilities at the Hispanic Research Center in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He also had an academic assignment with advising and teaching responsibilities in the Division of Leadership and Innovation in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College; but, for personal and professional reasons, he resigned effective November 2011.

From 1978 through October 1, 1999--more than twenty-one years--de los Santos served as Vice Chancellor for Student and Educational Development at the Maricopa Community Colleges. In that capacity he was responsible for articulation, curriculum, faculty and student development, business and workforce development, international education, external resource development, institutional research, instructional technology development, and facilities planning and construction management.

During the decade of the 1990s, de los Santos was principal investigator for a number of grants funded by the National Science Foundation totaling more than \$25 million, including the Phoenix Urban Systemic Initiative (\$15 million) and the Maricopa Advanced Technology Education Center (\$5 million).

He is the founding president of El Paso Community College and served as a dean at Northampton County Community College (PA) and Florida Keys Junior College (FL), and as a librarian at Florida Keys Junior College and as assistant librarian and English faculty member at Laredo Community College (TX).

Over the years, he has served as a member of numerous boards, commissions and councils, including the board of trustees of the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute; the Multicultural Education, Training and Advocacy, Inc.; Jobs for the Future, Inc.; and National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.

As well, Dr. de los Santos served on the Board of Directors for the American Council on Education, the American Association of Community Colleges,

the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education, the American Association for Higher Education, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, the United States Open University and the Partnership for Service-Learning. He also was a member of the Board of Trustees for The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Educational Testing Service, the College Board, and the American College Testing. In addition, he served as a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity and the Advisory Committee to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's initiative with Hispanic Serving Institutions, ENLACE.

Dr. de los Santos has received numerous awards and recognitions for his work in higher education, including the 2005 Award for Outstanding Service to Community Colleges by the National Council of Instructional Administrators of the American Association of Community Colleges; the National Leadership Award from the American Association of Community Colleges in 2004; The Reginald Wilson Award from the American Council on Education in October 2001; the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education in September 1998; the Life-Long Dedication to Hispanic Education Award from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) in October 1998; the 1995 International Leadership Award from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD), The University of Texas; Special Recognition Award for Scholarly Research in Bilingual Education from the National Association for Bilingual Education in 1994, and Education Achievement Award from the National Science Foundation in 1993. In 1993, he was named distinguished graduate of the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. de los Santos earned the Associate in Arts degree from Laredo Community College, Texas, and three degrees from The University of Texas at Austin: the bachelor's degree, a master of library science degree and the Ph.D.



Award Recipient

Dr. Alfredo G. de los Santos, Jr.
Community College

Dr. Suzanne J. Desjardin
Vice President of Student Affairs
Pima Community College

Dr. Suzanne J. Desjardin is the Vice President of Student Affairs at Pima Community College (PCC), a Hispanic Serving Institution, where she has served for 27 years. She provides administrative oversight along with additional Student Affairs leadership of the following areas: Advising, Counseling, Virtual Student Services, Student Title IX, Student Conduct, First Year Experience, Student Life and Co-Curricular Engagement, Access and Disability Resources, serves as a Deputy Title IX Coordinator for students, and is administrative co-chair for the College Behavioral Assessment Team.

As a Student Affairs leader, she has co-led a multi-year redesign of assigned advising and counseling services at PCC to ensure each student is connected to a team for support services to facilitate student success.

Dr. Desjardin has also served in administration in past roles as an Acting Dean and Vice President of Student Development, as Dean of Social Sciences and Student Affairs, and as Dean of Students. She began teaching in 1999 at PCC as a Student Success faculty member and served as a department chair. Since 2019, she has taught graduate courses at the University of Arizona, College of Education, Educational Policy Studies Department in the area of Culturally Responsive Leadership and Policy.

She has also served at PCC as a faculty counselor, coordinator for advising and counseling services, and as an academic advisor. In her past roles, she was appointed as a PTK (Phi Theta Kappa) Advisor and a M.E.Ch.A (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanos de Aztlan) Advisor to students, and as administrative liaison to the Student Senate.

Additionally, she holds the National Certified Counselor credential.

Dr. Desjardin was selected as a fellow in the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) Executive Leadership Academy at California State University-Berkeley, the National Community College Hispanic Council (NCCHC) Leadership Program at University of San Diego, and in the original Escaleras Leadership Program through the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) at the University of Rhode Island.

