

17TH ANNUAL
Arizona Higher Education
AWARDS



THE PETE C. GARCIA
VICTORIA
FOUNDATION

Friday, September 11, 2026





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 16th 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.

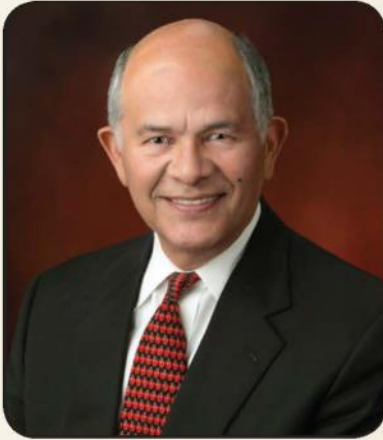
Today's Higher Education Awardees' commitment has lead many youths to journey in the world equipped to succeed.

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, 17th 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 1,753 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 SRP our event host.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loui Olivas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Loui Olivas
President



THE PETE C. GARCIA VICTORIA FOUNDATION

Board of Directors

Suzie Moreno

Chair, The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation,
Manager, National Sales, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona

Raul Aguirre

President, REA Media Group

Dr. Loui Olivas

President, The Pete C. Garcia Victoria
Foundation Professor Emeritus,
Arizona State University

Dr. Steven R. Gonzales

Senior Executive Director
CCLP Kansas State University

Lourdes Sierra

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

Chuck Lotzar

Attorney at Law
Lotzar Law Firm

Charlene T. Vasquez

Chief of Staff
Arizona Theatre Company
Member, The Pete C. Garcia Victoria
Foundation Board of Directors



Staff

Jay Olivas

Multimedia



**Your Most Trusted Hispanic Media
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!

Google
News Initiative



**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
The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation Board of Directors

Steven Lopez, Senior Director Supply Chain & Flight Services, Salt River Project (SRP)

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

Awards Presentations

Dr. Eugene Garcia, Outstanding Research in Higher Education Award

Recipient: **Dr. Javier D. Duran**

Professor of Latin-American and Border Studies
The University of Arizona

Award Sponsor: Arizona Public Service (APS)

Presented by

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

Gene Garcia
Professor Emeriti
Arizona State University

Myrna Cardenas
Senior Strategic Partnerships
Representative
Community Affairs
Arizona Public Service (APS)

Dr. Loui Olivas, Distinguished Leadership in Higher Education Award

Recipient: **Dr. David E. Arellano**

Assistant Vice Chancellor
Student Services and Onboarding
Pima Community College

Award Sponsor: Salt River Project (SRP)

Charles W. Lotzar
Attorney at Law,
Lotzar Law firm, P.C.
and Board Secretary
The Pete C. Garcia
Victoria Foundation

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

Steven Lopez
Senior Director
Supply Chain & Flight Services
Salt River Project (SRP)

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

Recipient: **Dr. Gilberto Lopez**

Inaugural Provosts'
Charter Professor
School of Transborder Studies
Arizona State University

Award Sponsor: Desert Diamond Casino West Valley

Suzie Moreno

Dr. William Yslas Velez
Professor Emeritus,
University of Arizona

Gabriel Garcia
Public Relations and Community
Support Coordinator
Tohono O'odham Gaming Enterprise

Program Agenda

Awards Presentations

Presented by

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

Recipient: **Dr. Veronica Hipolito**

**President
South Mountain Community College
Maricopa Community Colleges**

Award Sponsor: Arizona Diamondbacks

Dr. Steven R. Gonzales
*Senior Executive Director
CCLP Kansas State University
and Board Member
The Pete C. Garcia
Victoria Foundation*

Debbie Castaldo
*Corporate Senior Vice President
and Foundation President
Arizona Diamondbacks*

Professor Alberto "Tito" Rios, Outstanding Literary/Arts Award

Recipient: **Carmela Ramirez**

Musician, Vocalist & Event Producer

Award Sponsor: ASU Foundation for a New America

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

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

Eric Spenser
*Chief Development Officer
ASU Foundation for a New America
University Serving
Arizona State University*

Edith Sayre Auslander, Outstanding Support in Higher Education Award

Recipient: **Dr. Larry Penley**

**Former Dean & Professor Emeriti
W.P. Carey School of Business
Arizona State University
Arizona Board of Regents 2015-16**

