



Latino Affairs
Commission



APRIL 2024

Hispanic Legislative Visit Day

Saludos Queridos Community Leaders! Welcome to our 2024 Hispanic Legislative Visit Day!

We are thrilled to gather once again in our state capital to engage with legislators, leaders, students, advocates, and friends of our community. Census data show that the Hispanic/Latino Community in Ohio is the fastest growing demographic with over half a million strong! Therefore, fulfilling our civic responsibilities is crucial to the success and sustainability of our democracy. Your participation today is essential to the progress of our state and nation.

Today's agenda features important discussions regarding health, education, advocacy, workforce, and economic development. We are excited to welcome students who represent the future leaders of our state. Our sincere gratitude goes to our legislators who have graciously agreed to meet with us. Likewise, we have assembled a distinguished panel of public policy experts and Latina women in government who will share their experiences on how to excel in leadership.

Our Commission is proud to welcome Melody Gonzales, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity as our keynote speaker this year. Ms. Gonzales is an outstanding example of a Latina leader who is making a difference in key educational roles that represent the interests and needs of our community on a national level. We are also proud to welcome our special guest speaker Nellie Barroso, a Latina leader who is making an impact on a global level and has made unwavering strides in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the corporate world.

Hispanic Legislative Visit Day is a community led effort and we want to place a special thank you to our featured partner, Accenture, for making this impactful event possible! We also would like to recognize our partners: CareSource, The Greater Cincinnati Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and The Dayton Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in supporting this event. Thank you to our community leaders from the ADAMH Board, the American Heart Association, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, JumpStart, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Ohio Department of Bureau Worker's Compensation, Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Poverty Law Center, Ohio TESOL, Policy Matters Ohio, U.S. Department of Education, and the YWCA for their commitment to our program.

Civic engagement is powerful; your voice is a great first step in this process, and today's visit creates the opportunity to stay engaged with the policy-making process in Ohio. We hope you will leave with a stronger sense of community and an expanded network of leaders and elected officials with whom you can work on making Ohio a better place for all. Muchas gracias for exercising your civic duty today and every day!

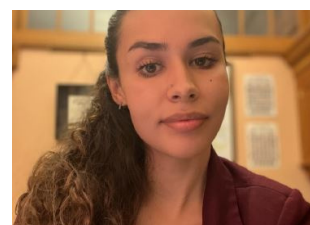
In Service,



Manuel Lopez Ramirez
Chairperson



Giovanna Alvarez
Executive Director, OCHLA



Annabel Meleán
Public Policy Officer

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Registration/Continental Breakfast	
8:45 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.	Welcome Remarks	
PANEL		
9:00 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Policy Expert Panel	Atrium
BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
10:10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Heart Health Awareness for Hispanic and Latino Families	George Washington Williams Room
10:10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Strategies for Financial and Business Success for Hispanic and Latino Entrepreneurs	State Room
10:10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Striving for Inclusive Excellence for Hispanic and Latino Youth	Ladies Gallery
10:10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Voces Poderosas: Advocacy 101	Atrium
BREAKOUT SESSION 2		
11:10 a.m. - Noon	Suicide Prevention for Hispanic and Latino Youth: What Every Adult Must Know	State Room
11:10 a.m. - Noon	The Mindset of an Entrepreneur	George Washington Williams Room
11:10 a.m. - Noon	Equity Amplified: Unveiling Systems for Advocacy	Ladies Gallery
KEYNOTE		
11:10 am.	Student and Community Meet and Greet with Melody Gonzalez	Rotunda
LUNCH		
Noon - 1:10 p.m.	<p>Networking Lunch & Keynote <i>Special Guest Speaker Nellie Borrero, Managing Director of Global Inclusion & Diversity Senior Strategic Advisor at Accenture, Author and Certified Executive Coach</i></p> <p>Keynote Address by Melody Gonzales, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunities for Hispanics</p> <p>Presenting OCHLA's New Executive Director, Giovanna Alvarez</p>	
PANEL		
1:10 - 2:10 p.m.	Exceptional Latina Women in Government Leadership Panel	Atrium
CLOSING		
2:15 p.m.	Closing Remarks	
2:30 p.m.	State House Tours Begin	
OPTIONAL		
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Attend Senate & House Session, and/or attend House & Senate Committee meetings, and/or attend scheduled meetings with legislators.	

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Ohio

1

Representatives and Senators put their ideas into writing in the form of a bill. Once drafted, it is introduced and assigned to a committee within its chamber of origin that handles bills on that topic. To become law in Ohio, a bill must receive three "considerations" in each chamber of the General Assembly. Introduction of a bill constitutes "first consideration."

2

The referral of a bill to a committee constitutes "second consideration." Through the committee process, legislators on the bill's assigned committee may change the bill with alterations called amendments or may choose to take no action at all. If a committee recommends a bill be considered by its entire respective chamber, the bill is voted upon and reported by the committee.

3

Legislators have an opportunity to debate and amend a bill when it goes before their respective chamber on the floor. When debate on a bill is concluded, the Senate President or Speaker of the House directs the chamber's Clerk to call the roll, and legislators cast their votes. If a bill receives a majority of the votes cast, it passes and moves to the other chamber of the legislature, where a similar process is followed. Consideration of a bill on the floor constitutes "third consideration."

4

If the other chamber makes any changes to the bill, the chamber from which the bill originated may vote on whether to concur with the changes. If the original chamber does not concur with the other chamber's changes, a conference committee made up of members from both chambers meets to reconcile differences between the two versions of the bill. Once the revised bill is approved by the House and the Senate, the bill becomes an "Act" and is sent to the Governor for his or her review and signature.