Dr. Desjardin has served on dozens of PCC College committees including the 2018 Diversity Committee subgroup which authored the College's inaugural Diversity,

Equity and Inclusion Plan. As Dean of Social Sciences and Student Affairs, she worked with faculty leadership to establish the EGTS: Ethnic, Gender, Transborder Studies and Sociology Department and the associated Degree Pathway to include the interdisciplinary cross listing of Mexican American Studies, American Indian Studies and Gender and Womens' Studies courses to expand enrollment offerings and transfer articulation options for students. She collaborated with the Social Services faculty to support partnerships with the PCC Foundation, ASU School of Social Work, and the Tucson Community Food Bank to establish the PCC West Campus Aztec Resource Center Food Pantry for students.

As part of her doctoral research on Latinx student transitions from high school to community college, she worked with 4 different local K12 school districts to conduct qualitative research examining effective educational leadership practices serving Latinx students. She was awarded the Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Arizona School Administrators Association for her dissertation titled, *Living Within and Outside the Margins and Borders: The Impact of School Leadership on Successful Bridge Programs and Latino/a Transitions to Community College and Beyond*. She has presented her doctoral research at several national and regional conferences.

Dr. Desjardin has served in the community on the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, and the Dreamers Scholarship Committee. She is serving presently on the Board of Los Descendientes de Tucson as Secretary. Los Descendientes de Tucson has led the development of the newly established Mexican American Heritage and History Museum. Dr. Desjardin is proud to be a 5th generation Tucson native and bilingual Latina, committed to serving all students through the tenets of holistic student development, diversity, equity and inclusion, social justice, and servant leadership.

Dr. Desjardin holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Arizona with a minor in Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies, a Master of Arts degree in Curriculum, Instruction and English as a Second Language from Arizona State University, a Master of Counseling degree in Community Counseling from the University of Phoenix, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication, with a minor in Spanish and Sociology from the University of Arizona, and an Associate of Arts degree in Speech Communication from Pima Community College.



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THE VICTORIA FOUNDATION

**AND THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2023
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VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
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Honored Award

Outstanding Support of Hispanic
Issues in Higher Education

Edith Sayre Auslander

**Former Member, Arizona Board of Regents
(1984 - 1992)**

Edith Sayre Auslander is the consultant to Arizona Assurance at The University of Arizona Foundation. Her previous position for five years was as Vice President and Senior Associate to the President of the UA.

Auslander is a native Tucsonan who earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from The University of Arizona. She had a long career in newspaper work as a reporter, copy editor and section editor for The Arizona Daily Star. She also has been an assistant professor of journalism at The University of Arizona and served as vice president of human resources for Tucson Newspapers for more than 15 years.

She left the UA faculty in 1984 when she was appointed by Gov. Bruce Babbitt to the Arizona Board Regents for an eight-year term. She was elected president of the Board of Regents for the 1989-90 academic year. During her term as president, she initiated the system-wide study on the status of women.

Auslander is one of 15 founders of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. She has been listed three times in the Hispanic Business magazine as one of 100 influential U.S. Hispanics and in Replica magazine as one of 25 Hispanic Women of the Year.

She has been active in several national organizations, including the Editing Program for Minority Journalists and the Multicultural Management Program. She was elected to the board and served as president of the national Media Human Resources Association. She is a past president of the UA Hispanic Alumni Club and of the Hispanic Professional Action Committee.

Auslander has won many writing awards and has been active in a variety of organizations that focus on the needs of women and minorities. She was named Tucson's Woman of the Year in 1986, and received an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Arizona in 1997. She was honored six times nationally for her human resources work, and she earned the certification of Senior Professional in Human Resources. She has been named to the halls of fame of the UA Student Media Foundation and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. She has received the Women on the Move and the Iris Dewhirst awards from the Tucson YWCA.



Award Recipient

Edith Sayre Auslander
Outstanding Support of Hispanic
Issues in Higher Education

Dr. Judy Marquez Kiyama
Professor Center for the Study of Higher Education
Department of Educational Policy Studies & Practice,
University of Arizona

Dr. Judy Marquez Kiyama is a professor in the Center for the Study of Higher Education, Department of Educational Policy Studies and Practice, at the University of Arizona. Dr. Kiyama is a community-engaged scholar with nearly 25 years experience in research, practice, and administration. She works to interrogate systems of power that perpetuate inequities for minoritized communities and is committed to understanding the cultural and collective resources drawn upon to confront and (re)shape such systems. It is through this collective work that Dr. Kiyama believes we can affect equitable change at organizational, local, state, and national levels.