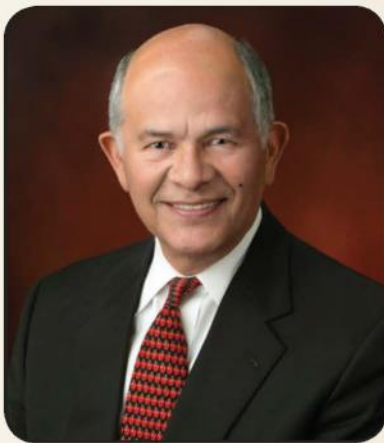
Award Sponsor: The University of Arizona Foundation

Lourdes Sierra
*Vice President for CRA & Fair
Lending National Bank of Arizona
and Treasurer,
The Pete C. Garcia Victoria
Foundation*

Brian DeSpain
*R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy
Director of Development
The University of Arizona*

Closing Remarks

Suzie Moreno & Dr. Loui Olivas



Honored Award

Dr. Loui Olivas
Distinguished Leadership In Higher Education

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

Dr. David E. Arellano

**Assistant Vice Chancellor
Student Services and Onboarding
Pima Community College**

Dr. David E. Arellano is the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Services and Onboarding at Pima Community College (PCC) in Tucson, Arizona. Since 2006, he has dedicated his career to serving PCC students through leadership roles spanning enrollment management, student affairs, workforce development, grants, international education, financial aid, and military and veteran services.

As a Latino male and first-generation college graduate, Dr. Arellano's educational journey has deeply shaped his career and approach to leadership. Growing up on the south side of Tucson, he experienced firsthand many of the barriers that can make college feel out of reach, including financial pressures, cultural expectations, social stigmas about going to college, balancing school and work, and moments that led him to question whether he could truly attend and succeed in college.

After high school, he faced a decision familiar to many first-generation students: pursue college, enter the workforce, or do both. He chose to do both, working part-time while attending PCC, where he earned an associate degree and became the first person in his family to graduate from college. That experience at PCC changed the trajectory of his life and became the foundation for a career dedicated to creating opportunities for others. Over nearly two decades, he has progressed from a PCC student to a senior higher

education leader, bringing a personal understanding of the challenges many students face in navigating college to his work.

Throughout his career, Dr. Arellano has led efforts to strengthen enrollment, remove barriers, and improve the student experience. He has led strategic enrollment management plans and student success initiatives, co-led a \$2.7 million student debt relief initiative benefiting over 3,000 students, and advanced new approaches to onboarding, advising, career exploration, and student support. His leadership has helped create more connected and student-centered pathways for students across credit, noncredit, workforce, and adult education programs. Beyond PCC, he has contributed to statewide and national higher education efforts through leadership with the Arizona Hispanic-Serving Institution Consortium and service on the Board of the Higher Education Resource Development Institute.

Dr. Arellano's career reflects a commitment to empowering students and advancing the mission of community colleges through service, innovation, and leadership. He continues to challenge assumptions, champion equitable student success, and create opportunities for education to serve as a pathway to social and economic mobility. Most importantly, he remains committed to helping PCC transform lives and strengthen the Arizona community that helped shape his own journey.

Empowering Excellence and Elevating Futures for Arizona's Students

The Arizona Community Foundation connects passionate donors like you with causes that matter. When you partner with us, you're joining a trusted statewide network with 47 years of experience investing in our shared future.

Right now, that future depends on education. Partnering with the Arizona Community Foundation and education nonprofits across the state helps ensure every student in Arizona reaches their potential, building the skilled workforce our state needs to thrive.

Whether you give your time or treasure, your investment goes where our communities need it most, when they need it most. Because community is our middle name.



only

36%

of Arizona third-graders
read at grade level*

*Arizona Department of Education, 2024

SUPPORT ARIZONA'S MOST PRESSING EDUCATION NEEDS | EXPLORE OUR IMPACT IN ACTION





Leading the Way

With its Centers of Excellence, state-of-the-art programs and workforce partnerships, Pima Community College is leading the way to a robust economy and thriving community.

#PimaCCWorkforce • workforce@pima.edu • 520-206-4982

***“Congratulations to the 2026
Higher Education Award
recipients”***



PimaCommunityCollege

520.206.4500 | pima.edu |    





Honored Award

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

Dr. Veronica Hipolito

President

**South Mountain Community College
Maricopa Community Colleges**

Dr. Veronica Hipolito is the fifth president of South Mountain Community College (SMCC), assuming leadership on July 1, 2024, and the first Latina to serve in the role. With more than 25 years of experience across university and community college settings, Dr. Hipolito is a student-centered leader committed to expanding opportunity, advancing equity, and strengthening the systems that help students and communities thrive.

