



TH
**ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRACIÓN**

Friday, October 1, 2021 | 6-7 pm



**WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY**



WELCOME

Dr. M. Roy Wilson, President
Wayne State University

SALUDOS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Jorge L. Chinaea
Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies

GREETINGS FROM TITLE SPONSOR

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Melissa Miranda Morse
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50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Pamela Anne Quiroz, Executive Director
Inter-University Program on Latino Research

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Lifetime Achievement Award:

JoAnn Chávez

Israel "Lalo" Leyton Public and Community Service Award:

Hon. Isidore B. Torres

Bernadino "Benny" Cruz Bellas Artes Award:

Diana Alva

CBS Alumni Estrella Award:

Vanessa Reynolds

Wayne State University Presidential Citation:

Dr. José Cuello

CLOSING REMARKS





KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Pamela Anne Quiroz, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Inter-University
Program on Latino Research
Distinguished Professor of Sociology,
University of Houston

Pamela Anne Quiroz (Ph.D. University of Chicago, 1993) is Executive Director of the national research consortium, the Inter-University Program on Latino Research (IUPLR).

Established in 1983, the IUPLR is a national consortium of U.S. Latino, Latin American and Latino-Caribbean university-based Institutes and Research Centers, in 25 universities across the U.S dedicated to the advancement of the Latino intellectual presence and scholarship.

The IUPLR promotes and disseminates comparative, interdisciplinary, and policy-focused research; expands the pool of Latino scholars and leaders; establishes projects with scholars in the arts, STEM fields, social sciences, health, culture and the humanities; enhances the institutional capacity of Latino-focused research centers and supports work that strengthens and serves Latino communities.

Professor Quiroz is also the Director of the Center for Mexican American Studies and Professor of Sociology at the University of Houston. She was recently elected the Vice President of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (2020), an interdisciplinary and national association dedicated to research focused on the pursuit of social justice. Author of two books and more than 40 publications, Professor Quiroz' research has been published in several high profile journals and books and in Amicus Briefs submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court.

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
**Center for Latino/a &
Latin American Studies**



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

JoAnn Chávez
Senior Vice President and
Chief Legal Officer, DTE

JoAnn Chávez is Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer for DTE Energy, and a former international tax partner with KPMG, LLP. Ms. Chávez is a strong advocate for young people and is the founder of the Michigan Hispanic Collaborative (MiHC), a Michigan non-profit, that focuses on economic equity and provides opportunities for focuses on economic equity and provides opportunities for first-generation Hispanic

students to graduate from college. Chávez sits on the DTE Energy Foundation, the Cristo Rey Network, Invest Detroit, the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, and the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute boards of directors. She also serves on the Notre Dame Law School and the University of Michigan School of Education Advisory Councils and is the past chairwoman of the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce board of directors. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School.



ISRAEL "LALO" LEYTON PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Hon. Isidore B. Torres (1947 – 2021)
Former Wayne County Circuit Court Judge

The Honorable Isidore B. Torres was born on December 13, 1947 in San Antonio, TX and resided in Bay City, MI for most of his young-adult life. He graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and then obtained a Juris Doctorate degree from Wayne State University Law School. He chose to stay in Detroit, MI to raise his family and build a career.

Judge Torres worked as a Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Detroit starting in 1978. When he left the City of Detroit Law Department, he co-founded the Law Firm of Torres & Horvath. In 1983, he became the first Hispanic member of the Wayne County court system when Governor James Blanchard appointed him to serve on the 36th District Court. Six years later, Judge Torres was appointed to serve on the former City of Detroit Recorder's Court. In 1997, when Governor John Engler merged the Detroit Recorder's Court into Wayne County Circuit Court, Judge Torres transferred into the Civil Division.

As a Civil Court judge, he served as the Presiding Judge for the Wayne County Circuit Court Civil Division. He was also appointed by the Chief Judge to serve as the settlement judge for the Wayne County Circuit Court. Judge Torres also served as a Visiting Judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals. He retired from the Civil Division in 2010, having served on the bench for 27 years.