Working alongside Latinx/o/a families and communities are at the core of Dr. Kiyama's research efforts. Her research is organized in three interconnected areas: the role of parents and families; equity and power in educational research; and minoritized groups as collective networks of change. Dr. Kiyama's most recent administrative role as the Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Development within the Office of Faculty Affairs offered the opportunity to implement efforts that furthered the aims of the University of Arizona to excel in its Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) designation. Dr. Kiyama served in this role from 2020-2023, and furthered efforts around equity-focused faculty recruitment, and hiring practices; and developing faculty capacity in research, teaching and curriculum, and service, including creating and overseeing the Culturally Responsive Curriculum Development Institute.

Prior to serving in this role, Dr. Kiyama was Chair of the Higher Education Department at the University of Denver's Morgridge College of Education.

Additionally, she served as the College's Office of Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Fellow where she established a comprehensive plan for recruiting, hiring, and retaining faculty of color. Dr. Kiyama has been as a faculty member at both the University of Denver and the University of Rochester, where she partnered with organizations like RISE Colorado (Aurora, CO) and the Ibero-American Action League (Rochester, NY) to understand and ensure equitable educational opportunities for Latinx/o/a immigrant and refugee communities.

As a first-generation, Mexican American college student, she draws on her own experiences with her family to connect with the sources of support that first-generation, families of color offer their students in the transition to college. Her numerous publications focus on equity and inclusion efforts to better serve Latinx/a/o students, and their families and communities, including her 2017 book: *Funds of Knowledge in Higher Education: Honoring Students' Cultural Experiences and Resources as Strengths* (published by Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group).

Dr. Kiyama received the Outstanding Faculty Award in 2016 from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators - Latino/a Knowledge Community, and the 2014 Association for the Study of Higher Education - Council on Ethnic Participation Mildred García Exemplary Scholarship Award. She is a three-time graduate of the University of Arizona, earning her bachelors, masters, and PhD from UArizona, and a proud former participant of both the New Start Summer Program and TRiO Student Support Services.

Our Mission is clear at ...



Congratulates Dr. Judy Marquez Kiyama Recipient of the 2023 Edith Sayre Auslander Award

We Proudly Support The Victoria Foundation Higher Education Awards



This award is presented to **Dr. Judy Marquez Kiyama** for her significant and outstanding achievements in the support of issues that impact all socially and economically deprived communities through her involvement as a community and civic leader.

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UArizona Faculty Affairs is happy to celebrate

Dr. Judy Marquez Kiyama



recipient of the
Pete C. Garcia Victoria
Foundation

**Ms. Edith Sayre Auslander,
Outstanding Support of
Hispanic Issues in Higher
Education Award**

Education Award Recipients

¡Mil gracias por apoyar a nuestra
comunidad!

to all of the 2023 Arizona Higher



**THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA**



Honored Award

Faculty Research

Dr. Eugene Garcia

**Professor Emeritus, College of Education,
Arizona State University**

Dr. Eugene García served as the Vice President for Education Partnerships at Arizona State University (ASU), from 2006-2011. From 2002-2006, he was the Dean of the Mary Lou Fulton College of Education on the Tempe campus of ASU. Before joining ASU, he served as Professor and Dean of the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Berkeley from 1995-2001. He received his B.A. from the University of Utah in Psychology and his Ph.D. in Human Development from the University of Kansas. He has served as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Human Development at Harvard University and as a National Research Council Fellow. He has been a recipient of a National Kellogg Leadership Fellowship and received numerous academic and public honors. He served as a faculty member at the University of Utah, the University of California, Santa Barbara, Arizona State University and the University of California, Santa Cruz. He has served previously as a national research center director, an academic department chair on two occasions, and as dean of the Social Sciences Division at University of California, Santa Cruz.

Dr. García is involved in various community activities and has served as an elected member of an urban school board. He has published extensively

in the area of language teaching and bilingual development authoring and/or co-authoring over 150 articles and book chapters along with 14 books and monographs. He holds leadership positions in professional organizations and continues to serve in an editorial capacity for psychological, linguistic and educational journals and serves regularly as a proposal panel reviewer for federal, state and foundation agencies. He served as a Senior Officer in the U.S. Department of Education from 1993-1995. He is conducting research in the areas of effective schooling for linguistically and culturally diverse student populations funded by the National Science Foundation and has Chaired the National Task Force on Early Education for Hispanics funded by the Foundation for Child Development. His books include, *Hispanic Education in the United States: Raíces y Alas*, and, *Student Cultural Diversity: Understanding and Meeting the Challenge*, and, *Teaching and Learning in two Languages*.