As a first-generation college student with family roots in South Phoenix, Dr. Hipolito brings both personal understanding and professional experience to her leadership. She believes education can transform lives—not only for individual students, but also for their families and communities. Her vision for SMCC is grounded in creating a culture where students feel supported, connected, and empowered to achieve their goals.

Dr. Hipolito's leadership centers on collaboration, community partnership, and removing barriers to student success. Throughout her career in the Maricopa Community College District, including as vice president of student affairs at Chandler-Gilbert Community College and interim president at Scottsdale Community College, she has worked to develop structural supports that make educational pathways more accessible and equitable. She was also part of the team that established the award-winning CCC2NAU program, creating a streamlined pathway for Coconino Community College students to

continue their education at Northern Arizona University.

Dr. Hipolito remains deeply engaged in her community and the broader field of higher education. She is a champion for students and the community through board service and her role on the American Association of Community Colleges Student Agency, Success, Learning Pathways, and Wellbeing Commission. She was also selected for the Aspen Institute's 2023–24 Rising Presidents Fellowship, recognizing high-potential community college leaders committed to student equity and achievement.

A graduate of Northern Arizona University and Gwynedd Mercy University, Dr. Hipolito holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's degree in community counseling, and a doctorate in higher education leadership. Her contributions to education have been recognized through honors including the 2018 Coconino County Hispanic Advisory Council Community Leadership Award and induction into the Northern Arizona University College of Education Hall of Fame in 2021.

At the heart of Dr. Hipolito's leadership is a belief in the power of people and partnerships. She is working to ensure that SMCC is a trusted partner and remains a place where students are seen, supported, and equipped to turn educational opportunity into lasting impact for themselves, their families, and their communities.



THE ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS CONGRATULATES

Dr. Veronica Hipolito

President

**South Mountain Community College
Maricopa Community Colleges**

**2026 WINNER OF THE
DR. ALFREDO G. DE LOS SANTOS, JR.
COMMUNITY COLLEGE AWARD**

@DBACKSGIVEBACK #DBACKSGIVEBACK

DBACKS.COM/COMMUNITY

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

Thank you for your unwavering leadership and commitment to advancing opportunities and making a meaningful impact.



Dr. Veronica Hipolito

President
South Mountain Community College

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



Honored Award

Outstanding Support of 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 Higher Education Award

Dr. Larry Penley

**Former Dean & Professor Emeriti
W.P. Carey School of Business
Arizona State University
Arizona Board of Regents 2015-2016**

Dr. Penley is a founding partner of ELM2 Advisors, a M&A firm that focuses on preserving the diversity of America's colleges and universities. He is Professor Emeritus of Arizona State University (ASU) where he served as Dean of the W. P. Carey School of Business. He served as President of Colorado State University (CSU) and Thunderbird School of Global Management. He was also Chancellor of the CSU System. The Governor of Arizona appointed him twice to the Arizona Board of Regents. He was elected to two terms as Chair. Dr. Penley has served on other higher education boards, including Glion (Switzerland), ESC Toulouse (France), Western International University (Chair) and Thunderbird School of Global Management.

Penley has long focused on global business and especially Latin America. Following his position as Visiting Lecturer at The Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, he served as Visiting Professor at the Postgrado of the Universidad de Carabobo in Valencia Venezuela. At ASU he was a member of the Latin American faculty, and he led the creation of the "Mexico Economic Outlook". Under his leadership the School of Business created degree programs with the Instituto Autonomo de Mexico, with Tsinghua University in Beijing and with the Ministry of Finance of the PRC. While dean, he served on the Chicana/o Studies Advisory Committee that ultimately led to the current ASU Department of Transborder Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies.

Dr. Penley views the fundamental responsibility of higher education as serving the community via entrepreneurial organizational transformation. That is why he led the creation of the first off-campus MBA for the University of Texas at San Antonio, why he led the creation of a two-year MBA at ASU, and why he focused on raising the value of a W. P. Carey degree with the college's renaming as the W. P. Carey School of Business with a \$50M naming

gift. At CSU he focused the University on society's Great Global Challenges like sustainable energy.