5

The Governor can sign the act into law or reject it by issuing a veto. A three-fifths vote of the members of the House and Senate is necessary to override the governor's veto. A signed Act becomes law after 90 days. If the governor takes no action within 10 days of receiving the bill, it becomes law without his or her signature.

Conducting a Successful Legislative Visit

"My name is _ and I represent _ . I am part of a network of Latino Ohioans here as a part of Ohio Hispanic Legislative Vist Day.

Step 1: Introduction

"I would like to speak with you about _ today. Here are some resources. I also have a personal story to share."

Step 2: Purpose of Visit

"Are you willing to be our advocate? I hope you will consider supporting/opposing legislation around this issue."

Step 3: Ask

"Thank you for your interest and for taking the time to meet with me today. If you have any further questions, please contact me."

Step 4: Thank You

Tips for a successful visit:

- Research the legislator
- Prepare talking points
- Arrive on time
- Be brief
- Be polite
- Be positive
- Share a personal story
- Discuss your own work
- Bring materials
- Ask for a commitment
- Thank them
- Follow up

Board of Commissioners



Manuel Lopez
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Vice Chair



Gregory Guzman, Ph.D.



Beth Guzman-Bowman



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Anthony Simms-Howell



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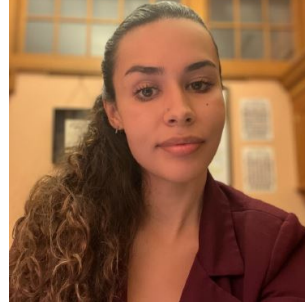
OCHLA Staff



Giovanna Alvarez
Executive Director



Mary Grace Sanchez
Officer in Charge



Annabel Melean, MPA
Public Policy Officer

Meet Our New Executive Director: Giovanna Alvarez



Giovanna Alvarez has an impressive track record of service within non-profit organizations dedicated to serving the Hispano/Latino Community in Springfield, New Carlisle, and Cincinnati. Her 16 years of active involvement in community leadership and service have shaped her passion for promoting equity, inclusion, and cultural understanding. As she steps into her new role, Giovanna expresses her excitement: “As the Hispanic/Latino Community continues to grow, I am thrilled to have this great opportunity to make a positive impact and create growth and collaboration opportunities for our communities in the State of Ohio.”

Giovanna’s commitment extends beyond her professional responsibilities. She is an engaged member of several Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) boards, fostering connections and driving meaningful change. Her collaborative spirit and dedication to community empowerment make her an excellent fit for OCHLA’s mission. We look forward to Ms. Alvarez leadership and the positive impact she will bring to the Ohio Latino community.



FEATURED SPEAKER

Nellie Borrero

(She/Her/Hers)

**Managing Director - Global Inclusion & Diversity
Senior Strategic Advisor - Accenture**

**Author, Certified Executive Coach and
sought-after public speaker**

- Impact driven, inclusion & diversity senior global lead at Accenture – a global professional services company with more than 730,000 people serving clients in more than 120 countries
- Hispanic IT Executive Council's prestigious Estrella Award 2023, Hall of Fame 2022, Accelerator Award 2021
- One of Association of Latino Professionals' America's 50 Most Powerful Latinas showcased by Fortune 2017 and 2018; ALPFA 2019 50 Most Powerful Latinas; ALPFA Inaugural Hall of Fame Most Powerful Latina 2021

Award-Winning Leadership:

- LatinaStyle Highest Ranking Latina 2021;
- Top 30 Diversity & Inclusion Leaders 2022 LeadersHum;
- theboardQ Hall of Fame Top 100 Latinx Hispanic Exceptional Leadership 2021;
- 2021 & 2020 Latino Leaders Magazine 100 Most Influential Latinas;
- 2018 LatinaStyle Top 12 Highest Ranking Latinas;
- 2018 Council for Latino Workplace Equality Top Latina Leader; 2015 & 2016 HITEC Top 100 Most Influential and notable Hispanic Professionals in IT;
- 2016 Black Enterprise Top Executives In Corporate Diversity;
- 2012 LATINA Style Top 5 Executive Women;
- 2012 Marcus Buckingham Leaders Leading Leaders Award;
- 2012 Hispanic Business Influentials and the 2008 Stevie Women in Business Awards

A highly respected senior leader with global experience and expertise spanning three decades, Nellie Borrero is known for her unwavering passion for inclusion, diversity, and sharp focus on equality. Today, she continues to raise awareness, build inclusive cultures and belonging inside Accenture and with external partnerships and clients across industries. Nellie joined Accenture in 1986 and created the first role for diversity efforts. A deeply committed advocate for change, Nellie believes strongly that Accenture's rich diversity makes the company stronger and more innovative and is focused on increasing the representation across all segments of diversity. In her current role as senior global inclusion & diversity managing director, Nellie sets the vision and strategy behind the company's diversity initiatives, working with its most senior leaders. Under her direction, the company launched several successful training programs around the world – including in Japan, India, South Africa, Brazil, U.K. and the U.S., among many others – spanning multiple segments of diversity. Her focus has included the creation of a global career development program for high performing women, global positioning of the company's LGBTQ+ and Persons with Disability agendas and the design and execution of ethnic diversity focused programs. Most recently, she has created and is leading the Global Inclusion & Diversity Market Offering practice, serving multiple clients across industries.

Nellie has authored, UNWAVERING: Rejecting Bias, Igniting Change, Celebrating Inclusion. Outside of Accenture, few are better poised to speak about equality, belonging, diversity, inclusion and bold leadership.

