

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



CENTER FOR LATINO/A  
and LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

# EL NUEVO COMIENZO

2021 LATINA/O/X AND NATIVE  
STUDENT GRADUATION CELEBRATION

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THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021 | 6-7 P.M.



# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## MAYRA BRAVO



Mayra Bravo is a Manager at DTE Energy, a Detroit-based diversified energy company involved in the development and management of energy-related businesses and services nationwide. In this role, Bravo is responsible for performing short and long-term customer strategy for DTE's 2.2 million electric customers and 1.3 million gas customers in Southeastern Michigan.

Bravo joined DTE Energy in 2011, progressing in various roles in Human Resources, Finance Controllers, Customer Service and Electric Strategy.

Bravo earned both an undergraduate degree in business and a master's degree in business administration from Wayne State University Mike Ilitch School of Business. Bravo was a recipient of the CBS Scholarship, and during her studies at Wayne State, was awarded the 37th Annual Student Recognition Award, which is awarded to outstanding MBA students. She also was invited to study in an executive program in China to better understand the health of the Chinese economy.

Bravo served four years as Treasurer of the Board of Directors at Cesar Chavez Academy in Detroit. She currently mentors young ladies in college through DTE's Summer Talent Exposure Program (STEP), a college summer internship program that provides under-represented college students with an opportunity to develop corporate experience, business acumen, confidence, and soft skills that will put them on equal footing with their peers and allow them to be successful in corporate America.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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### **Emcee**

Tamara Serrano Chandler,  
Academic Advisor, Center for  
Latino/a and Latin American  
Studies, and C2C Program  
Coordinator

### **First Welcome: Wikwemikong, Unceded Territory – Primera Bienvenida**

Kaela Wabanimkee-Harris,  
Anishnaabe (Odawa and Ojibwe)

### **Welcome – Bienvenida**

Dr. M. Roy Wilson,  
Wayne State University President

### **Congratulations – Felicitaciones**

Dr. Víctor Figueroa,  
Acting Director, Center for  
Latino/a and Latin American  
Studies

Dr. Marquita Chamblee,  
Associate Provost, Diversity and  
Inclusion, Chief Diversity Officer

Vanessa Reynolds,  
University Counselor, Office of  
Admissions

Dr. Leonard Savala,  
Director, Office of Multicultural  
Student Engagement

### **Keynote Speaker – Oradora Principal**

Mayra Bravo,  
Manager, DTE Energy

### **Greetings from DTE Energy Foundation**

Lynette Dowler,  
President and Chair, DTE Energy  
Foundation

### **Student Speakers – Orador/a Estudiantil**

Mayra Torres  
B.S., Mathematics

Leisly Torres  
B.S.W.

Kely Perez  
B.S., Business Administration

Eddy Gonzalez-Ramirez  
B.S., Mechanical Engineering  
Technology

### **Graduate Awards – Premios Otorgados**

### **Closing Performance – Actuación Final**

Elvin Ferreira,  
Vocalist and Musician, Raval Tres

*"You cannot value dreams according to the odds of their coming true. The real value is in stirring within us the will to aspire."*  
~ Sonia Sotomayor, associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court



## EL OBJETIVO DEL NUEVO COMIENZO

The purpose of “El Nuevo Comienzo” is to highlight the success and achievements of Latina/o and Native graduates at Wayne State University and provide a time and space for honoring the support and contributions of family, friends, mentors and the community. El Nuevo Comienzo is open to all undergraduate, graduate and professional school students from Wayne State University and is co-hosted by the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies and the NDN Learning Community — “a community of learning for Native/Aboriginals and allies.”

### **About sweetgrass**

Sweetgrass is considered the sacred hair of Mother Earth. It is one of the most important ceremonial plants used by indigenous people across the Americas as an incense and purifying herb. Sweetgrass is often braided, with each strand representing mind, body and spirit. When tied into a circle, it represents the sacred medical wheel, reminding us to walk in a way that our ancestors would be proud of. (Source: native-languages.org)





## EL NUEVO COMIENZO 2021 PLANNING COMMITTEE

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**Sarah Arredondo**

LAS Student,  
LSA Representative

**Tamara Serrano Chandler**

College to Career Program  
Coordinator, LAS

**Nathan Chavez**

Associate Director, Computing  
and Information Technology

**Pamela Esparza**

LAS Student

**Dr. Víctor Figueroa**

Acting Director, LAS

**Dr. Sandra M. Gonzales**

Associate Professor, College of  
Education, and Coordinator,  
NDN Learning Community