Throughout his career he has concentrated on helping working adults and at-risk students to gain access to higher education. As Regent he led the creation of the Promise Scholarship for working-class students and the New Economy Initiative. He was a member of the Board of Inroads Arizona. As Chancellor of the CSU System, he led the creation of CSU Global, an online college that served working adults. As President of CSU, he created scholarships that covered all tuition and fees for Pell-eligible students. He was invited to become the first Anglo on the Board of what is now called Prosperanica, the National Association of Hispanic MBAs.

Dr. Penley's honors include recognition as a Higher Education Fellow, Institute for Citizens and Scholars (formerly a Woodrow Wilson Fellow), the Frank C. Carr Award (Inroads Arizona), the Distinguished Service Award (Greater Phoenix Economic Council-GPEC), the Robert Herberger Arizona Heritage Chaired Professorship, and Vigil Honor from the Boy Scouts. As Dean at ASU, Penley was recognized by the Hispanic Business Student Association with its Century Award for Exemplary Support and Leadership. He is a Senior Fellow, the Center for the Future of Arizona. Past community boards include GPEC, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, Dignity Health Foundation, St. Mary's Basilica Patronato, and East Valley Catholic Social Services. He also served on the Finance Committee of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix. He is a parishioner and Lector at St. Mary's Basilica.

Dr. Penley is a first-generation college graduate with a BA and MA from Wake Forest University and the Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He and his wife, Yolanda Sanchez Penley, Ph.D., first moved to Arizona more than 40 years ago. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.



The power of together

Caring, giving and making things better.
It all starts by working together. Join us in
celebrating the power of community.



Funded by APS shareholders and
not included in customer rates.



*Aún
Soñando*

...BECAUSE WE'RE
STILL DREAMING

Congrats

'26 HIGHER EDUCATION AWARDEES

SOME OF US HAVE
NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE.

BUT WE PUSH FORWARD
FOR OUR MOTHERS,
OUR FATHERS, OUR SISTERS, OUR BROTHERS.

WE KNOW THAT
A BETTER FUTURE
IS POSSIBLE.

AND WE WILL DO ALL IN
OUR POWER TO MAKE
IT UNFOLD.

Join Our Movement.

Help students unlock the power of education to transform their lives.

Because working together is how we move forward.

Desde la Raíz, Hacia el Sol.

Learn more at cplc.org



**CHICANOS
POR LA CAUSA**



Honored Award

Outstanding Research in Higher Education

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
Outstanding Research in Higher Education

Dr. Javier D. Duran

**Professor of Latin-American
and Border Studies
The University of Arizona**

Javier Duran Ph.D. is Professor of Latin-American and Border Studies at the Center for Latin American Studies and the founding director of the Confluencer for Creative Inquiry at the University of Arizona. A scholar, educator, and academic leader, he has built a distinguished career advancing interdisciplinary research and public engagement focused on the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, Latin American culture, migration, and transnational communities.

As a native of the Arizona-Sonora desert region, Dr. Duran brings a deeply rooted borderlands perspective to his scholarship and leadership. His areas of teaching and research include Interdisciplinary Studies of the U.S.-Mexico Border Region, Data Borders, Human Security, 20th-21st Century Mexican and Mexican American Cultural Studies, Cultural Heritage, Public Humanities, and Experiential Learning. He is the author of the book *José Revueltas. Una poética de la disidencia*, published by the Universidad Veracruzana in Mexico, five co-edited books on Cultural Studies, and numerous articles on literary and cultural themes.

Dr. Duran has taught at Michigan State University, the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and he has been a Visiting Research Fellow at the Colegio de Sonora in Hermosillo, Mexico, as well as Visiting Teaching Fellow at the Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico. He holds memberships in the Latin American Studies Association, Modern Language Association where he was one of the founding members of the MLA Discussion Group on Mexican Cultural and Literary Studies. Duran is past President of the Association for Borderland

Studies (ABS), the leading international organization on the study of border issues; and past Co-President of the Consortium for Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI). He was also appointed by the Governor of Arizona to serve on the Board of Directors of the Arizona-Mexico Commission, a binational advocacy organization where he co-chairs the Education Committee.

Dr. Duran is currently working on projects dealing with US-Mexico interdisciplinary transborder collaborations, border culture, necropolitics, virtual borders, cultural place-making and Indigenous Humanities. He has also investigated and taught about the connections between globalization, transnational identities, and the Mexican and Latin American Diasporas. He is the principal investigator of the University of Arizona based project: "Fronteridades: Nurturing Collaborative Intersections in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands" funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and served as Co-PI of the "Reclaiming the Border Narrative Archive" funded by the Ford Foundation.