Nellie has lent her voice to publications such as Forbes, The Chicago Tribune, Management Consulting Magazine, Diversity Inc., Diversity Careers in IT & Engineering, Black Enterprise Magazine, Hispanic Executive Magazine, Hispanic Engineering Magazine, and LatinaStyle, she has also been a featured guest on National Public Radio (NPR). She is a sought after global speaker for her inspirational impact, seeking to raise awareness of the development and advancement of women, ethnic minorities and all diversity segments represented in the workplace. Nellie has spoken at prestigious events including The Colloquium on Global Diversity, The Global Summit of Women in New York, SHRM Diversity Conference, Latina Style Top 50, Asian Business Roundtable Conference and multiple other events.

Nellie earned a BA in Management – Human Resources from Lehman College. She served as an Advisory Board Member of VisionSpring, LaGuardia Community College Foundation, Aspira of New York and Comprehensive Development, Inc. She currently serves on one board: HITEC. She has received a coaching certification from the Hudson Institute and the International Coaching Federation and ICF certified. Additionally, she is a member of the Women's Forum of New York and Latino Corporate Directors Association and Chief.

Nellie is married with two children – a daughter and son, and grandson. She enjoys her family life, reading, playing tennis and purposefully giving to the world.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Melody Gonzales



Melody is the Executive Director of the White House Hispanic Initiative, an office created by President Joe Biden's Executive Order 14045 and housed under the leadership of Secretary Miguel Cardona at the U.S. Department of Education. The Initiative works to: advance cradle to career education, equity and economic policy goals in partnership with the White House, federal agencies and external stakeholders; lead a 21-member commission that was recently announced; run a federal Interagency work group centered in advancing equity and access to federal resources for the Latino community; and lead in-person and virtual public engagement efforts.


Melody joined the Biden-Harris Administration from the National Education Association, the nation's largest union representing 3 million educators – where she managed grants, partnerships and advocacy work with Latino organizations and local union affiliates. Some of her prior experiences includes serving as the U.S Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration Chief of Staff and then as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management; as a Senior Executive Service-level appointee in the Obama-Biden Administration; and as the as the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda's Founding Director of the Latino Appointments Program and LatinasRepresent initiative.





Policy Expert Panel

 Atrium

 10:10 a.m.

We invite you to join this powerful panel to learn about policy issues that are impacting the Hispanic and Latino Community. Insights on health, education, school counseling, public benefits, and economic development will be discussed by these policy experts, along with solutions and the great work that is being done within each of these fields to help improve accessibility and resources to youth and families. Come ready with your questions to ask these policy experts at Hispanic Legislative Visit Day.



ANNABEL MELEÁN, MPA
*Public Policy Officer, OCHLA
Moderator*



DANIELLE DELEON SPIRES, J.D.
Policy Advocate, Ohio Poverty Law Center



MONICA CERREZUELA
*Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs,
Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health
(ADAMH) Board of Franklin County*



TANISHA PRUITT, PH.D
*Youth, Opportunity, and Education Researcher,
Policy Matters Ohio*




DUSTIN HOLFINGER
*State Government Relations Director,
American Heart Association*



BREAKOUT SESSION

Heart Health Awareness for Hispanic and Latino Families

 George Washington Williams Room

 10:10 a.m.



DR. SARAH HENSON

*Cardiologist, Cincinnati Children's
Heart Institute*

Stroke and cardiovascular disease is the third leading cause of death for Hispanic and Latino men and the fourth leading cause of death for Hispanic and Latino women. Join Dr. Henson, a cardiologist specialized in pediatric preventative cardiology, and learn about how Hispanic and Latino families and youth can better prioritize their heart health early on.

Dr. Henson is a cardiologist specializing in pediatric preventive cardiology at the Cincinnati Children's Heart Institute. She believes in meeting patients and families where they are in life. Cardiovascular disease takes decades to occur; however, the process begins in childhood. The good news is that early prevention in children can lead to better chances of reversing the disease. She works with children to improve lifestyles and be a support system for families.

Dr. Henson has found particular interest in preventing cardiovascular disease before it starts. Research is vital to understanding the complex physiology of cardiovascular risk factors in pediatric patients and improving clinical care related to these risk factors. Dr. Henson's work in this field aids her clinical services and ability to provide evidence-based interventions.

This breakout session is hosted by the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Heart Institute





ANA CAMMARATA

*Statewide Bilingual Business Consultant,
Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation*



JORGE COLÓN

*Business Banker, SBA Specialist,
First Federal Lakewood*



JOSÉ COLÓN

*Senior Manager of Hispanic/Latino Services,
JumpStart Inc.*



MELONY BRYANT


*Minority and Small Business Advocate,
Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation*



BREAKOUT SESSION

Strategies for Financial and Business Success for Hispanic and Latino Entrepreneurs

 State Room

 10:10 a.m.

In this workshop, participants will explore how personal financial habits directly impact business growth by examining their spending patterns, savings strategies, and debt management. By the end of the workshop, individuals will have a clearer understanding of the symbiotic relationship between personal finances and business success, equipped with practical tools to optimize both aspects for sustainable growth.

This breakout session is hosted by Jump Start, Inc. and the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation



Equality drives innovation

Equality is a powerful multiplier of innovation and growth. It inspires creativity and a sense of belonging.

At Accenture we're committed to championing a culture of equality where our people are empowered to be their best, professionally and personally.

Because as equals, anything is possible.

accenture [>]



DANA WEBER

*English Learner Consultant,
Stark County Educational Service Center (SCESC),
OH TESOL Advocacy Representative*




MARIE KOBAYASHI

*English Learner Consultant, Hamilton County
Educational Services Center,
OH TESOL 2nd Vice President*

BREAKOUT SESSION

Striving for Inclusive Excellence for Hispanic and Latino English Learners

 Ladies Gallery

 10:10 a.m.

