

# *¡Presente!*

Navigating Identity and Visibility in Academia and the Work World

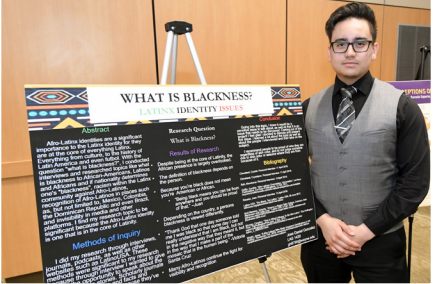


## The 10th Annual La Academia del Pueblo Latina/o/x and Latin American Studies Research Conference

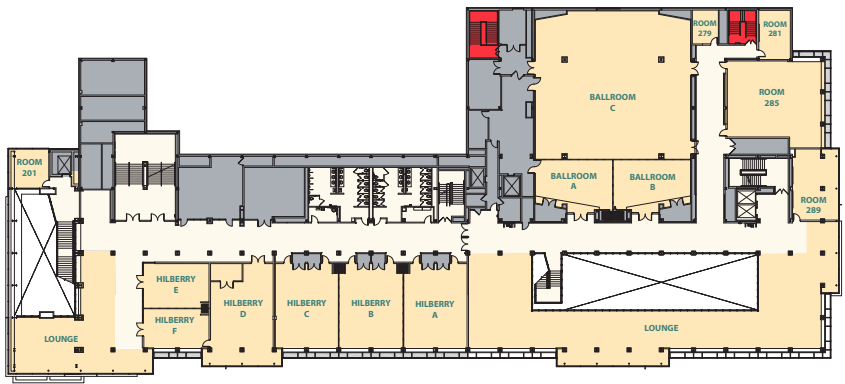


**WAYNE STATE**  
Center for Latino/a and  
Latin American Studies

**Saturday, April 20, 2019**  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## WSU Student Center Building Second floor



# Conference Overview

**Saturday, April 20**

**WSU Student Center Building**

**8:30 a.m. BREAKFAST**

*Room 285*

**9 a.m. LAS WELCOME**

*Ballroom* **Melissa Miranda Morse, Assistant Director, LAS**

**MORNING PANEL**

**Brown and Proud: Emerging Leaders Discuss Identity**

**Moderators: Melissa Miranda Morse and Alicia M. Díaz**

**Christine Cardenas-Graham** is a High Voltage Battery Manufacturing Engineer at Ford Motor Company

**Laura L. Chavez-Wazeered-Din** is a Bank Manager at Flagstar Bank

**Carlos Jurado, Esq.** is the Co-founder/Partner at Chammas Jurado PC | The Immigration Attorneys

**Salvador Rojas III, M.D.** practices Internal Medicine at Great Lakes Medicine, PLC

**10:30 a.m. PANEL SESSION I**

*Hilberry A* **LAS 3710 Panel #1: Empowering Girls Through STEM Activities**

**Moderator: Dr. Anna Maria Flores, Wayne State University**

"Educating the STEM Educator," **Mayra Torres**

"Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow," **Marylin Garcia**

"Female Leaders of the Future," **Fatima Nava Sanchez**

"Women in STEM Are the Future of Detroit" **Artemio Treviño**

"Paving the Path for Girls of Color in STEM," **Javier Perez**

*Hilberry B*

**LAS 3710 Panel #2: Strategies for Gen Z**

**Moderator: Josue Salas, Wayne State University**

"Lost in Translation: The Importance of Multilingualism in a Monolingual Culture," **Adriana Villarreal**

"More Than Just a Robot" **Josue Flores**

"Creating Space in an Art Classroom" **Esmeralda Samano**

- Hilberry C**      **Applying to Graduate School: Implicit Biases and How to Counteract Them**  
**Moderator: Dr. Annmarie Cano, Faculty Mentor**  
“The Function of Implicit Bias in Doctoral Admissions Decision-making Processes,” **Isabelle Rios-Colón, Wayne State University**  
“Gender Bias in Faculty Letters of Reference Within the Graduate Admissions Process,” **Jennifer Nava, University of Detroit Mercy**
- Hilberry D**      **Guest Scholars Panel**  
**Moderator: Dr. José Cuello, Wayne State University**  
“Building Bridges, Not Walls: Excelencia in Higher Education,” **Daniel Rivera and Berani Martinez-Maldonado, Ferris State University**  
“Effects of DACA on its Recipients,” **Ikiltezilani Mazehuani, University of Chicago**  
Lights, Camera, Action: Chicano/Latino Identity Formation through Pop Culture,” **Michael Sandoval, Michigan State University**
- 11:30 a.m.**      **LUNCH**  
**Room 285**
- 12 p.m.**      **UNIVERSITY WELCOME**  
**Ballroom**      **Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Wayne State University**
- KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
                         **“Change, Choices, and Consequences: A Personal Narrative on Evolving Identity,” Dr. Ingrid J. Guerra-Lopez, Interim Dean of the Graduate School, Wayne State University**
- 1 p.m.**      **POSTER SESSION**  
**Ballroom**      **LAS 1420 and Guest Scholars**