(More on Dr. García's work can be found on the following website:

<http://www.ecehispanic.org/>)



Award Recipient

Dr. Eugene Garcia - Faculty Research

Dr. Ramona N. Mellott Dean, College of Education and Professor of Educational Psychology Northern Arizona University

Dr. Ramona Mellott's 32+ year tenure at Northern Arizona University (NAU) began as an Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology in the College of Education (COE) in 1991, shortly after completing her doctoral degree at the University of Southern Mississippi in Counseling Psychology. Prior to 1986, she resided in Mumbai, India where she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1982 followed by a master's degree in educational psychology in 1984 at the University of Bombay (now renamed Univ. of Mumbai). After nine years as a faculty member at NAU, she moved into administration as the Chair of Educational Psychology from 2000 to 2007. She then became the first full-time dean of the Graduate College from 2007-2014 before moving into her current position as the Dean of the College of Education and for the past 9 years she has led the college in developing innovative solutions to many of the challenges facing education.

From Dr. Mellott's early days as an assistant professor in the NAU College of Education to her current role as Dean, she has been involved at all levels of P-20 education and worked through the various state level policy changes and challenges facing our state. Her research interests in education lie in examining psychological characteristics of pre-service teachers and in teacher retention which led to the establishment of Grow Your Own (GYO) partnerships that address many of the challenges facing the teaching profession including attracting racially and ethnically diverse individuals locally who represent the students they teach. GYO programs also address teacher shortages experienced by school districts in urban, rural, and Indian communities as well as certain specialty areas (e.g., STEM, Special Education).

When the Arizona Teachers Academy (ATA) program was first announced in 2017, Dr. Mellott worked diligently to establish this program from the ground up and with university funding, she successfully launched the initial ATA@NAU program to serve students in Arizona's rural and statewide programs. With generous state funding for the last four years, NAU now supports over 1,000 future teachers at NAU through ATA for over 7 million dollars. Dr. Mellott's passion for supporting students and providing access to education is also reflected in her work to raise money for student scholarships.

From 2015 – 2023, the total amount of scholarships awarded to students in COE almost tripled with significant increases in the number of students receiving awards.

More recently, Dr. Mellott worked closely with university and college partners to launch a high-quality Early Childhood Learning and Development Center for preschoolers to serve NAU students, employees, and community members. As the Principal Investigator for Arizona GEAR UP program, she supports a team in helping Arizona advance equity by helping middle and high school students prepare for post-secondary options and have access to higher education.

As Graduate Dean at NAU, Dr. Mellott was responsible for the development of Professional Science Master's programs and the accelerated bachelor's/master's programs (3+2/4+1). She also guided the efforts of the graduate student organization towards independence and creating the Graduate Student Government, assisted with a robust professional development program and awards for graduate assistants, and launched the Three-minute Research Program (3MRP).

Dr. Mellott has held many leadership roles on national associations and a school board. She is currently a member of the Governor's task force on Teacher Retention. She was recently elected to the Board of Directors for the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards. Since 2006, she has served and continues to serve in a governor appointed position on the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners that helps to regulate the profession of psychologists and behavior analysts. As Graduate Dean, she served in an elected position on the Governing Board of the Council of Graduate Schools in 2012 and in various capacities on the board for the Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS) and ultimately as President of WAGS in 2012-13. She also served on the National Professional Science Master's Association Governing Board. Dr. Mellott received the Distinguished Mentor Award by the Arizona Psychological Association in 2009, and in 2020 she was recognized as a Fellow by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards for her work in licensing, certification, and regulation of psychologists in Arizona.



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Honored Award

Outstanding Literary/Arts

Professor Alberto "Tito" Rios

**Regents Professor
Arizona State University
Arizona Poet Laureate**

Alberto Álvaro Ríos, born in Nogales, Arizona, is the author of ten books and chapbooks of poetry, three collections of short stories, and a memoir about growing up on the border, called *Capirotada*. The memoir won the Latino Literary Hall of Fame Award and was selected as the OneBookArizona 2009 selection. After graduating from Nogales High School in 1970, he went to the University of Arizona, which recently honored him with the University of Arizona 2010 Outstanding Alumnus Award. Ríos began teaching at Arizona State University in 1982, where he is currently a Regents' Professor where he holds the further distinction of the Katharine C. Turner Endowed Chair in English.