Heritage Spanish speakers make up the largest percentage of English learners in Ohio's K-12 schools and English learners are the fastest growing sub-group of students in the schools. Students in the process of acquiring the English language have unique skill sets and challenges in our education system. Join this open dialogue to learn how schools are supporting the linguistic and academic needs of our students, where there is room for improvement and to provide your input for advocacy. Register for Hispanic Legislative Visit Day using the Eventbrite link. We hope to see you there!

This breakout session is hosted by Ohio TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)






BREAKOUT SESSION

Voces Poderosas: Advocacy 101

 Atrium

 10:10 a.m.

Join Selina Pagan, Executive Director of the Young Latino Network, as she leads this dynamic workshop designed to equip Latine community members with the tools and strategies needed to advocate for meaningful change. Learn how to effectively communicate your message, identify key issues impacting nuestra comunidad, and take actionable steps toward positive social impact. Together, we'll explore the power of advocacy and how we can amplify Latine voices to shape a brighter future for Ohio.



SELENA PAGAN

*Executive Director,
Young Latino Network*

This breakout session is hosted by the Young Latino Network





THE BETTER FAFSA

What High School Educators and College Access Counselors Need to Know

Higher Education Opens Doors to Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Education is making transformational changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form. The FAFSA form is an application that students and families need to complete to apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study funds, and loans. Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free, and it gives students access to the largest source of financial aid to help pay for higher education.



The Better FAFSA is:

- » Simple and streamlined.
- » Easier to fill out—many people complete it in under 15 minutes.

Unlocking an additional
\$1.8 BILLION in aid.



610,000 more students

from low-income backgrounds will receive Federal Pell Grants.

Nearly **1.5 million more students** will receive the maximum Pell Grant.

All students will be able to access the maximum financial aid for which they are eligible.

Better FAFSA Timeline for the 2024-25 Award Year

NOW

- Students and families should complete and submit the 2024-25 FAFSA form

MARCH

- The Department begins transmitting FAFSA information to schools and state agencies for processing

THIS SPRING

- Colleges review FAFSA information for students who applied for admission
- Colleges start sending aid packages to students

JULY 1

- FAFSA award year starts

Note: Your guidance to students and families is critical. Help students and families check deadlines for their institutions and states regarding scholarships and enrollment commitments.

CHECKLIST

FOR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATORS AND COLLEGE ACCESS COUNSELORS



- Hold information sessions to help students and families understand the process and timeline for FAFSA submission this year.
- Support students as they create a [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) account by giving time to do it with trained school personnel or volunteers.
- Set FAFSA completion goals for your or key partners' high schools and use [available data](#) to know your school's current submission rate.
- Train teachers, support staff and volunteers on how to fill out the FAFSA.
- Visit ed.gov/Better-FAFSA to access resources like the Financial Aid Toolkit for counselors and the roadmap for counselors and advocates.
- Develop a roadmap for your school and community support providers.
- [Sign up](#) to receive updates on webinars and other information

More information and resources are available at ed.gov/BetterFAFSA

This information was last updated on Feb. 22, 2024.



Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION



ELENA CAMACHO, MSW, LSW

*Suicide Prevention Specialist,
Nationwide Children's Hospital*




LORENA ASADI, MSW, LISW-S

*Suicide Prevention Specialist,
Nationwide Children's Hospital*

BREAKOUT SESSION

Suicide Prevention for Hispanic & Latino Youth: What Every Adult Must Know

 State Room

 11:10 a.m.

This workshop will be led by Elena Camacho, MSW, LSW and Lorena Asadi, LISW-S where they will focus on elements of suicide prevention for Hispanic and Latino youth. Attendees will learn suicide risk factors specific to Hispanic and Latino youth and will be acquainted with the concepts of acculturation and minority stress, and their interplay between mental health and suicide. Attendees will also learn protective factors for suicide and key strategies to enhance connectedness among community members and youth.


This breakout session is hosted by Nationwide Children's Hospital



BREAKOUT SESSION

The Mindset of an Entrepreneur

 George Washington Williams Room

 11:10 a.m.

You may have the skill and the will, but it takes an entrepreneurial mindset to be successful in starting up, standing up and scaling up your business. Join Shaundretta Boykins, the Manager of Business Development at the Ohio Department of Development, to learn more about how to develop a powerful business-ready mindset



SHAUNDRETTA BOYKINS

*Manager of Business Development,
Ohio Department of Development*

This breakout session is hosted by the Ohio Department of Development





PHYL FLANAGAN

*Justice, Equity & Belonging Program Manager,
YWCA Columbus*




DANIELLE BOYD

*Justice, Equity & Belonging Program Manager,
YWCA Columbus*

BREAKOUT SESSION

Equity Amplified: Unveiling Systems for Advocacy

 Ladies Gallery

 11:10 a.m.

This introductory workshop on racial equity and advocacy will explore how historical context shapes our systems. We will use the housing system to learn why understanding the connections between institutions and systems will enhance advocacy efforts and help drive more equitable policies and practices.

This breakout session is hosted by the Columbus YWCA

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
columbus ohio



ON A MISSION TO ADVANCE RACIAL JUSTICE

To produce social change, we must change hearts, minds, and the systems that uphold white supremacy, which is why - at YWCA Columbus - we tell the truth about racial injustice in our country, center the voices of marginalized people, and activate agents of change on their journeys of self-liberation and social justice.

EDUCATE | ENGAGE | EMPOWER

65 South 4th Street,
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 224-9121
ywcacolumbus.org

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
columbus ohio



BARBARA SMOOT

President and CEO, Women for Economic and Leadership Development (WELD)



LILLEANA CAVANAUGH

Deputy Chief of Business Solutions and Outreach, Ohio Department of Development



MARIA CORTEZ

Assistant Director of Community Affairs, Mayor Ginther's Office



LOURDES BARROSO DE PADILLA

Councilwoman, Columbus City Council




EMERALD HERNANDEZ-PARRA

Assistant Director of Special Projects, City of Columbus and Ohio Department of Development



Exceptional Latina Women in Government Leadership Panel

 Atrium

 1:10 p.m.

