



THE PETE C. GARCIA
VICTORIA
FOUNDATION



15TH ANNUAL
Arizona Higher Education
AWARDS

Wednesday,
September 25, 2024



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.

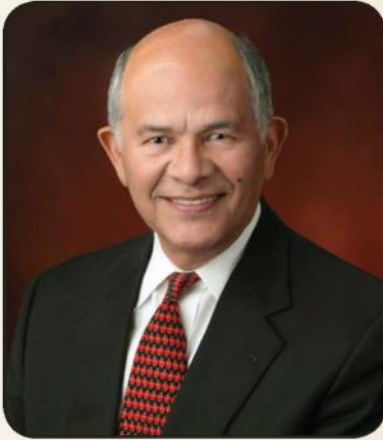
Today's Higher Education Awardees' commitment has lead many youths to journey in the world equipped to succeed.

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,

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 1,7753 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 \$1.7 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 dark ink, reading "Loui Olivas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Dr. Loui Olivas
President



THE PETE C. GARCIA VICTORIA FOUNDATION

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Dr. Loui Olivas

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Foundation Professor Emeritus,
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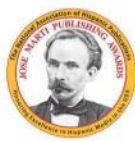
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Partner in ARIZONA
For 30+ Years**

**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!

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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 Award

Recipient: **Dr. Richard Daniel**
President
Mesa Community College

Presented by

Charlene T. Vasquez
Chief of Staff,
Arizona Theatre Company
and Board Member of
The Pete C. Garcia
Victoria Foundation

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

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

Recipient: **Nadine “NAR” Arroyo Rodriguez**
Director
Journalism and New Media Studies
English Department
Mesa Community College

Award Sponsor: Arizona Diamondbacks

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

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

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

Recipient: **Dr. Linda M. Thor**
Board Member at Large
Maricopa Community Colleges
Governing Board

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

Program Agenda

Awards Presentations

Dr. Eugene Garcia, Outstanding Latina/o Faculty Research Award

Recipient: **Dr. Vanessa Fonseca-Chávez**
Associate Dean of Inclusion and Student Success
Associate Professor of English
Arizona State University

Award Sponsor: Arizona Public Service

Presented by

Chuck Lotzar
*Attorney at Law,
Lotzar Law firm, P.C.
and Board Member of
The Pete C. Garcia
Victoria Foundation*

Marisol Garcia
*President
Arizona Education Association*

Silvia Capir
*Senior Strategic,
Partnerships Representative
APS*

Professor Alberto “Tito” Rios, Outstanding Literary/Arts Award

Recipient: **Elaine Romero**
Associate Professor
School of Theatre, Film & Television
University of Arizona

Playwright in Residence
Arizona Theatre Company

Lourdes Sierra
*Vice President
Director of Client & Community
Services, PNC Bank
and Treasurer of the
The Pete C. Garcia
Victoria Foundation*

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

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

Recipient: **Rosalia Delgado, M. ED.**
Director
College of Assistance Migrant Program
Arizona Western Community College

Award Sponsor: Desert Diamond Casino West Valley

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

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 In Higher Education Award

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 In Higher Education Award

Dr. Richard Daniel

President
Mesa Community College

Richard Daniel, Ph.D., was appointed President of Mesa Community College, the largest of the 10 colleges in the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD), in July 2024.

From November 2022 through June 2024, Dr. Daniel was President of South Mountain Community College (SMCC), one of the most diverse colleges in MCCCD. During his tenure, SMCC saw a historic 30 percent surge in enrollment of new students. is enrollment growth was supported by Dr. Daniel's efforts to embed advisers at each SMCC feeder high schools. In addition, he led a comprehensive organizational assessment of the campus community, which resulted in a campus-wide agreement to put student success at the center of everything SMCC does. Dr. Daniel also reinvigorated meaningful engagement with the SMCC community, building business, donor, and nonprofit partnerships.

Prior to serving as president at SMCC, Dr. Daniel was executive vice president and chief operating officer of Education Forward Arizona. His responsibilities included identifying partnership and fundraising opportunities for organizational growth and impact; developing and executing strategic operational and program planning; and ensuring that programmatic and operational administrative budgets aligned with organizational priorities. In 2021, he helped secure \$8.5 million from foundations, corporations, federal and state grants, and tribal communities; in 2022, his efforts secured \$16 million in multi-year funding. Dr. Daniel worked with Freeport-McMoRan to administer their Native American Scholarship Program, a \$9M program serving 14 tribal communities across Arizona. This scholarship program enabled more than 300 Native American students to obtain industry certified credentials, and associate and bachelor's degrees.