Ríos has been a finalist for the National Book Award, and is the recipient of the Walt Whitman Award, the most prestigious award for a first book of poetry in this country. Among his many accolades, he is also the recipient of the lifetime Western Literature Association Distinguished Achievement Award, the PEN/Beyond Margins

Award, the Arizona Governor's Arts Award, fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Western States Book Award for Fiction, six Pushcart Prizes in both poetry and fiction, and inclusion in *The Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry*, as well as over 300 other national and international literary anthologies. His work is regularly taught and translated, and has been adapted to dance and both classical and popular music. He has written the libretto for the Arizona Centennial Song, called "Turquoise and Thunderstorm," and his public art poems can be seen across the valley, including "Words Over Water," a project surrounding the Tempe Town Lake, featured on PBS. He has been designated an "Arizona HistoryMaker" by the Arizona Historical League and an "Arizona Literary Treasure" by the Arizona Humanities Council.



Award Recipient

Professor Alberto "Tito" Rios
Outstanding Literary/Arts

Natalie Diaz

Professor, Department of English
Director, Center for Imagination In the Borderlands
2021 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry
McArthur Fellow 2028
Arizona State University

Natalie Diaz was born and raised in Fort Mojave Indian Village in Needles, California, on the banks of the Colorado River. Diaz is Mojave and an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Tribe. She is the author of *When My Brother Was an Aztec* (Copper Canyon Press), winner of the American Book Award, and *Postcolonial Love Poem* (Graywolf Press), winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry and finalist for the national Book Award and Forward Prize. Diaz has been awarded a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, Lannan Foundation Literary Fellowship, Native Arts and Culture Fellowship, and both Princeton University Holmes National Poetry Prize and Hodder Fellowship. She is Professor at Arizona State University where she Directs the Center for Imagination in the Borderlands and is the Maxine and Jonathan Marshal Chari in the Modern and Contemporary Poetry. She is the youngest ever elected Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, a member of the Board of Trustees for the United States Artist, where she is an alumna of the Ford Fellowship and is currently a Mellon Foundation Presidential Fellow.



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Honored Award

S.T.E.M.

Dr. William Yslas Velez

**Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and University
Distinguished Professor, Director Mathematics
Center, University of Arizona**

I was born in Tucson, Arizona and grew up in the nurturing embrace of the Spanish-speaking part of town. My parents were both born in Sonora, Mexico. Education was heavily emphasized in our home: My mother worked three jobs in order to send us to Catholic schools, through high school. All of my brothers earned their degrees from The University of Arizona and our career paths, though much different, have focused on educating the community.

I earned all of my degrees from The University of Arizona, completing my doctoral degree in mathematics in 1975. Between undergraduate and graduate school, from 1968-1970, I served aboard the aircraft carriers, USS Yortown and USS Kearsarge in the US Navy. I made two tours to Vietnam while on board these two ships. My research interests have been in number theory and algebra. My first position after completing my doctoral studies was as a member of the technical staff at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM, where I worked on the Command and Control of Atomic Weapons systems. In 1977, I returned to academia and accepted a position at the University of Arizona. I currently hold the rank of Professor of Mathematics and University Distinguished Professor.

I have always been interested in the ways that mathematics is applied and for four summers, beginning in the late 1980s, I worked at the Naval Ocean Systems Center in San Diego, CA, where I worked on communication systems for submarines. I was a Program Officer at the National Science Foundation, where I directed the Algebra and Number Theory Program in 1992-93. I am a Founding Member of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science and served as President of this organization from 1994-96. I served as the Director of the NSF funded Southwest Regional Institute in Mathematical Sciences from 1994-99.

I am currently the Associate Head for Undergraduate Affairs in the mathematics department and Director of the Math Center. My focus is to increase the number of students majoring in mathematics and also to increase diversity among our undergraduate mathematics majors. All of my efforts are directed towards achieving these goals. I have managed to double the number of mathematics majors, while at the same time increasing the percentage of minority mathematics majors. We currently have over 600 undergraduate mathematics majors, of whom 20% are minority.



Award Recipient

Dr. William Yslas Velez - S.T.E.M.