This panel will foster an engaging discussion of the successes and challenges of exceptional Latina leaders that have navigated government spaces. These leaders will share their experiences on what inspired them to work in government, how to show up authentically in leadership, and share strategies on moving forward policy in their respective realms. You won't want to miss out on this powerful discussion!



Lorena Vernaz Asadi, LISW-S

Lorena Vernaz Asadi is a licensed independent social worker and specializes in suicide prevention. In addition to prevention services, Lorena provides direct outpatient therapy services, where she practices using evidence-based interventions with a focus on family dynamics and trauma. In the past, she worked as a therapist serving adolescents and families in an intensive community-based setting. Lorena graduated from The Ohio State University with a master's degree in Social Work with a concentration in Mental Health and Substance Misuse, and provides services in both English and Spanish. Lorena's experience as a migrant from Argentina has shaped their advocacy efforts for the Hispanic/Latinx/Latine community; she never turns down an opportunity to educate fellow practitioners and community partners on the diversity and needs of the community. She has collaborated with fellow educators in the mental healthcare field in creating content for mental health providers on topics of cultural humility and diversity and inclusion, and has contributed to the development of social work academic curricula during her time at the Ohio State University.



Lourdes Barroso de Padilla

ouncilmember Lourdes Barroso De Padilla is a Columbus born and raised, Bilingual - first generation Cuban-American, a proud graduate of Columbus City Schools. In 2021 she made history as the first Latina to be elected to the Columbus City Council. Barroso de Padilla has an extensive background in youth development and organizing and has spent more than 20 years with City Year Inc. She has served as a Commissioner with the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission, as a founding member of the Create Columbus Commission and as a board member for YWCA Columbus, ELLA, New Leaders Council, Directions for Youth and Families, and as a member of various councils for the United Way of Central Ohio. Currently she serves as both Chair of the MORPC Regional Policy Roundtable and as a MORPC Board Member.

As the daughter of working-class immigrants Barroso de Padilla has worked to elevate the voice of immigrants, migrants, and refugees through the "Immigrants Make Columbus" project that centers the voices of community members and establishes the city's first "Immigrant, Refugee and Migrant Council" that will serve as an advisory and organizing body for the city of Columbus. The work of this plan will integrate with the Gateways for Growth and Welcoming Cities plan for the city.



Danielle Boyd, MSSA

Danielle Boyd, MSSA is a social worker and community advocate who values connecting individuals, groups, and communities with the appropriate tools and resources needed to overcome barriers and foster a stronger sense of community. Before joining YWCA Columbus, Danielle organized in Central Ohio's Black Queer and Queer Youth communities. With over ten years of experience in macro-level social work, education, and community advocacy, Danielle looks forward to honoring the work happening in the community and collaborating for more positive social change.



Shaundretta Boykins

Shaundretta Boykins is the Manager of Business Development and Entrepreneurship in the Minority Business Development Division at the Ohio Department of Development. Shaundretta manages the State of Ohio Minority Business Direct Loan Program, Women's Business Enterprise Loan Program, Minority Micro Loan Program, the Minority Business Bonding Program, the Ohio Capital Access, Collateral Enhancement Loan Programs, and is also responsible for outreach and business solutions. In her role, she assists minorities and women with the requisite education needed to startup, stand up and scale up their businesses. She also assists them with access to capital, technical assistance, education about certifications and procurement opportunities, to help with development, and growth.

Shaundretta has more than 20 years of experience in the banking industry, working for financial institutions such as Chase, US Bank and Firstmerit. Bank. She has 5 years of experience in the non-profit/ Community Development Financial Institution, lending, and social services industries. Shaundretta has held every position in the banking center and has experience in business consulting, from the ideation stage to the exit strategies, to sell or franchise. She believes in equitable education for marginalized business owners, who experience barriers, delays, or deficits due to knowledge gaps that exist for them. She is a resource of resources. Shaundretta has worked with small businesses to establish back-office operations, to implement financial systems and controls, to restructure their debt, and to improve cashflow, productivity and profitability.



White House Initiative On Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence & Economic Opportunity for Hispanics

The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to building an Administration that looks like America. With the federal government being the nation's largest employer, one of the [White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence & Economic Opportunity for Hispanics](#)' priorities is to encourage more people in the Latino community to pursue career pathways in the federal government. Federal internships, fellowships, presidential appointments and career civil service jobs are great opportunities to work alongside federal experts, learn valuable skills, drive change, and make a positive impact for our nation.

White House Hispanic Initiative Latino Leadership Program

Student Volunteers & Interns: Community college, 4-year institution, undergraduate and graduate students -- apply to serve with us for a semester or to help with special projects. We also host students interning in D.C. through programs run by their school or other organizations. If you'd like to serve in our office please email your resume, letter of interest and available dates to whitehousehispanicinitiative@ed.gov.

Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) & Federal detailees:

Our office seeks experienced professionals working in:

- Higher education institutions
- Federally funded research centers
- State/local/tribal governments
- IPA eligible non-profits
- Federal agencies

If you work in sectors listed above and would like to join us on a temporary assignment (via the IPA authority or as a Federal detailee), email whitehousehispanicinitiative@ed.gov your resume and letter of interest.

U.S. Department of Education Internships & Jobs: Our agency regularly posts opportunities at ed.gov/jobs



Student and Recent Graduate Opportunities

FEDERAL INTERNSHIP PORTAL: intern.usajobs.gov: This site features paid Pathways Internships and unpaid student volunteer roles at federal agencies. New opportunities are regularly posted so check the site often.