2 p.m.  
Hilberry A

**PANEL SESSION II**  
**LAS 3710 Panel #3: People Helping People**

**Moderator:** Cara Mitrano, *Wayne State University*

“Southwest Clinic: A Lab Technician's Perspective,” **Dora Castro**

“Dis-Ease in a Health Organization's HR Department,”

**Guillermo Martinez**

“Together We Are Stronger: The Unification of a Company,”

**Ross Pruett**

“Efficiency in Occupation: Job Placement Success and Concerns,” **Roel Villarreal**

“The Challenges of Providing Services to Southwest Detroit Residents,” **Kely Perez**

Hilberry B

**LAS 3710 Panel #4: Escuela Avancemos:  
Prepare, Educate, and Inspire**

**Moderator:** Dr. Jorge L. China, *Wayne State University*

“Is Two Better Than One? Comparing Bilingual and Monolingual Education in Detroit,” **Jay Johnson**

“Best Practices: When Urban Schools Beat the Odds,” **Yaritzza Espinoza**

“Escuela Avancemos: La Escuela Que Avanza” **Ezequiel Olvera**

Hilberry C

**I am Not Your Perfect Latinx Student**

**Moderator:** Isabelle Rios-Colón, *Wayne State University*

**Presenters:** Juri Sanchez, Rosario Hernandez, Victoria Laguna, Sharon Almonte and Joanna Jaimes, *University of Michigan*

Snacks will be available in Room 285 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

3 p.m.  
Hilberry A

**PANEL SESSION III**  
**LAS 3710 Panel #5: Daily Struggles That Build Community**

**Moderator:** Dr. Zach Morales, *Wayne State University*

“Americano/a Mexicano/a: Dual Citizenship,”  
**Cristina Rodriguez**

"Influencing Communities: The Chamber of Commerce,"

**Victoria Rico**

"The Continuous War: Challenges Veterans Face Post-Service,"

**Robert Torres and Ashley Garcia**

*Hilberry B*

### **LAS 3710 Panel #6: Adversities When Serving Communities**

Moderator: **Delbert G. Trafny**, *Wayne State University*

"Forgotten Harvest: Rescuing Food to Fight Food Insecurity,"

**Lucy Arias**

"Connecting the Community Through Software: Link2Feed,"

**Eddy Gonzalez-Ramirez**

"Challenges Within: Learning Curves and Gaps in Data Collection," **Jaydaliz Cardona**

"Connecting Families Through Nature," **Enrique Sawicki**

*Hilberry C*

### **LAS 3710 Panel #7: Communicating in a Disconnected City: Detroit**

Moderator: **Isabelle Rios-Colón**, *Wayne State University*

"Mapping Agency Within Southwest Detroit's Business Community," **Prosper Garcia**

"Being ACE'd (Adverse Childhood Experiences) in Detroit,"

**Alyssa Vasquez**

"By the Community for the Community," **Susana Hernandez**

*Hilberry D*

### **Intersectional Feminism: Where Black and Brown Women Meet**

Moderator: **Ber-Henda Williams**, *The Power of Girlhood*

Presenters: **Candice Jackson**, *Poet and Educator*, **Fiyah**

**Angelo**, *Haux Culture Activist*, **Summer March**, *P.O.W.E.R.*

*Detroit*, **Dr. Esperanza Cintron**, *Wayne County Community College*, and **Alyssa Hernandez**, *SER Metro*

4 p.m.

*Ballroom*

**AWARDS CEREMONY**

# SCHOLARS POSTER SESSION

1-2 p.m.

## Latinx, Environmental and Climate Changes in the Americas

In his soon to be released book *Climate Change from the Streets*, Yale University activist and environmental academic Michael Anthony Mendez, argues that for society to successfully resolve the daunting realities of climate change, we must pay critical attention to the cultural and human dimensions of environmental policy. The answers to these challenges demand that we look not only to science, but also at deeply ingrained injustices such as, but not limited to, those arising out of racism, sexism, classism and growing nativism and their impact on our planet.

This year we challenged our learning community to see themselves at the forefront of creating solutions in the face of the greatest challenge to their generation: global climate change and environmental destruction.