Dr. Elena Ortiz Zuazaga

Faculty Member Biosciences

Phoenix College: A Maricopa Community College

Dr. Elena Ortiz grew up in San Juan, Puerto Rico, receiving an English language immersion education at St. John's School. While there she was inducted into the National Honor Society, and won an American Chemical Society High School award in Chemistry, while also competing in Math Olympiad all four years of high school.

She began her postsecondary education at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology degree. As part of her undergraduate studies, Dr. Ortiz earned a prestigious scholarship, called the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) from the National Institutes of Health. She participated in research as an undergraduate, studying natural products chemistry, extracting possible medicines from marine sponges. Inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Dr. Ortiz graduated with honors.

Dr. Ortiz returned to San Juan, where she received her Master of Science in Biology at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus where she used mathematical models to study the evolution of caribbean orchids, learning how to use growth medium to propagate orchids from seeds. While earning her Master's, Dr. Ortiz discovered a joy in teaching, being invited by her high school chemistry teacher, Adele Gomez, to return to St. John's and teach Advanced Placement biology to juniors and seniors.

Soon after receiving her Master's Degree, Dr. Ortiz made her way to Tempe, Arizona, where she attended Arizona State University, School of Life Sciences to achieve her doctorate in PPlant Biology. While at ASU, she studied the effects of fire on the restoration ecology of desert grasslands.

Her resulting dissertation described how invasive species of trees and shrubs would cause a hotter fire, possibly damaging or destroying grass seeds that had evolved for the dry climates, but not the hotter fires.

Dr. Ortiz was also involved in environmental education at ASU, through the award-winning ASU Ecology Explorers program of the Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation. Ecology Explorers, the education component of the Central Arizona-Phoenix Long-Term Ecological Research site (CAP-LTER), assists K-12 teachers in the metropolitan area to incorporate ecology into their curriculum.

After receiving her PhD, Dr. Ortiz joined the Biosciences faculty of Phoenix College where she has advanced the curriculum of botany and environmental biology for more than 18 years. Teaching biology for non-majors, and human anatomy and physiology. Nominated for the Phoenix College Distinguished Teaching Award several times during her tenure. In addition, Dr. Ortiz is also a Maricopa County Master Gardener and a Certified Interpretive Guide volunteer at the Desert Botanical Garden and the Phoenix Zoo. She has developed several student research opportunities through National Science Foundation funded programs at Phoenix College. Over that time she has also been the faculty advisor for the Phoenix College Garden Club, turning an abandoned greenhouse and ruined plot into a community garden that consistently produces flowers, fruits and vegetables and seeds that students sell to fund the club. Recently, the Garden Club has acquired more campus area to launch the Phoenix College Pollinator Garden, where they will collaborate with the Maricopa Native Seed Library project as a demonstration garden and to supply native Sonoran desert plant seeds to the free seed library.

Dr. Ortiz is married, and has a teenage daughter.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the 2023

DR. WILLIAM YSLAS VELEZ

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Dr. Elena Ortiz Zuazaga

Faculty Member Biosciences

Phoenix College: A Maricopa Community College

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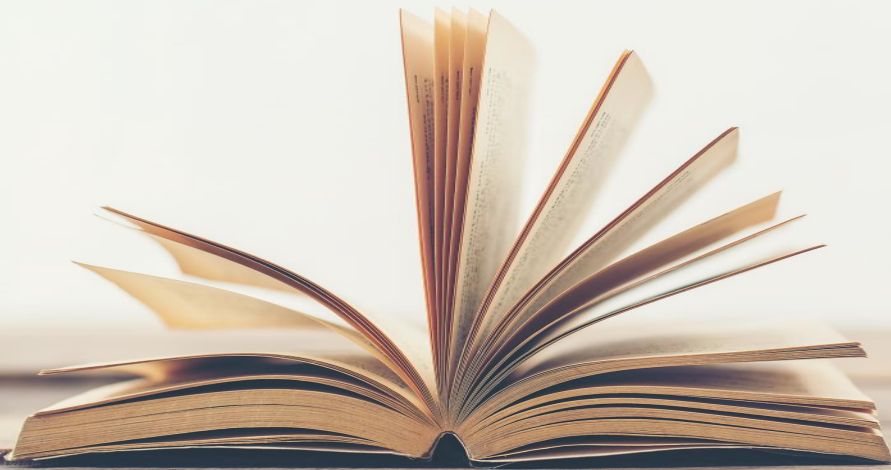
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José Luis Cruz Rivera
President,
Northern Arizona University



