Wayne State University
Awards Dr. José Cuello
a Presidential Citation Award

For Outstanding Service to the University and the Detroit Community

President M. Wilson awarded the citation to Dr. Cuello at the virtual celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Center for Latina/o and Latin American Studies (CLLAS), previously Latino En Marcha (LEM) and Chicano-Boricua Studies (CBS) on Friday evening, October 1, 2021.

Dr. Cuello is retiring from teaching after 32 years at WSU and has also earned Emeritus status for his research, teaching and service in the Department of History.

Most Americans See Latinos As Biggest Boost to U.S. Economy, but Continue To Have Misconceptions About Hispanic Entrepreneurship and Business Leadership

WASHINGTON, D.C. | Sept. 29, 2021—Seven out of 10 Americans attribute the country’s economic growth to Latino population growth, reflecting real figures that U.S. Hispanics have the highest workforce contribution rate (65.6%) and started the most small businesses out of any other population group over the last decade. However, according to a nationally representative survey—conducted by BSP Research and commissioned by the Latino Donor Collaborative in partnership with Latino Corporate Directors Association (LCDA), UnidosUS, Raben Group and the Friends of the American Latino Museum—decades-old stereotypes and underestimations of the group remain prevalent among Americans across ethnic and racial backgrounds.

LANSING, Mich.—Michiganders who receive food assistance will see a permanent increase of approximately 6.8% in their monthly benefits beginning in October, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced.

Due to a larger-than-normal annual increase in benefits from federal funding at the beginning of the new fiscal year, people who receive food assistance will experience an increase even as a temporary 15% hike related to the COVID-19 pandemic expires effective this month.

For example, the maximum monthly benefit for a household of four increases from $782 to $835.

“Increases in monthly food assistance benefits have helped Michigan residents feed their families during an international pandemic,” said Lewis Roubal, MDHHS senior deputy director for opportunity. “As the temporary 15% hike expires, we are pleased that our federal partners have acted so that families who need help putting food on the table will still receive a modest increase in their benefits. MDHHS remains committed to helping address food insecurity in Michigan.”

Monthly increases based on household size are as follows:

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Dr. Cuello will continue his research and academic activism at Wayne State.

Following is the text of Dr. Cuello’s Acceptance of President Wilson’s Citation on behalf of the Board of Governors and the Wayne State community.

“I thank President Wilson for this very special recognition. The merit really belongs to two important communities in my career.

One is the Wayne State University community. The other is the Latina/o Community of Detroit.

At the university, thank you, President Wilson, for your active programs to promote diversity on campus and provide students with a global village education.

Thank you, First Lady Jacqueline Wilson, for your programs that help students in need, especially the homeless.

Thank you, colleagues in the Department of History, for validating my standing and that of Dr. Jorge L. Chinea as professional scholars.

Thank you Dr. Walter Edwards and the Humanities Center, for providing me with an interdisciplinary experience that has nurtured my intellectual development.

Thank you, of course, my fellow faculty, staff and students at CLAS for proving that we can still be a family while pursuing different career goals.

In the Detroit Latina/o Community, I am particularly grateful to the many alumni, other supporting individuals and collaborating agencies that have grown CLAS as their own program within Wayne State. It is important to acknowledge that LA SED, WSU and New Detroit, Inc. founded LEM in 1971 as a collaborative community-university project. LEM quickly became CBS and later, CLAS.**

Dr. Cuello then proceeded to give his personal awards to five individuals.

“Jane García, you earn the Madrina Award, because you are the protector godmother of Southwest Detroit.

Dolores Sánchez, you earn a Tlaloc Rain God Award for serving as the CLAS Media Sponsor and covering CLAS events over the years. You have published my numerous articles.

Mary Carmen Muñoz, you earn a Tlaloc Rain God Award for being an extreme giver in your leadership as the Executive Director of LA SED.

Elena Herrada, you earn the Quetzalcóatl Fiery Dragon Award for your relentless defense of Chicano-Boricua Studies in times of crisis.

Full Professor Jorge L. Chinea, you earn the Coquí, Singing Frog, Lifetime Achievement Award for your musical passion and your leadership of CLAS over the last 18 years.”

Marie Cuello, my wife of 48 years, you already get anything you want for your unswerving support of my work, CLAS, WSU and the Detroit Latina/o Community.

Seniors in Mexicantown Southwest Detroit prepare their center (LASED senior center) with handmade festive decorations to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.