Across his scholarship, teaching, mentorship, and leadership, Duran remains committed to connecting academic research with communities it represents. His work demonstrates how interdisciplinary inquiry can foster meaningful dialogue, deepen public understanding, and create opportunities for collaboration among scholars, students, artists, and community partners. His career reflects a sustained dedication to advancing accessible, community-engaged scholarship that builds relationships and contributes to a more inclusive future for higher education.



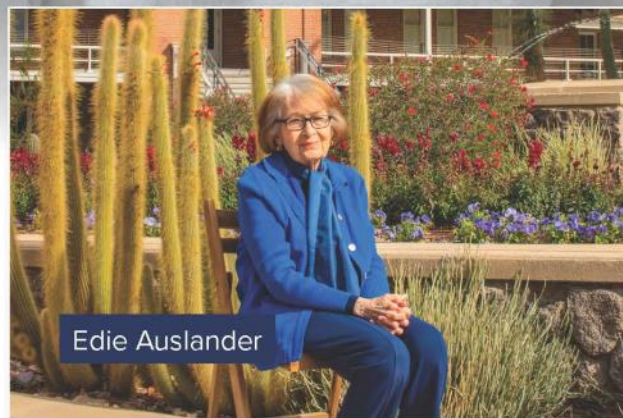
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Foundation

Congratulations to the 2026 Arizona Higher Education Award Recipients.

We are especially pleased to recognize Larry Penley, recipient of the Edith Sayre Auslander Outstanding Support of Hispanic Issues in Higher Education Award.

Edie Auslander was a true difference maker at the University of Arizona and beyond. We are grateful to the Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation for honoring her legacy through this prestigious award.

uafoundation.org





**ARIZONA
WESTERN
COLLEGE**

Congratulations

*to all of the 2026 Higher
Education Award Recipients.*



*Transforming lives through education and
partnerships to create thriving communities*



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

Carmela Ramirez

**Musician, Vocalist
& Event Producer**

Carmela is an award-winning vocalist, producer, and community arts leader with a distinguished career dedicated to inspiring audiences through music, arts, and cultural engagement. Throughout her career, she has performed and produced across a wide range of musical genres, including Rhythm & Blues, Jazz, Latin Jazz, and Salsa. Every ensemble she has led has received recognition for musical excellence.

Today, Carmela performs with her current ensemble, Carmela y Más, a dynamic ten-piece Latin salsa band known for its high-energy performances and exceptional musicianship. Her soulful voice and heartfelt delivery continue to captivate audiences.

As a producer, Carmela has created and presented numerous concerts, community festivals, conferences, arts education initiatives, and youth mentoring programs that celebrate culture, foster creativity, and strengthen communities.

Believing that vibrant communities are built through the arts, Carmela has used her creative vision to encourage dialogue, build connections, and inspire positive change. Her dedication to public service and the arts has earned her numerous honors, including the Valle del Sol Profiles of Success, the Maricopa NAACP Education Award, multiple City of Phoenix Excellence Awards, and the Phoenix Elementary School District Star Mentor Award, among many others.

During her 30-year career with the City of Phoenix, Carmela served as Director of the

Phoenix Center for the Arts, where she transformed the center into a thriving hub for community arts and education. Given the opportunity to develop innovative programming, she expanded affordable arts education, established the Phoenix Children's Chorus, launched the 3rd Street Theater, created the CityJazz Youth Big Bands, produced the Phoenix Symphony "People's Pops Concerts," and designed mayoral inauguration celebrations. She also provided leadership and oversight for the Shemer Art Center, Heritage Square, CityScape, Patriots Square, and Hance Park.

In 2000, Carmela partnered with fellow City of Phoenix staff to create The Latino Institute, an innovative community outreach initiative designed to enhance the quality of life for Phoenix residents, particularly Latino families who were new to the city. The award-winning program, which she produced and directed until her retirement in 2015, became a model for cultural engagement, community education, and civic participation.

In recognition of her lasting impact, Carmela was inducted into the Raul H. Castro Institute as an Arizona Trailblazer and has twice been nominated for the Gabe Zimmerman Award for Public Service and the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame.