-Alicia M. Díaz, *LAS 1420 Instructor*

-Delbert G. Trafny, *LAS 1420 Teaching Assistant*

## LAS 1420 Scholars

### **"Saving Earth with Negative Emissions"**

Hector Aceves

### **"The Future of Nuclear Waste"**

Alexis Alcantar

### **"What Would Berta Caceres Say?"**

Stephania Alyateem-Velasquez

### **"Climate Change, Health, and Migration"**

Taylor Antio

### **"Latina/o/x Immigrant Health and the Environment"**

Betzabeth Arredondo

### **"The New Form of Art"**

Lohany Avelar

### **"World Ending Climate Conspiracies and Theories"**

Areli Bartolo-Ramos

### **"The Prison Industrial Complex: Impacts on Latinx Inmates and the Environment"**

Malena Bianco

### **"Start Here: Reduce and Repurpose Food Waste for Community Progress"**

Margaret Bussineau

### **"Food and Wildlife: The Effects of Climate Change on Nutritional Access for Animals"**

Lizeth Campos

### **"Green Engineering"**

Gorky Carlos

### **"Pollution in Latin America: Who's Producing & Who's Consuming?!"**

Nicolas Cedo

### **"Improving Disaster Response to Puerto Rico: Health Care"**

Julia Chahine

### **"The Neglected Psychological Effects of Climate Change"**

Jordan Chantaca

### **"The Real Cost: How Fast Fashion Affects Our Environment"**

Maria Colin-Chavez

### **"Si Se Puede: Food Security"**

Sierra Cyman

### **"The Amazon's Last Defense: Indigenous Land Reserves"**

Luiza da Rocha

**"Ecofeminism in Latinx Countries:  
Gabriela Mistral"**

Josefina Diaz

**"Climate Change and its Effects on the  
Health of Children in the Caribbean"**

Meagan Diaz

**"Polluted Waters: Its Impact on Latin  
America"**

Miguel Diaz

**"Suicides in Puerto Rico: The Lives Lost  
After Maria"**

Alexis Garcia

**"The Green Latina/o/x New Deal"**

Chantel Garcia

**"Government Role in Latin America's  
Health Issues"**

Fatima Garcia

**"Environmental Factors Affecting Health  
of the Underprivileged"**

Heather Garcia

**"Climate Change Impact on  
Employment"**

Angel Gomez

**"Environmental Pollution and How Latinx  
Communities Can Prepare for it"**

Christina Grandy

**"Economics Shaping Environmental  
Justice in Urban Latin Communities"**

Esther Guerrero

**"The Connection Between Education and  
Climate Change"**

Shania Harris

**"The Scarcity of Agriculture Resources in  
Central America"**

Adrienne Hernandez

**"Inequality of Environment: Latinx  
Health Issues due to Climate Change"**

Emily Hernandez

**"Environmental Corruption in Detroit's  
LatinX Community"**

Karen Lopez

**"Zika vs. Latinx"**

Irial Maloney

**"Ancient Latin American Cultural Impact  
on the Environment"**

Elena Marcozzi

**"The Climate is Changing, Why Aren't  
We?"**

Maria Martinez

**"The Outcome of Climate Change"**

Nicolas Martinez-Ortega

**"How Political Power can Assist with  
Climate Change"**

Jayla Moorer

**"Evaluating Mexico's Earthquake Crisis"**

Jacqueline Perez

**"Environmental Education for Latina/o/x  
Children"**

Alayna Rios

**"Environmental Spiritualism: Latinx &  
Native American Traditions"**

Brenda Rodriguez

**"How is Climate Change a Factor of  
Migration in Latin Countries?"**

Liz Rubio

**"Climate Change is Affecting the Way  
We Eat"**

Daniela Sanchez

**"Natural and Economic Disasters in the  
Caribbean"**

Jorge Sanchez

**"Latinx Transportation Trouble"**

Juan Sanchez

**"Making Sense of Climate Change: Case  
Studies From the United States and  
Ecuador "**

Katherine Sanchez



**"The Effects of Climate Change on Fair vs Free Trade"**

Luis Sanchez

**"The Disproportionate Health Effects of Industrial Pollutants on the Latinx Population in the US"**

Mariana Sierra

**"Climate Change and Food Sustainability of Indigenous Cultures"**

Jami Lee Torres

**"How Climate Change Will Affect Latinx Home Remedies"**

Leisly Torres

**"Climate Change and the Health Care System"**

Yasmin Uresti-Balderas

**"The Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture and Food Supply"**

Milian Valenzuela

**"The Financial Impact of Climate Change on Puerto Rico"**

Humberto Villarruel

**"How is the Food Industry of Argentina Coping with the Effects of Climate Change?"**

Tomas Watts

**"Are Latin and African Americans Who Live in Lower Income Housing Breathing in More Polluted Air?"**

Angelo Wilson

**"The Beginning of a Wild Animal's Death"**

Paulina Yllescas-Rosales

**"Climate Change Impacting Our Nutritional Health"**

Janae Zirker

**Wayne State University Scholars**

**"The Extinction of the Taino with a Biological Focus"**

Bailey Braum