He was also appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to serve on the Michigan Supreme Court Racial/Ethnic Task Force, the Michigan Sentencing Guidelines Commission, and the State Bar of Michigan Open Justice Commission, among others. He was a founding member of the Hispanic Bar Association, a Golden Heritage Life Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and a member of the Detroit Bar Association, the Armenian Bar Association, and several others.

Throughout his life, Judge Torres was steadfastly committed to equal access to justice, fair and just treatment under the law, and equal representation in government. Judge Torres relentlessly fought to advance people of all minority groups, not just those that shared his Chicano identity. He argued that the foundational principles of our democracy are inherently abhorrent to the favoring of one ethnic group over another. Excluding a group of people from government, he believed, stripped those people of their inherent right to pursue their vision of the American Dream.

During his judicial career, Judge Torres was recognized for his many contributions to equal justice initiatives. Above all his accolades, Judge Torres' greatest pride was his family.



50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRACIÓN



BERNADINO "BENNY" CRUZ BELLAS ARTES AWARD

Acclaimed Detroit Artist and Ceramicist

Founder, Detroit Clay Company

Diana Alva was born in Detroit, Michigan. She studied ceramics at Wayne State University before founding and operating the Detroit Clay Company. She also worked at Pewabic Pottery and the College for Creative Studies. Her goal was to be a potter. As a painter her commitment to ceramics opened new ways of seeing line, color and form. Painting has always been a strong part of her creative life, learning mostly from her father, then on her own. She considers herself a self-taught painter and is still discovering new forms of self-expression. She has been featured in exhibitions and acquired for collections throughout the U.S., Mexico and Europe.



CBS ALUMNI ESTRELLA AWARD

Vanessa Reynolds

University Counselor, Wayne State University

Vanessa Reynolds is a higher education advocate, community leader, and first-generation college graduate from Southwest Detroit. Her dedication to higher education and passion for student success is reflected in her 17 years of experience as an Admissions Counselor in Wayne State University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Providing educational opportunities to students and contributing to their advancement has been her highest professional accomplishment. Vanessa has been very influential in the enhancement of diversity and inclusion across the Wayne State University campus. She currently serves as the Chair of WSU LFSA (Latinx Faculty and Staff Association), whose mission is to build an inclusive community and provide support for Wayne State's Latina/o/x faculty, staff, and students. Vanessa takes pride in community building and enjoys connecting with community members while giving back to her community.

She is the Vice Chair of Advocates for Latino Student Advancement in Michigan Education (Alsame), a non-profit organization committed to making college education a reality for Latino students across the state.

She is the recipient of MACAC's (Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling) 2018 ACE award, which recognizes MACAC members whose work reflects MACAC's commitment to "advocate, collaborate and educate" on behalf of students and counselors.

Vanessa earned a bachelor's in Business Administration and an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Wayne State University, and she is currently a doctoral candidate in Wayne State's Doctor of Education program in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

Dr. José Cuello

Associate Professor Emeritus, Wayne State University

Dr. José Cuello directed the Center for Chicano-Boricua Studies from 1989 to 2001 and has been a Wayne State University faculty member for more than 30 years. His areas of expertise include the history of colonial Latin America and environmental history. He is writing *Cosmic War in the Desert: The Ideological Conflict Between Western Civilization and the Nomadic Nations of Northern Mexico, 1540-1750*; and *Human Imperatives, Earthly Consequences: A Unified Theory of the Rise and Fall of Civilizations*. He writes on Latin@, immigrant and social justice issues for *El Central Hispanic News*. He facilitated the *Detroit Latino Agenda and Coalition, 1991-92*, and updates a free handbook, *Navigating the University Matrix: Conceptual Power Tools for the Proactive Thinker*, for college students each year. Dr. Cuello earned a Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and a B.A. from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

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