Through her artistry, visionary leadership, and lifelong commitment to community service, Carmela continues to enrich lives, celebrate culture, and inspire audiences wherever she performs.

AZÚCAR!



Celebrating a legacy of **art and impact**

We are proud to announce this year's recipient of the Professor Alberto Ríos Outstanding Literary/Arts Award, Carmela Ramirez.

An award-winning creative and community leader, Ramirez continues to enrich lives, celebrate culture and inspire audiences wherever she performs. The ASU Foundation for a New American University is honored to sponsor this award through the Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation.

Congratulations to all 2026 Arizona Higher Education Award recipients.



Delivering water and power®

CELEBRATING SUCCESS, TOGETHER.

Success is sweeter when it's shared.

Recognition for an accomplishment or a job well done is better when it's appreciated by those who support you. Today, we celebrate the 2026 Arizona Higher Education Awards Recipients. Congratulations and well done.

srp.net/celebrate





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

Dr. Gilberto Lopez

Inaugural Provost's'

Charter Professor

School of Transborder Studies

Arizona State University

Dr. Gilberto Lopez is the Inaugural Provost's Charter Professor in the School of Transborder Studies at Arizona State University and the founding director of El Laboratorio, a research and design initiative dedicated to making health and science information more accessible, engaging, and culturally meaningful for Latino communities. His work brings together public health, social science, education, art, and emerging technology to address a central question: How can people gain access to trustworthy knowledge that helps them and their communities flourish?

The son of Mexican immigrant farmworkers and a native Spanish speaker, Dr. Lopez draws upon his lived experience and interdisciplinary training to develop community-centered approaches to STEM education and health communication. He earned a Doctor of Science in Social and Behavioral Sciences from Harvard University, a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, and a Master of Arts in Medical Anthropology from Southern Methodist University. He also holds bachelor's degrees in Anthropology and Chicano Studies from California State University, Fresno, and is a Community College transfer student.

Through El Laboratorio, Dr. Lopez leads multidisciplinary teams of students, artists, researchers, and community partners who translate complex scientific information into practical and culturally responsive learning experiences. His projects have used bilingual animation, digital storytelling, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, chatbots, games, and other interactive media to improve access to information about COVID-19, Long COVID, water systems, cancer, and brain health. These initiatives include the award-winning *COVIDLatino*, which created culturally tailored health animations for Latino audiences, and *Agua es Vida*, an immersive water-education project

featuring a virtual-reality tour of a water treatment facility and an interactive chatbot. His current work expands this approach to cancer education and brain health, with an emphasis on creating resources that Latino patients, caregivers, and families can understand, trust, and use. Across these efforts, he pairs rigorous evaluation with community collaboration, testing whether new approaches improve knowledge while also asking whether people feel represented, respected, and empowered by the information they receive.

Education and mentorship are central to Dr. Lopez's work. He creates opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, especially first-generation and Latino students, to participate in research, media production, community engagement, and applied STEM learning. His approach treats students not simply as assistants, but as collaborators whose knowledge, creativity, and cultural insight strengthen each project. Through his leadership of ASU's Migrant Student Summer Academy (MSSA), he also helps students from migrant backgrounds experience college life, build academic confidence, and envision themselves as future scholars, scientists, and community leaders.

Dr. Lopez's contributions have been recognized through honors, including ASU's Inaugural Provost's Charter Professorship, the Inspiring Programs in STEM Award, and the Dr. Manuel Servin Faculty Award. Across his research, teaching, and service, he remains committed to widening access to knowledge and ensuring that scientific innovation benefits communities too often excluded from it. For Dr. Lopez, STEM is not only a collection of academic disciplines; it is a public resource that can help families make informed decisions, inspire students to imagine new futures, and build healthier and more equitable communities.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 DR. WILLIAM YSLAS VELEZ WINNER



Dr. Gilberto Lopez,
Inaugural Provosts' Charter Professor
School of Transborder Studies
Arizona State University

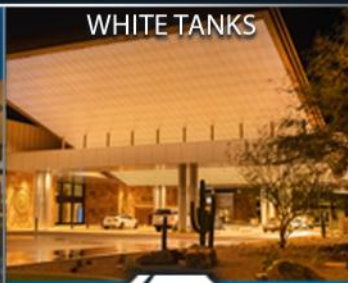
**Thank you for making
STEM resources and
education more accessible
to Latino communities**



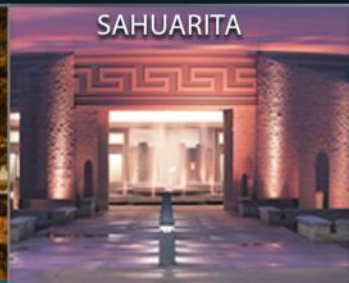
WEST VALLEY



TUCSON



WHITE TANKS



SAHUARITA



WHY

DESERT DIAMOND CASINO

833.DDC.2WIN | DDCAZ.COM

Must be 21 to enter bars and gaming areas. Please play responsibly.