Dr. Daniel held a number of administrative positions in the areas of institutional advancement, student affairs, and academic affairs at Arizona State University over a span of 15 years. As associate executive director of alumni relations, he was responsible for identifying, cultivating, and soliciting major prospects for alumni scholarships and capital needs and was involved in ASU's \$500 million Campaign for Leadership. As director of student affairs, he worked very closely with ve of the Maricopa Community Colleges in establishing 2+2 partnerships, which enabled students to successfully complete teaching certificates from the ASU College of Education.

Dr. Daniel was Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Saint Michael's College. In that role, he secured \$3.4

million in annual fundraising and successfully reorganized the Office of Institutional Advancement to align fundraising efforts to strategic direction. He was Associate Vice President for University Advancement and Special Projects and Executive Director for Alumni Relations at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). In this role, he was a leader in the development and implementation of a comprehensive fundraising campaign, which secured \$226 million for UTEP in 2014.

Dr. Daniel has advocated tirelessly for expanding access to educational opportunities that empower individuals, families, and communities. Driven by the guiding principle of servant-leadership, Dr. Daniel has, throughout his career, prioritized developing and supporting teams that maximize individual and organizational strengths for the benefit of those they serve.

Dr. Daniel has led several projects aimed at applying research to drive action. He was the lead author of *Prioritizing Access and Opportunity: How Community Colleges Contribute to Increased Attainment and Economic Growth in Arizona*. Dr. Daniel opened the policy brief with this statement: "Without community colleges, Arizona's higher education system would be a shadow of itself. The state's community colleges are not likely to disappear any time soon, of course, but too often their importance to the state with respect to economic growth, workforce competitiveness, and economic mobility for students and families is rendered invisible."

is policy brief led to the creation of the Arizona Postsecondary Student Resiliency Fund, which provided funds for students facing nancial barriers and resource gaps as a result of the pandemic. The fund awarded \$500,000 to 1,200 students statewide over the course of 16 weeks; more than 250 of those students attended Maricopa Community Colleges. Dr. Daniel's efforts to develop and apply research to systemic improvements led to the creation of AdviseAZ AmeriCorps, which places near-peer advisers in high schools.

Dr. Daniel has been involved with both local and national organizations dedicated to promoting opportunities to ensure that all students have access to a quality education. As a first-generation Latino college student, Dr. Daniel has experienced firsthand the transformative power of higher education. Born in the mining community of Superior, Arizona, he earned a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, a master's degree in Higher Education Administration, and a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science from Arizona State University.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Mesa Community College's Dr. Richard Daniel,
recipient of the Dr. Loui Olivas Distinguished Leadership in Higher
Education Award, for his 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.



We love helping Arizona.

Community involvement and volunteerism have been part of AZ Blue's culture since we opened our doors 85 years ago. We're based in Arizona, and we love it here. And when we hear there is a need, we take action. Our mission is to inspire health and make it easy, and with that, we are proud to align our success with the successes of the communities we serve.

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Honored Award

Outstanding Community College Award

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 Award

Nadine "NAR" Arroyo Rodriguez

**Director
Journalism and New Media Studies
English Department
Mesa Community College**

NAR is residential faculty and director of the Mesa Community College (MCC) Journalism and New Media Studies program. She teaches journalism, mass communication, and humanities, as well as faculty advisor for both the Mesa Legend student newspaper and podcast, and Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. NAR works closely with the New Media Lab Experience to incorporate media in all her classes and student-led media initiatives as a way to encourage students to become more engaged in their learning, enhance the journalism program and apply work-based learning for the journalism students.

NAR's ongoing service to the greater learning community includes chairing the Maricopa County Community College District Journalism Instructional Council, Chair of the Journalism and Media Arts Arizona Articulation Task Force, interim director of the MCC Center for Community and Civic Engagement, and is currently an Equity Ambassador in training for the hiring committee process at MCC.

NAR is an Emmy-nominated journalist and a Telly Award winner with more than two decades of experience in the industry. She has worked for NPR affiliate KJZZ 91.5FM, KAET-TV PBS (Phoenix), as well as several English and Spanish-language commercial and public broadcasting stations in Chicago. Her most in-depth reporting has been in education and immigration, from Arizona's controversial bill SB1070 to traveling to the borders of Mexico and Guatemala to cover issues across

international lines. NAR has held other roles throughout her career, including member of the Mayor's Latino Advisory board for the City of Chicago, Vice President of the 2008 Arizona Super Bowl XLII Host Committee, and board member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. In 2022, NAR co-chaired the Journalism and Women Symposium (JAWS) Conference and Mentoring Program in Austin, Texas.