WHITE HOUSE INTERNSHIPS: whitehouse.gov/get-involved/internships: For the first time in history, the White House now offers paid internships in Washington, D.C. Learn more and spread the word.

VIRTUAL STUDENT FEDERAL SERVICE INTERNSHIPS: careers.state.gov/interns-fellows/virtual-student-federal-service: This program matches students to federal agencies for remote/online part-time internships.

PATHWAYS RECENT GRADUATE POSITIONS: usajobs.gov: These positions are designed for applicants who graduated within the past two years from a postsecondary institutions, including undergraduate and graduate programs. Go to the USAJOBS website and write "Recent Graduates" in the search bar to view these roles.

PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT FELLOWS PROGRAM (PMF): pmf.gov: Current graduate students or recent graduate students (within two years of graduation) are encouraged to apply for the PMF Program, the federal government's flagship leadership development program for advanced degree holders. Fellows serve a two-year, full-time, paid fellowship at a federal agency.



Melony Bryant

In January 2014, Melony Bryant joined the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) as its Minority & Small Business Advocate. She functions as a liaison between the minority and small business community for BWC. Melony has more than 20 years of workers' compensation experience. She started her career with a premier third-party administrator in the actuarial department working as a rate analyst. Melony then moved into the client relations department as an account executive where she developed a unique ability to actively listen to and address Ohio employers' workers' compensation concerns. As the Minority & Small Business Advocate, Melony assists minority and small businesses navigate through the Ohio workers' compensation system. Receiving feedback from the minority and small employer community is just as important as employer education. BWC and Melony are committed to assist this vast group of employers to grow and thrive in Ohio's economy, acknowledging the fact that these employers have very limited resources.



Elena Camacho, MSW, LSW

Elena Camacho is a social worker and passionate advocate for youth mental health. As a Suicide Prevention Specialist at the Center for Suicide Prevention and Research at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Elena follows up with at-risk youth and their families after hospital discharge, using evidence-based interventions such as caring contacts to enhance continuity of care and achieve best outcomes. She is also a valued member of the diversity and inclusion committee for the community based behavioral health team and volunteers her time answering the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and working with the Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition Communications Action Team. Elena obtained her bachelor's degree in psychology from The Ohio State University and her Master's Degree in Social Work from Case Western Reserve University. Her contributions have been recognized by the Ohio State University Suicide Prevention Program and Mental Health America of Ohio.



Ana Cammarata

Ana Cammarata is a bilingual Business Consultant with the division of Employer Services of the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation. For 21 years, Ana has assisted employers with the potential financial benefits of proven risk management strategies and various cost-control programs.

Ana works with Latino/ Hispanic business communities helping them to navigate the Ohio Workers Compensation system and identify opportunities to decrease costs. Additionally, she partners with local business associations, chambers of commerce, and safety councils to bring industry feedback to BWC executive management and educate the employer community regarding workers' compensation topics. A native from Venezuela, she holds a Bachelor Science in Chemistry and an MBA. She is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) and an OSHA authorized outreach trainer for industry and construction.



Lilliana (Lilly) Cavanaugh, MBA, CPM

Lilly is the Deputy Chief for Business Solutions & Outreach at the Minority Business Development Division of the Ohio Department of Development. In this role, she works to increase the number of certified minority, women-owned, veteran friendly and diverse business enterprises. Mrs. Cavanaugh is focused on increasing the number of businesses receiving capital and supporting the increase in procurement opportunities for businesses in our state.

Lilly has an extensive career in the private and public sector. Most recently, she served as Executive Director for the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs, State of Ohio. Mrs. Cavanaugh has been directly engaged with the Latino community in Ohio for 25 years. She has played a key role in building collaboration and partnerships among government entities, community-based organizations, and the private sector to improve the quality of life and opportunities for Hispanic/Latinos and other ethnic minorities in Ohio. She is originally from Costa Rica and has lived and worked in Latin America, Africa, Southeast Asia, Europe, and the United States.

Lilly is a Certified Public Manager, and has an associate's degree in business from Sinclair Community College, a bachelor's degree in Management from the University of Phoenix, and a master's degree in Business Administration from Capella University.



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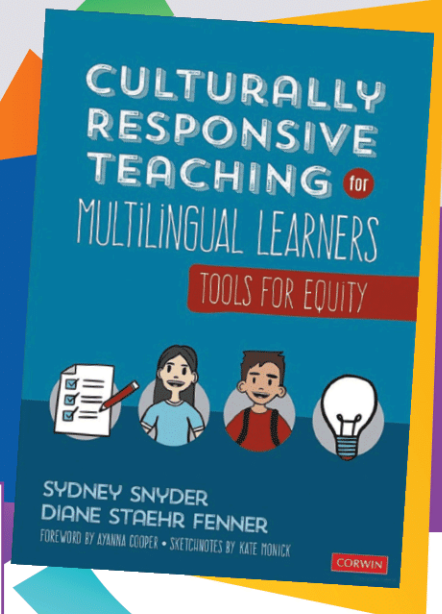
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Monica Cerrezuela

Monica Cerrezuela currently serves as the Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs for the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH), a government agency that partners with more than 30 non-profits to plan, fund, and evaluate community based mental health and substance use disorder treatment, recovery, crisis and prevention programs for individuals and families in Franklin County, Ohio. In her role at ADAMH, she is responsible for monitoring behavioral health policy and legislation, as well enhancing advocacy and outreach efforts with elected officials and stakeholders at the local, state, and national levels.

A dedicated public servant, Monica previously as Chief of Staff at the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA). Prior to COTA, she served as the Advocacy and Community Outreach Manager at The Women's Fund of Central Ohio. She began her professional career as an Ohio Legislative Service Commission Fellow where she spent three years as a legislative staffer in the Ohio Senate.

