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# MEET THE INSTRUCTORS

**LUIS M.  
ORTIZ**

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● Patent Attorney,  
Ortiz & Lopez, PLLC

Luis Ortiz is a registered U.S. patent attorney with thirty years' experience counseling and representing clients in intellectual property matters including: litigation, licensing, patent and trademark prosecution, patent/trademark portfolio development strategies. Luis is licensed to practice law before New Mexico State Courts, Texas State Courts, Federal District Courts for New Mexico and Eastern District of Texas, the Federal Court of Claims, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and as a "registered patent attorney" before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Luis is also a Certified Licensing Professional (CLP®) and has an AV® Preeminent Rating from Martindale-Hubbe. Luis was born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He previously served as in-house patent counsel with the U.S. Department of Energy and Nortel Networks. He retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel, Judge Advocate General's Corps, after thirty years of service.

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## KERMIT LOPEZ

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● Patent Attorney,  
Ortiz & Lopez, PLLC

Kermit Lopez has an AV® Preeminent Rating from Martindale-Hubble. His intellectual property law practices principally in the preparation and prosecution of patent and trademark applications both domestic and foreign, and the management and development of intellectual property portfolios. He has prosecuted patent applications in the electrical, electronics, data-processing software, nanotechnology, telecommunication, electro-mechanical, mechanical and nanotechnology areas. Mr. Lopez was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He previously served as in-house counsel to Sandia National Laboratories and Ericsson, Inc. and as a patent attorney with the law firm of Felsman, Bradley, Gunter & Dillon in Austin, Texas and Bickel & Brewer in Dallas.

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## KYLE IBARRA

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● Senior Project Manager,  
Wilson & Company, Inc.

Kyle Ibarra is a Senior Project Manager at Wilson & Company, Inc., Engineers and Architects, overseeing complex, high-profile projects from inception to completion. With over 28 years of experience in civil engineering and project management, Kyle meets client needs, budgets, and the highest standards of quality, health, and safety. Leveraging his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, MBA in Global Management, and professional certifications including Project Management Professional and Professional Engineer, Kyle mentors, and coaches a talented team of engineers and project managers. At his previous role as a Complete Streets Program Manager in the City of El Paso, Kyle led the definition phase of a multimillion-dollar initiative to improve the safety, mobility, and livability of the city's transportation network. Driven by a passion for sustainable, impactful solutions, Kyle is committed to enhancing the quality of life and the environment for communities and businesses.

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**DAVID  
MAREK**

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● Entrepreneur and  
Technology Professional

As an entrepreneur and technology professional, David has dedicated his career to bridging the gap between business and technology, with a particular focus on cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and product development. His journey began with a strong foundation in accounting and finance, but a passion for innovation and building solutions led him to explore a diverse range of industries and roles. David serves as the Founder of DropDev and Lead for the Google Developer Group in the El Paso region. David is always looking to connect with like-minded entrepreneurs, investors, and professionals who share a passion for using technology to create positive change.

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## PAOLA ALVARADO

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● Program Coordinator,  
Pioneers 21

Paola Alvarado is the Program Coordinator at Pioneers 21, where she leads the Digital Marketing Program. She supports startups and small businesses through workshops and free website services, helping over 117 ventures establish their online presence. She is also beginning to get involved with the P21 Venture Mentoring Service, which connects ventures with experienced mentors to guide their growth. Paola holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a minor in Psychology from the University of Texas at El Paso and gained international marketing experience while studying abroad at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in Spain.

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## DESTINY CALDERA

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● Program Assistant and Intern,  
Pioneers 21

Destiny Caldera is currently a Program Assistant and intern at Pioneers 21, where she supports the executive director and program coordinator with research, website and e-commerce programs, and marketing programs. Recently, Destiny completed her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with a double minor in mathematics and marketing at UTEP and is now pursuing a master's degree in mechanical engineering at UTEP.