She is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and a minor in Broadcasting. In Arizona, NAR received a Master in Education from Northern Arizona University and completed coursework toward the Media, Film and Pop Culture Studies Program from Arizona State University. She is a Fellow from the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism & New York Times Institute of Immigration Reporting, Fellow at the Education Writers Association in Washington D.C., as well as a Fellow of the Investigative Reporters & Editors Data Journalism Bootcamp for Educators at the University of Missouri Columbia.

NAR was born in Puerto Rico to Puerto Rican and Belgian parents. She was raised in Chicago's La Villita, a predominantly Mexican-immigrant community. She has been involved in television production and journalism since attending Marie Curie High School, a performing arts school in Chicago.

NAR is bilingual, biliterate and multicultural.



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THE VICTORIA FOUNDATION

**AND THE RECIPEINTS OF THE 2024
ARIZONA HIGHER EDUCATION AWARDS!**

NADINE “NAR” ARROYO RODRIGUEZ
DIRECTOR, JOURNALISM AND NEW MEDIA STUDIES
MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**2024 WINNER OF THE DR. ALFREDO G. DE LOS
SANTOS, JR. COMMUNITY COLLEGE AWARD**

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Maricopa Community Colleges is proud to celebrate the recipients of the prestigious **Arizona Higher Education Awards**, presented by the Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation.

Thank you for your commitment to providing inclusive learning opportunities for all students.



Dr. Richard Daniel

President
Mesa Community College

Dr. Loui Olivas, Distinguished
Leadership in Higher Education
Award



Nadine "NAR" Arroyo Rodriguez

*Director, Journalism and New
Media Studies*
Mesa Community College

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



Dr. Linda Thor

Board Member-at-Large
Maricopa Community Colleges

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



Honored Award

Outstanding Support of Hispanic
Issues in Higher Education Award

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 Award

Dr. Linda M. Thor

**Board Member at Large
Maricopa Community Colleges
Governing Board**

Dr. Linda M. Thor was first elected to the Maricopa Community Colleges Governing Board in 2016 and was re-elected in 2020. She is currently running unopposed for a third term. In 2019 she served as Board President. A nationally recognized innovator in higher education, she worked in community colleges for 41 years, 29 years as a chief executive officer. Dr. Thor is President Emerita of Rio Salado College, one of 10 colleges in the Maricopa Community College District. Her 20-year tenure was known for effectively using technology to serve working adults through online learning, customized workforce degree and certificate programs for corporations and government, and accelerated learning programs, such as dual enrollment for ambitious high school students.

Dr. Thor is also Chancellor Emerita of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, one of the nation's most prominent college districts, serving 65,000 students each year in the Silicon Valley. During her five-year tenure, the district won the bid to lead the statewide Online Education Initiative, a \$57 million effort involving California's 113 community colleges, became one of 15 districts to pilot the community college baccalaureate degree, and received 9 acres from the federal government in a public benefit conveyance to build a new education center.

Before becoming Rio Salado's president in 1990, Dr. Thor was president of West Los Angeles College (WLAC). During her tenure, she obtained state funding for major capital construction projects, increased the enrollment 48 percent, and introduced innovative programs. Her appointment as WLAC president in March 1986 followed a successful tenure as senior director of occupational and technical education for the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), where she administered over \$20 million in technical training programs under federal and state grants. For six years Dr. Thor was the LACCD director of communications services.

Dr. Thor received a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from Pepperdine University, a Master of Public Administration from California State University-Los Angeles, and a Doctor of Education in community college administration from Pepperdine University. She served as adjunct faculty for the UCLA School of Education, Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology, Rio Salado College, and Northern Arizona University.

As Rio Salado College President, Dr. Thor served on the boards of many local community and civic organizations including the East Valley Partnership, Friends of Public Radio Arizona, Arizona Town Hall, Valley of the Sun United Way Campaign Cabinet, and Greater Phoenix Economic Council.

At the national level, she served on the boards of the League for Innovation in the Community College, American Council on Education Commission on Education Attainment and Innovation, and the Community College Baccalaureate Association among others. By gubernatorial appointment, she served as one of three California representatives on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. In 2010 the U.S. Secretary of Education appointed her to serve on the 15-member Committee on Measures of Student Success.