Outside of work, Monica enjoys staying active in the community. Monica proudly serves as a commissioner on the Columbus Recreation and Parks Commission, in addition to serving as Treasurer on the Creating Central Ohio Futures Board. Her past involvement includes serving on the Council Residential Districting Commission, the Columbus Women's Commission and New Leaders Council Columbus Executive Board. Monica is also a graduate Leadership Columbus Signature Program Class of 2023.

A native of Canton, Ohio, Monica earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy from the University of Michigan. Monica is proud to call Columbus home and resides in the Olde Towne East neighborhood with her cat, Manny.



Jorge Colón

Jorge Colón is a seasoned business banker at First Federal Lakewood with a specialization in Small Business Administration (SBA) lending. With over 8 years of experience in financial services, Jorge has honed his expertise through roles at KeyBank, Fifth Third Bank, and the Economic and Community Development Institute. Jorge holds an associate degree in business from Cuyahoga Community College, and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in business studies from Cleveland State University, with an expected graduation in 2025. Originally from Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, Colon relocated to Cleveland in 2009, bringing his passion for empowering businesses and fostering economic growth.



José Colón

As Senior Manager of Latino/Hispanic Services, José Colón is the initial point of contact for Latinx and Spanish-speaking applicants seeking services and/or capital from JumpStart and its partners. Specifically, José's role involves engaging with early-stage and small business clients, identifying their service needs, providing value-added advising and making referrals within JumpStart, the BGC network, the NEO ESP Network and to our other external services partners.

Prior to joining Jumpstart, José worked as a Financial Service Manager in the Community Financial Centers for Cleveland Neighborhood Progress. In this role, he helped individual clients improve credit scores, manage money and debt, prepare for major purchases and set financial goals. He also assisted business clients with managing credit and finances while helping them eliminate language barriers to gain access to other useful small business resources.

José earned his Bachelor's in Sports and Fitness Administration and Management and a Master's of Business Administration in Management (MBA) from Cleveland State University. He currently serves as the Chair of Civic Education on the board of the Young Latino Network.



Maria Elizabeth Cortez

Maria Elizabeth Cortez is currently serving as the Assistant Director of Community Affairs in the Mayor's Office. She has a passion for advocating for underserved communities and bridging the gap in services. She does this daily through her work. Maria ensures that decisions made in her office have an equitable lens. Her career in direct services in Columbus includes the Community Outreach Director for The YMCA of Central Ohio New American Welcome Center, Deportation Family Advocate for Avanza Together, working as a Family Advisor for Educational Solutions Co., and Community Health Coordinator for Mount Carmel Outreach. Her background in Education and Social Work have set Maria up for success, as she brings a unique perspective into the needs of the community. Maria says working with diverse populations has served as a catalyst for greater advocacy within her role.



Danielle DeLeon Spires

Danielle DeLeon Spires joined the Ohio Poverty Law Center team as a Policy Advocate in April 2022 and focuses on issues related to Medicaid, public benefits, unemployment, and consumer issues. Prior to joining OPLC, she spent three years at the Ohio House of Representatives, first as a Legislative Aide and then as a Policy Adviser to the Ohio House Democratic Caucus. In this position, Danielle worked closely with legislators on a variety of issue areas related to health and human services and unemployment compensation. Danielle graduated from The Ohio State University and went on to earn her Juris Doctorate from DePaul University College of Law in 2016 with an emphasis on health law.



Phyl Flanagan

Phyl Flanagan grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio among their large extended and multicultural family. Their academic and professional background includes health and wellness, human development, embodied activism, restorative practices and macro social work. Phyl spent over a decade working in early childhood education and development, as well as direct social service before transitioning into social change and community education and development. Phyl founded The Reconnection Circle consulting firm in 2023 and currently serves as a Justice, Equity & Belonging Program Manager at YWCA Columbus (OH).



Dr. Sarah Henson

Dr. Henson is a cardiologist specializing in pediatric preventive cardiology at the Cincinnati Children's Heart Institute. She believes in meeting patients and families where they are in life. Cardiovascular disease takes decades to occur; however, the process begins in childhood. The good news is that early prevention in children can lead to better chances of reversing the disease. She works with children to improve lifestyles and be a support system for families.

Dr. Henson was drawn to medicine by her desire to care for others and a fascination with the science of the human body. In medical school, she gravitated toward pediatric patients because of the diversity of disease processes and patient interactions. Sarah was introduced to pediatric cardiology during her residency and found cardiac pathophysiology intriguing. As Sarah progressed through her fellowship, she found personal fulfillment in outpatient medicine. While Dr. Henson enjoys working with congenital cardiac disease patients, she has found a particular interest in preventing cardiac disease before it starts.

Research is vital to understanding the complex physiology of cardiovascular risk factors in pediatric patients and improving clinical care related to these risk factors. Dr. Henson's work in this field aids her clinical services and ability to provide evidence-based interventions.



Emerald Hernandez-Parra

Emerald Hernandez-Parra is an experienced executive with a demonstrated history of working in the public policy industry, monitoring state policies, legislation and lobbying in the Ohio General Assembly and U.S. Congress. Currently she serves as the Assistant Director of Special Projects at the Ohio Department of Development. She has held roles as an Advisory Member in the Ohio Council for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and the Assistant Director in Comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Strategies for the City of Columbus. Emerald has extensive experience in government affairs, having served as the Director of External Affairs for the Office of Mayor Ginther., a Senior Legislative Advisor in Columbus City Council, and previously appointed as a commissioner for the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission. She has served as a legislative Liaison for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services, Ohio Department of Public Safety, and the Office of Governor Ted Strickland.