Dr. Francisco Lara-Valencia
Associate Professor, School of Transborder
Studies and Southwest Borderland Scholar
Arizona State University



Dr. Irene Robles-Lopez
Vice Chancellor for Student Experience
Pima Community College



Dr. Jessica Raymond
Owner,
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Professor Micha Espinosa
School of Music, Dance and Theatre,
Barrett Honors Facility
Arizona State University



José Erick Candanedo
CIO/Associate Vice President,
Information Technology,
Gateway Community College

2021 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Director & Professor
School of Transborder Studies
Arizona State University



Dean, Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary
Studies and Communication, College of
Intergrative Sciences and Arts
Arizona State University



Professor
School of Social Transformation
Arizona State University



President
Glendale Community College



Director Creative Writing Program and
Associate Professor, English Department
University of Arizona



Associate Professor, Department of
Civil and Environmental Engineering,
Arizona State University

2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Cecilia B. Rosales, MD
Interim Associate Dean, Community Engagement &
Outreach Professor & Chair University of Arizona,
Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health



Sarah Amira De La Garza
Associate Professor & Southwest Borderlands
Scholar, Hugh Downs School of Human
Communications, Arizona State University



Maria Reyes
Dean, Industry and Public Service
Phoenix College



Sylvia Symonds
Associate Vice President for Outreach
Arizona State University



Luis G. Mena
Artist
Tucson, Arizona



Jean M. Andino
Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering &
Graduate Faculty of Civil, Environmental &
Sustainable Engineering, Arizona State University

2019 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Dr. Reynaldo Rivera
President, Estrella Mountain
Community College



Dr. Carlo Castillo-Chavez
Co-Director ACD & Regents
Professor, Arizona State University



Dr. T. Mark Montoya
Associate Professor, Ethnic Studies
Northern Arizona University



Dr. Maria A. Franco
Assistant Vice Provost, Hispanic Serving
Institutions (HSIs), University of Arizona



Ms. Marilyn Torres
Faculty Member, South Mountain
Community College



Dr. Jennifer S. Martinez
Professor, College of the Environment, Forestry
& Natural Sciences, Northern Arizona University

2018 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Dr. Steven R. Gonzales
President, Gateway Community College



Dr. Maria L. Cruz-Torres
Associate Professor, School of Transborder Studies, Arizona State University



Dr. Yvonne Luna
Chair & Associate Professor, Sociology Department, Northern Arizona University



Mr. Michael Matos
Student Services Director, Phoenix College



James "Jim" Covarrubias
Artist, Educator, Film Producer & Writer



Dr. Gabriel A. Montano
Professor of Chemistry, Northern Arizona University

2017 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Dr. Gary Keller
Director Hispanic Research Center and Regents Professor, Arizona State University



Dr. Francisca James Hernández
Faculty Member Anthropology Program, Pima Community College



Dr. Anna Ochoa O'Leary
Associate Professor and Head Department of Mexican American Studies, University of Arizona



Dr. David Muñoz
Philosophy & Religious Studies Faculty, Chandler-Gilbert Community College



Dr. Carlos Vélez-Ibañez
Regents' Professor School of Transborder Studies and School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Motorola Presidential Professor of Neighborhood Revitalization, Arizona State University



Dr. Antonio García
Engineering Professor, Arizona State University

2016 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Dr. Ernie Lara
President, Estrella Mountain Community College



Dr. Erica Corral
Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Arizona



Dr. Teresa Leyba Ruiz
Interim President, Glendale Community College



Dr. Lee D. Lambert
Chancellor, Pima Community College



Dr. Erika Tatiana Camacho
Associate Professor, School of Mathematical & Natural Sciences, Arizona State University



Professor Guillermo Reyes
School of Film, Dance & Theater, Arizona State University

2021 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Director & Professor
School of Transborder Studies
Arizona State University



Dean, Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary
Studies and Communication, College of
Intergrative Sciences and Arts
Arizona State University



Professor
School of Social Transformation
Arizona State University



President
Glendale Community College



Director Creative Writing Program and
Associate Professor, English Department
University of Arizona



Associate Professor, Department of
Civil and Environmental Engineering,
Arizona State University

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Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health



Sarah Amira De La Garza

Associate Professor & Southwest Borderlands
Scholar, Hugh Downs School of Human
Communications, Arizona State University