Honors bestowed on Dr. Thor include the Pepperdine University Alumni Medal of Honor, California State University-LA Distinguished Alumna Award, Ronald McDonald House Charities "Excellence in Education" Award, the Community College Baccalaureate Association Pioneer Award, The International Chair Academy Paul A. Elsner Excellence in Leadership Award, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society Shirley B. Gordon CEO Award of Distinction, the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) Morris T Keeton Award, and the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET) Richard Jonsen Award.



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 Award

Dr. Vanessa Fonseca-Chávez

Associate Dean of Inclusion and Success

Associate Professor of English

Arizona State University

Vanessa Fonseca-Chávez is a Manita from Grants, New Mexico. She received her B.A. in Spanish and her M.A. in Southwest Hispanic Studies from the University of New Mexico and her Ph.D. in Spanish Cultural Studies from Arizona State University. She was an Assistant Professor of Latina/o Studies and English at the University of Wyoming from 2013-2016 and is currently an Associate Professor of English in the School of Applied Sciences and Arts at ASU.

In addition to her faculty role, Vanessa serves as the Associate Dean of Inclusion and Student Success in the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts. She brings to this position many years of experience working in the realm of inclusive excellence. She served as the President for the ASU Faculty Women of Color Caucus (FWOCC) from 2020-2021, Membership Coordinator for Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (MALCS) from 2015-2022, and the Rocky Mountain Foco Representative for the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS) from 2015-2017. Currently, she is the Secretary for the ASU Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff Association (CLFSA) and Chair-Elect for MALCS.

Dr. Fonseca-Chávez's research focuses on understanding how rural communities in the U.S. Southwest narrate a sense of place and belonging. For this research, she is documenting how Hispano residents of Concho, Arizona have formed connections and placemaking strategies as an ethno-

religious community. She has received numerous awards and grants for her research, including the University of Texas at Austin CMAS/Voces Collaborative Oral History Fellowship, for which she was the inaugural recipient.

Vanessa is the author of *Colonial Legacies in Chicana/o Literature and Culture: Looking through the Kaleidoscope* (University of Arizona Press, 2020) and is the co-editor of three books, including *Querencia: Reflections on the New Mexico Homeland* (University of New Mexico Press, 2020) and *La Plonqui: The Literary Life and Work of Margarita Cota-Cárdenas* (University of Arizona Press, 2023), as well as numerous articles, book chapters, and public scholarship. Since 2015, Fonseca-Chávez has served as co-director of the Following the Manito Trail Project, which looks at the Hispanic New Mexican, or Manito, diaspora from the mid 19th century to the present. The Following the Manito Trail team has produced three documentaries, five museum exhibits, and has published various articles and book chapters.

This fall, Fonseca-Chávez and her colleague, Rafael Martínez will officially launch the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts Latinx Oral History Lab. Our mission is to amplify Latinx voices throughout Arizona, capturing the rich tapestry of experiences that form the core of our community narratives. We look forward to the exciting research opportunities that will emerge from this lab!



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From cultural celebrations and community gatherings to new opportunities and honored traditions, join us in keeping our communities vibrant and Arizona's future bright.



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We are on our way to a more equitable future for all. But we'll only get there by working together, committed to helping one another. Let's nurture our cultura and continue growing strong—Desde La Raíz.

**Desde
La Raíz**
"FROM THE ROOT"



**CHICANOS
POR LA CAUSA**





Honored Award

Outstanding Literary/Arts Award

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 Award

Elaine Romero

Associate Professor
School of Theatre, Film & Television
University of Arizona

Playwright in Residence - Arizona Theatre Company

An award-winning U.S. playwright, Elaine Romero's plays have been presented across the U.S. and abroad; she is also widely published and anthologized in over 50 publications. Her new play, *Prosperita*, was commissioned by and presented Off-Broadway with Red Bull Short Play Festival, starring Liza Colón-Zayas ("The Bear"). *Like Heaven* (Bridge Initiative) received an ariZoni Award for best script in 2023 for a production in the Phoenix Metro Area. *Secret Things*, which has to do with crypto-Judaism in New Mexico, received a critically-acclaimed production at 1st Stage where the play was named by DC Metro Theater Arts as one of the best Outstanding Professional Theatre Productions. Her banned play was featured in Banned Together for the Dramatists Guild Legal Defense Fund on the Broadway Podcast Network.