Dustin Holfinger

Dustin Holfinger is a 20-year Statehouse veteran with a love for policies that fight for longer, healthier lives for all. Dustin's successes include working on campaigns that led to the successful passage of a statewide stroke-center, Ohio's 2019 Tobacco 21 Act, Columbus' restriction on the sale of flavored tobacco products, several local tobacco retail licensure policies, implementation of statewide NextGen 9-1-1, appropriations to support healthy eating, CPR training in schools, and the SNAP Double Program. Dustin has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Bowling Green State University. When not advocating for public policy, Dustin enjoys going backpacking with his family across the state and hitting the golf course with his daughter.



Mireika "Marie" Kobayashi, M.Ed.

Mireika "Marie" Kobayashi, M.Ed., who recently became an educational consultant for English Learners at Hamilton County Educational Services Center, brings over 20 years of experience working in various roles from Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS). During her tenure at CPS, she facilitated English Learners (ELs) supports and services, managed ESOL staff, and supervised various educational professionals. She previously served as a Spanish Bilingual School Psychologist and oversaw World Language programs. Beyond CPS, she provided consultation locally, statewide, and nationally, ensuring culturally and linguistically responsive education for diverse learners. Marie has also taught collegiate courses on cultural diversity, multicultural counseling, and second language acquisition. Active in community organizations like LULAC and the Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati USA Advisory Council, she was honored to have received the 2018 Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Award for her contributions to education and advocacy. She was recently elected to serve on the Ohio TESOL Board as the current 2nd Vice President.



Annabel Meleán

Annabel Meleán has a heart for public service and uplifting others. She attended the University of Cincinnati, where she graduated with a Masters in Public Administration and Social Justice, after which she worked at the Ohio Senate and served as a Senior Legislative Aide. She currently serves as the Public Policy Officer for the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission where she is responsible for advising the Governor, General Assembly and state agencies on challenges and opportunities facing Hispanic and Latino Ohioans. She works closely with leaders and commission members to build civic engagement, increase Latino participation in government, and build rapport between elected officials and the community, while also participating in policy shaping task forces and committees that concern and affect the Latino community. Annabel is a proud first-generation Latina of Venezuelan descent and is passionate about empowering the voices of immigrant communities.

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Selina Marie Pagan

Selina Marie Pagan, a Latine Economic Development and Nonprofit Executive born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, has dedicated her career to uplifting her community. With a double major in Urban Studies Public Management and Economic Development from Cleveland State University, she began her journey at the Northeast Ohio Hispanic Center for Economic Development. She later served as the Economic Development Coordinator at Metro West Community Development Organization before being appointed as the first Executive Director of the Young Latino Network in August 2021.

In her role, Selina focuses on creating a robust network of Latines in Northeast Ohio, spearheading initiatives such as Latine voter engagement, census outreach, civic education and leadership development grounded at the intersection of health and democracy. Her leadership has earned her prestigious accolades, including the 2017 Twenty in Their 20s by Crain's Cleveland Business Magazine, the 2018 Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award by the Hispanic Heritage Foundation, NFL, and Nationwide and most recently the 2023 Forbes 30 Under 30 Local Lister. Selina currently serves on the Brush Foundation Board of Directors and recently joined The Center for Families and Children Board of Directors.



Tanisha Pruitt, Ph.D.

Dr. Tanisha Pruitt, Ph.D. is currently the Youth, Opportunity, and Education researcher with Policy Matters Ohio. Dr. Pruitt received her doctorate degree in Public Policy and Urban Affairs with a concentration in International Development from Southern University and A & M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Her research interests include, closing the achievement and opportunity gaps, school funding and resources, dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, sentencing reform, reducing mass incarceration for minority populations, and youth development and outcomes among underserved populations. Her current work focuses on examining the state budget through the lens of K-12 and Higher Education school funding adequacy and equity, tracking and analyzing legislation impacting students in K-12 and higher education, reforming youth safety, data support for projects related to bail and justice reform, and workforce development spending. Dr. Pruitt is dedicated to ensuring that all people regardless of what they look like or where they live both nationally and in Ohio have the tools and resources they need to thrive.



Barbara Smoot

Barbara Smoot is the President & CEO of Women for Economic and Leadership Development (WELD), the organization that develops and advances women's leadership to strengthen the economic prosperity of the communities it serves. As WELD's first president, Barb is the driving force behind WELD's rapid growth. She serves as primary community liaison, overseeing fundraising, collaborative partnerships and development and implementation of WELD's new strategic initiatives, including WELD's national expansion. Barb has a long track record of board and commission service in diverse roles and industries. She serves on the board of the Ohio Bar Liability Insurance Company and chairs the Advisory Board of Western Governors University Ohio, a region with over 5,000 enrolled students and a university with over 340,000 graduates. Barb received the 2022 Nuestra Familia Award from the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission for her impact in Ohio's Latino community. She is a 2021 Otterbein University Honorary Alumna and a 2020 YWCA Columbus Woman of Achievement honoree. Barb was recognized as one of Columbus Business First's 2019-2021 Power 100 and selected as Columbus CEO 2017 CEO of the Year for Small Nonprofits.



Dana Weber

Dana Weber is the English Learner Consultant for the Stark County Educational Service Center (SCESC) and State Support Team 9. She coordinates the SCESC Title III Consortium consisting of 27 districts across 6 counties. Dana's role includes developing, coordinating and delivering professional development and technical assistance to districts in the areas of identification, assessment, teaching strategies, program development & family engagement regarding English Learners in the schools. Dana currently serves as the Ohio TESOL Advocacy Representative, having served as president in 2022 and representing the K-12 Interest Section prior to that. She is a member of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) English Learner Advisory Committee and DEW's Each Child on Track Development Team. She partners with local non-profit organizations that support immigrant families and serves on local diversity committees.

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