Maria Reyes

Dean, Industry and Public Service
Phoenix College



Sylvia Symonds

Associate Vice President for Outreach
Arizona State University



Luis G. Mena

Artist
Tucson, Arizona



Jean M. Andino

Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering &
Graduate Faculty of Civil, Environmental &
Sustainable Engineering, Arizona State University

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President, Estrella Mountain
Community College



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Co-Director ACD & Regents
Professor, Arizona State University



Dr. T. Mark Montoya
Associate Professor, Ethnic Studies
Northern Arizona University



Dr. Maria A. Franco
Assistant Vice Provost, Hispanic Serving
Institutions (HSIs), University of Arizona



Ms. Marilyn Torres
Faculty Member, South Mountain
Community College



Dr. Jennifer S. Martinez
Professor, College of the Environment, Forestry
& Natural Sciences, Northern Arizona University



2018 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Dr. Steven R. Gonzales
President, Gateway Community
College



Dr. Maria L. Cruz-Torres
Associate Professor, School of Transborder
Studies, Arizona State University



Dr. Yvonne Luna
Chair & Associate Professor, Sociology
Department, Northern Arizona University



Mr. Michael Matos
Student Services Director,
Phoenix College



James "Jim" Covarrubias
Artist, Educator, Film Producer
& Writer



Dr. Gabriel A. Montano
Professor of Chemistry,
Northern Arizona University

2017 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Dr. Gary Keller
Director Hispanic Research Center and
Regents Professor,
Arizona State University



Dr. Francisca James Hernández
Faculty Member Anthropology Program,
Pima Community College



Dr. Anna Ochoa O'Leary
Associate Professor and Head
Department of Mexican American Studies,
University of Arizona



Dr. David Muñoz
Philosophy & Religious Studies Faculty,
Chandler-Gilbert Community College



Dr. Carlos Vélez-Ibañez
Regents' Professor School of Transborder Studies
and School of Human Evolution and Social Change,
Motorola Presidential Professor of Neighborhood
Revitalization, Arizona State University



Dr. Antonio García
Engineering Professor,
Arizona State University

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President,
Estrella Mountain Community College



Dr. Erica Corral
Associate Professor of
Materials Science and Engineering,
University of Arizona



Dr. Teresa Leyba Ruiz
Interim President,
Glendale Community College



Dr. Lee D. Lambert
Chancellor,
Pima Community College



Dr. Erika Tatiana Camacho
Associate Professor,
School of Mathematical & Natural Sciences,
Arizona State University



Professor Guillermo Reyes
School Film, Dance & Theater,
Arizona State University

2015 AWARD RECIPIENTS



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Eller College of Management, University of Arizona



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Dr. Monica Alexandria Brown
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Northern Arizona University



Dr. Andrea Romero
Fitch Nesbit Professor and Director,
Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth
and Family Studies & Human Development,
University of Arizona



Dr. Carlos Castillo-Chavez
AZ Regents Professor and Joaquin Bustoz Jr.
Professor of Mathematical Biology,
Arizona State University

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Cowden Distinguished Professor &
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South Mountain Community College



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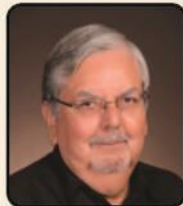


Dr. Christine Marin
Emeriti Professor
Archivist-Historian

2013 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Dr. David Camacho
Special Assistant to the President &
Associate V.P. for Inclusion and Equity,
Northern Arizona University



Dr. Edward Escobar
Associate Professor of History, School of Transborder Studies
Arizona State University



Dr. Carlos J. Ovando
Professor – School of Transborder Studies
College of Liberal Arts and
Sciences, Arizona State University



Zarco Guerrero
Sculptor & Performing Artists



Catalina Carlos, MS
Associate Director, Recruitment
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In 2008, with the support of Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC), the first Latino Community Foundation in the United States was established – The Victoria Foundation, a 501 C 3, a community-based education non-profit corporation. In memory of our founder and leader, the foundation's name was changed to The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation.

The Foundation was established on the following principles and values:

Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations - Develop and strengthen partnerships that ensure effective collaborations that build vibrant communities.

Innovation - The creation of a scholarship program in partnership with Arizona's finest higher education institutions, whereby the participating institutions match dollar for dollar the contributions provided by the Foundation.

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Pete Garcia

1944 – 2017

*Husband * Father * Visionary * Leader * Friend*



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