The month-long, RomeroFest, featured her work at theatres nationally and internationally in March 2021 with over seventeen separate projects. Initiated by the Arizona Theatre Company, some of the collaborating companies included Artists Repertory Theatre, Scoundrel & Scamp Theatre, InterAct Theatre Company, Seven Devils New Play Foundry, Winding Road Theatre Ensemble, Teatro Travieso/Troublemaker Theater, Justice Theatre Project, and Foro Shakespeare in Mexico City.

Revolutions/Revoluciones, in Spanish translation, was produced at LATC, under famed Mexican director, Bruno Bichir. *When Reason Sleeps* (Headlands Center for the Arts, A-I-R, O'Neill Finalist), *Graveyard of Empires* (Goodman/16th St. Theatre), *A Work of Art* (Goodman Theatre/Chicago Dramatists), *A-I-R*, and *Martínez in Taos* (Arizona Theatre Company; workshop) make up Romero's war pentology.

Modern Slave, commissioned by Ford's Theatre, was presented at the 2017 Seven Devils Playwrights Conference. It was developed at A Contemporary Theatre (Seattle), Victory Gardens Theatre (Chicago), and The Road Theatre (LA). From her

Arizona/Mexico border trilogy (*Mother of Exiles*, *Wetback*), her Arizona Theatre Company commission, *Title IX*, was included in the 2017 Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference.

Romero has been the fortunate recipient of the TCG/Pew National Theatre Artist-in-Residence grant, the NEA/TCG Playwright-in-Residence Program, the Blue Ink Playwrights Award, the Sprenger-Lang New History Foundation Award, the Chicano/Latino Literary Award, and many others.

Romero's work has been published by Dramatists Play Service, Samuel French, Playscripts, TRW, Simon and Schuster, Vintage Books among others. She wrote the film, "A Sentiment" (Burning Coal Theatre/The Justice Theatre Project). Chatham Life and Style named the piece in the top five of the 19th Amendment Project. Two Viral Monologues were recently produced, *Oyster* (24-Hour Plays/ATC; DPS) and *Shackle* (24-Hour Plays). Recent and upcoming publications include *Swastika*, *Permission*, and *Harriet and Irene*, a new play about Maria Irene Fornés and Harriet Sohmers for Cambridge University Press.

Romero served as the Southwest Regional Rep for the Dramatists Guild of America. She has had the good fortune of being a member of NBC's Writer's on the Verge, the CBS Writers' Diversity Program, and the NHMC's Latino Writers' Program. She previously taught film and television writing at Northwestern University.

Romero is an Associate Professor and a Member of the Graduate Faculty in the School of Theatre, Film, and Television at the University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz., and the Playwright-in-Residence at Arizona Theatre Company.

She is ever-grateful she can stand on her head.



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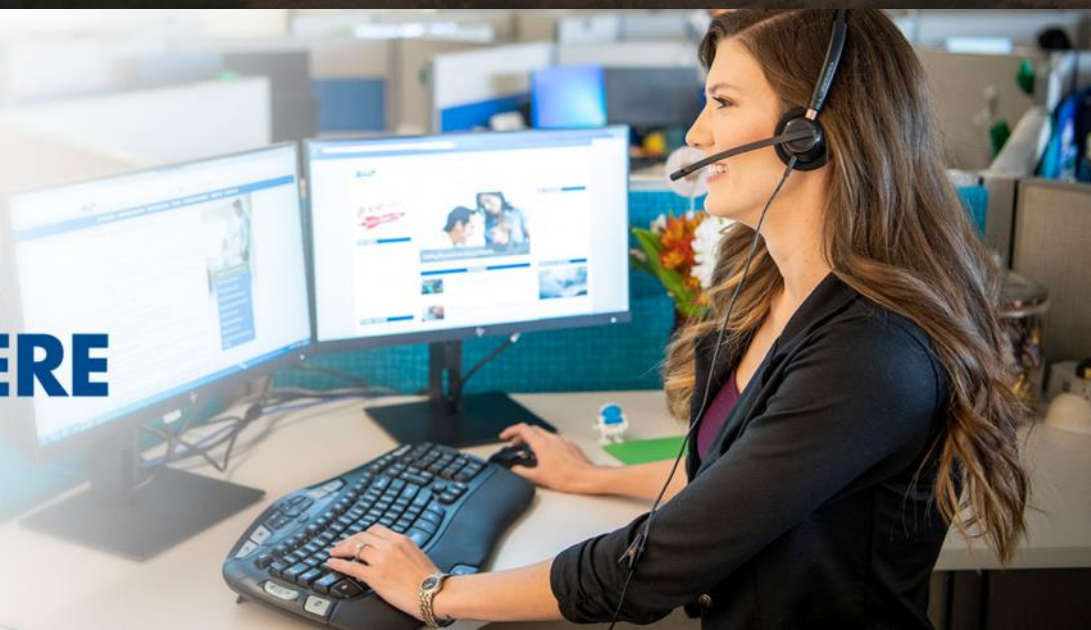




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Honored Award

S.T.E.M. Award

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. Award

Rosalia Delgado, M. ED.