An Enterprise of the Tohono O'odham Nation



NAU is proud to be a sustained partner and sponsor for the Annual Higher Education Awards.

***“Congratulations to the 2026
Higher Education Award recipients.”***



THE PETE C. GARCIA VICTORIA FOUNDATION

A Special thanks to our 2026 Higher Education
Awards sponsors for their leadership and support.

Spanish Media Sponsor



Award Sponsors



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Foundation

ASU Foundation
Arizona State University



Marketing Sponsors



PimaCommunityCollege



17TH ANNUAL *Arizona Higher Education* AWARDS



THE PETE C. GARCIA
VICTORIA
FOUNDATION

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Dr. Magda Hinojosa
Dean of Social Sciences
Professor, School of Politics and Global Studies
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Arizona State University



Maria R. Bellino
Associate Vice President
Rio Salado College
Maricopa Community Colleges



Liz Archuleta
President & CEO
United Way of Northern Arizona



Dr. Nilda Flores-González
John O. Whiteman Dean's
Distinguished Professor
Arizona State University



Dr. Raquel Lopez
Mathematics Professor
Paradise Valley
Community College
Maricopa Community Colleges



Dr. Diana Carolina Calvo Martinez
Assistant Professor
Department of
Environmental Engineering
Northern Arizona University

2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Dr. Richard Daniel
President
Mesa Community College



Nadine "NAR" Arroyo Rodriguez
Director
Journalism and New Media Studies
English Department
Mesa Community College



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



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



Elaine Romero
Associate Professor
School of Theatre, Film & Television
University of Arizona
Playwright in Residence - Arizona Theatre Company



Rosalia Delgado, M. ED.
Director
College of Assistance Migrant Program
Arizona Western College

2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS



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



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



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



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



Dr. Elena Ortiz Zuazaga
Faculty Member Biosciences
Phoenix College



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

2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS



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,
Celtic Property Management, LLC



Professor Micha Espinosa
School of Music, Dance and Theatre,
Barrett Honors Facility
Arizona State University



José Erick Candanedo
CIO/Associate Vice President,
Information Technology,

2021 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Director & Professor
School of Transborder Studies
Arizona State University



Dean, Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary
Studies and Communication, College of
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,
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

2015 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Dr. Maria T. Allison
Professor Emerita
Arizona State University



Dr. Ron Oaxaca
McClelland Professor of Economics Emeritus,
Eller College of Management, University of Arizona



Alfredo Gutierrez
Board Member
Maricopa Community College District



Dr. Monica Alexandria Brown
Professor of English
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

2014 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Dr. Cecilia Menjivar
Cowden Distinguished Professor &
Associate Director T. Denny Sanford
School of Social and Family Dynamics,
Arizona State University



**The Honorable
Dr. Ned Norris, Jr.**
Chairman, Tohono O'odham Nation



Matilda Chavez, R.N., M.S.N.
Interim Dean, Student Affairs,
South Mountain Community College



José Andrés Girón
Artist



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
University of Arizona



THE PETE C. GARCIA VICTORIA FOUNDATION

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.

Leadership, Integrity and Positive Impact - The Foundation's leadership makes a commitment as servant leaders, to inspire trust in our community by demonstrating high ethical standards and engage in causing positive change.

1122 East Buckeye Road, Suite B-5
Phoenix, Arizona 85034
602.253.9533

WWW.THEVICTORIAFOUNDATION.ORG



THE PETE C. GARCIA
VICTORIA
FOUNDATION

**A special thanks to our sponsors
for their leadership and support.**



*Thank you for joining us in supporting and celebrating
Pete's passion and legacy for championing education.*



Pete Garcia

1944 - 2017

Husband - Father - Visionary - Leader - Friend



The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation gladly accepts Scholarship
Donations, please use this Q/R code for you donation.