**Melissa Miranda Morse**

Assistant Director, LAS

**Alondra Mireles**

LAS Student,  
LSA Representative

**Dr. Eric “Zach” Morales**

Director, McNair Scholars  
Program

**Alexa Lopez**

LAS Student

**Erica Perez**

LAS Student

**Jasmin Perez**

LAS Student

**Vanessa Reynolds**

University Counselor, Office of  
Admissions

**Dr. Leonard Savala**

Director, Office of Multicultural  
Student Engagement

**Dr. Maria Sepúlveda**

Learning Specialist, Athletics

**Tina Lyles**

Event Manager, Special Events

**Bianca Stephanoff**

Event Specialist, Special Events

**Mayra Torres**

LAS Student

# EL NUEVO COMIENZO CLASS OF 2021

## College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

### Lucy Arias

B.A., Psychology  
Minor, Latino/a Studies

### Alan Carbajo Jr.

B.S., Biological Sciences

### Consuelo Garcia

B.A., Spanish  
Minor, Latino/a Studies

### Gabriela Lupercio

B.S., Public Health  
Minors, Business Administration,  
Latino/a Studies

### Javier Perez

B.A., Spanish  
Minor, Latino/a Studies

### Mariah Pino

B.S., Psychology  
Minors, Latino/a Studies,  
Public Health

### Marissa Powers

B.S., Public Health  
Minors, Latino/a Studies, Spanish

### Victoria Rico

B.S., Public Health  
Minor, Latino/a Studies

### Katherine Sanchez

B.A., Spanish and Global  
Studies (dual degree), Minors,  
Anthropology, Latino/a Studies

### Mayra Torres

B.S., Mathematics  
Minor, Latino/a Studies

### Adriana Villarreal

B.A., Anthropology  
Minors, Global Studies,  
Latino/a Studies

## School of Social Work

### Stephanie Beavis

M.S.W.

### Marisol Bustamante

M.S.W.

### Daisy Diaz

B.S.W.  
Minor, Latino/a Studies

### Angelica Garcia

B.S.W.

### Hannah Gianfermi

M.S.W.

### Karen Hernandez

M.S.W.

### Isable Rodriguez

M.S.W.

### Leisly Torres

B.S.W.

### Teresa Velazco Duran

M.S.W.

## Mike Ilitch School of Business

### Jennifer Camarena

B.S., Marketing  
Minor, Global Studies

### Victor Centeno

M.B.A.

### Samantha Curry

M.B.A.

### Guillermo Martinez

B.S., Management  
Minor, Latino/a Studies

### Kely Perez

B.S., Business Administration  
Minor, Latino/a Studies

**College of Education****Jaydaliz Cardona**

B.S., Kinesiology  
 Minor, Latino/a Studies

**College of Engineering****Josue Flores**

B.S., Electrical Engineering  
 Minor, Latino/a Studies

**Eddy Gonzalez-Ramirez**

B.S., Mechanical  
 Engineering Technology  
 Minor, Latino/a Studies

**Guillermo Suarez**

B.S., Construction Management

**College of Fine, Performing and  
 Communication Arts****Kia ix Arriaga**

B.F.A., Art

**Carissa Chacón**

B.F.A., Design  
 Minor, Latino/a Studies

**Yaritza Espinoza**

B.A., Journalism  
 Minor, Latino/a Studies

**Mariela Gallegos-Bañuelos**

B.F.A., Design  
 Minor, Latino/a Studies

**Marcela Lecourt**

B.F.A., Design, University Honors

**Erica Perez**

B.F.A., Design  
 Minor, Latino/a Studies

**Ashley Ramirez**

B.A., Communication Studies  
 Certificate, Entrepreneurship and  
 Innovation

**College of Nursing****Vilma Escamilla Durán**

B.S.N.

**Nancy Vasquez**

B.S.N.  
 Minor, Psychology

*“¡Si Se Puede!*

*~ Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez*



**“Looking behind, I am filled with gratitude;  
looking forward, I am filled with vision;  
looking upwards, I am filled with strength;  
looking within, I discover peace.”  
– Quero Apache prayer**



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

**Wayne State University Board of Governors**

Marilyn Kelly, *chair*

Bryan C. Barnhill II, Michael Busuito, Mark Gaffney, Anil Kumar, Terri Lynn Land,  
Shirley Stancato, Dana Thompson, M. Roy Wilson, *ex officio*