Director

**College of Assistance Migrant Program
Arizona Western College**

Rosalia Delgado is the Director for the College Assistance Migrant Program, CAMP, at Arizona Western College in Yuma Arizona. With strong commitment and expertise in her field, Rosalia Delgado has significantly helped in bettering the lives of migrant farm worker families for the past 14 years. Her personal philosophy of equity, compassion, and support has positively impacted hundreds of families because she opens the door to educational opportunities. Under Rosalia's leadership the CAMP program has an 86% completion rate and 92% retention rate. Students are transferring to the Universities and coming back to their community. Rosalia Delgado was born in Yurecuaro Michoacan, Mexico. She immigrated to the United States at the early age of six. Her mother with four children left Yurecuaro to unite with her father who worked in the U.S. Rosalia and her family were welcomed to the United States by what would become her new family. An Aunt and uncle who helped the family acclimate to a whole new

world. As a young girl She was fortunate to have resources available to her. Specifically, The Friendly Center in Orange California. She remembers the summer programs available to her and the doors that these opportunities brought to her. This is why she is enthusiastic about helping others by removing barriers. It is her goal to remove financial, academic, and social barriers by being an education advocate to each student. She was previously employed at the Excel Group, a behavioral health agency, Infotec Development, an aerospace company and prior to that she was a medical assistant. Rosalia's previous experiences have helped her navigate budgets and the ability to ask for assistance, when necessary, to remove barriers for her students. Rosalia received an associate's degree from Arizona Western College and a master's from Northern Arizona University. Rosalia enjoys family gatherings and trips with her three adult children and five grandchildren.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the 2024
Dr. WILLIAM YSLAS VELEZ
STEM AWARD WINNER



ROSALIA DELGADO, M. ED.
Director
College of Assistance Migrant Program
Arizona Western College

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Rosalia Delgado
2024 STEM Award Recipient



Rosalia Delgado, as our CAMP Director, embodies the commitment to access and opportunities at AWC for students, and the CAMP Program brings together a celebration of resources through experiential learning in STEM programming and with students exploring STEM fields through cohort programming, experiential learning, camps, and other events.



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Northern Arizona University



Dr. Elena Ortiz Zuazaga
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Dr. Irene Robles-Lopez
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Dr. Jessica Raymond
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CIO/Associate Vice President,
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Arizona State University



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



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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 &
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President, Estrella Mountain
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Dr. Carlo Castillo-Chavez
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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
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President, Gateway Community College



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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

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Director Hispanic Research Center and Regents Professor, Arizona State University



Dr. Francisca James Hernández
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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
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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

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Arizona State University



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Integrative 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
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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
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Luis G. Mena
Artist
Tucson, Arizona



Jean M. Andino
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Graduate Faculty of Civil, Environmental &
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Co-Director ACD & Regents
Professor, Arizona State University



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Chair & Associate Professor, Sociology Department, Northern Arizona University



Mr. Michael Matos

Student Services Director, Phoenix College



James "Jim" Covarrubias

Artist, Educator, Film Producer & Writer



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Professor of Chemistry, Northern Arizona University

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Associate Professor and Head Department of Mexican American Studies, University of Arizona



Dr. David Muñoz

Philosophy & Religious Studies Faculty, Chandler-Gilbert Community College



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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

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Professor Guillermo Reyes

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South Mountain Community College



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Arizona State University



Dr. Carlos J. Ovando
Professor – School of Transborder Studies
College of Liberal Arts and
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Catalina Carlos, MS
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Program Administrator
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Bertha was hired by Pete C. Garcia when he launched the foundation in 2010, Bertha had just retired from Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC). Her sustained leadership, creative ideas and her incredible management skills set are the primary reasons why the foundation has flourished. Bertha is stepping down from her position, she and her Husband Joe will now have plenty of time to garden, cook and enjoy the company of her Familia and Grand Kids.

*Felicidades y Buena
Suerte Bertha!*

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