**Ferris State University Scholars**

**"Blood Avocados "**

Jesus Betancourt

**"Lack of Latino Students In Health Professions "**

Lesly Blanco

**"How Does the Family Unit Influence Latino At-Risk Youth"**

Jackie Calzada

**"Differences in Enrollment Rates of First-Generation College Students "**

Cristian Gomez-Canchola

**"Survey of Adherence Patterns/ Guidance Among the Latino Community in West Michigan"**

Isai Guillen

**"How Social Media Impacts the Latino Community"**

Jacqueline Lopez

**"Barriers to Obtaining Social Welfare in the Latinx Community"**

Marisol Martinez

**"Latinx Role Models: Beyond Chavez"**

Veronica Mascorro

**"Standpoint of Today's Migrant Workers"**

Katy Moreno

**"Conflict and Deviance in Modern Society and its Impact on Race"**

Lezley Rodriguez

**"Hispanic/Latino Dropouts Versus Graduates: What They Do Differently"**

Bryan Salinas

## Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies Mission

Our mission is to transform the academy, and ultimately society, by providing equitable access to a quality university education to students interested in U.S. Latino/a and Latin American cultural studies while enhancing diversity on campus.

Our mission has four main components:

- Student support services
- Internal university advocacy
- Outreach to local communities
- Research on U.S. Latino/a and Latin American culture

## C2C: The College to Career Vision

The Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies' C2C program, a two-year professional and leadership development plan, has a goal of increasing graduation rates for students at Wayne State University by connecting CBS Scholars with established professionals. The program uses a multifaceted approach combining career mentorship, community-based research and service-learning with professional development and graduate school preparedness.

LAS 3710, a capstone course for CBS Scholars, places upper-division students in nonprofit and social service organizations. Students collaborate with these agencies on community-based participatory research projects, thus building partnerships between academia, community organizations and residents. This course concludes with today's conference, the **10th Annual La Academia del Pueblo**, and offers research presentations by students and organizations.

For the past two years, we have been fortunate to have support from the Ford Community Corps a program that allows our students to utilize their skills developed on campus in a real-world environment. The Ford Community Corps made it possible for our students to make connections to organizations like the Mercy Ed Project and Forgotten Harvest.

## The Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies extends a thank you to all conference presenters and attendees!

### LAS faculty and staff

**Jorge L. Chinae**, Director

**Melissa Miranda Morse**, Assistant Director

**José Cuello**, Associate Professor

**Nicole Trujillo-Pagán**, Associate Professor, LAS 3710 Instructor

**Tamara Serrano Chandler**, C2C Program Coordinator and Academic Advisor

**Erik “Zach” Morales**, CBS Scholars Program Coordinator and Academic Advisor

**Alicia M. Díaz**, Part-time Faculty, LAS 1420 Instructor

**Delbert G. Trafny**, Instructional Assistant

### Special thanks to

**Dr. Annmarie Cano**, Associate Provost for Faculty Development and Faculty Success

**Dr. Monica Brockmeyer**, Associate Provost for Student Success

**Dr. Anna Maria Flores**, Manager of Community Engagement, Honors College

**Amy Cooper**, Program Coordinator for Learning Communities

**Sharon Almeranti**, Senior Budget Analyst, Office of the Provost

**Jordan Chantaca**, CBS Student Scholar, LAS Office Assistant

**Pamela Esparza**, CBS Student Scholar, LAS Office Assistant

**Erica Perez**, CBS Student Scholar, LAS Office Assistant

**Jasmin Perez**, CBS Student Scholar, LAS Office Assistant

**Leisly Torres**, CBS Student Scholar, LAS Office Assistant

**Mayra Torres**, CBS Student Scholar, LAS Office Assistant

**Angelo Wilson**, CBS Student Scholar, LAS Office Assistant

**LAS Peer Mentors:**

**Josue Salas**, Senior Peer Mentor

**Vanessa Blaz**, Senior Peer Mentor

**Josue Flores**

**Ashley Garcia**

**Gabrielle Lopez**

**Noribeth Mariscal**

**Illiana Navarra-Bueno**

**Cara Mitrano**

**Mariah Pino**

**Isabelle Rios-Colón**

**Tatyana Rios**

**Alice Santana**



**Sponsored by**

**The Myron P. Leven Foundation**

**WSU Learning Communities**

**Ford Community Corps**

