



Be the Change You Want to See: Exploring Majors and Careers in Public Service and Advocacy

An online event to celebrate Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month at Las Positas College

October 5, 2021, Noon to 1:00 pm

Zoom Link: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/98370300016>

For more info contact Michelle Zapata, mzapata@laspositascollege.edu

All are welcome!

Guest Speaker Biographies and Career Highlights

LPC Alumni

Luis Sanchez - BA Political Science, UCLA

Luis Sanchez is a part-time Financial Aid Advisor at Las Positas College. Luis first attended LPC in 2016 and graduated in 2019. During his time at LPC, he was involved in student government and the Puente Program. Luis then transferred to the University of California Los Angeles where he received his Bachelors of Arts in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations. During his time at UCLA, Luis participated in the UCCS program where he interned at the Consulate General of Mexico in Sacramento. There he worked closely with the political affairs diplomat to promote and protect the interests of Mexican citizens in the state of California. Currently, Luis is preparing and studying to take the Foreign Service exam to be able to join the U.S. State Department.



Erica Torres - BA Latino Studies, UC Berkeley

Erica Torres is a UC Berkeley Alumna and is currently working in a business development role at Cisco. She attended Las Positas College before transferring to UC Berkeley where she majored in Latino Studies. She is passionate about creating an equitable space for communities of color and empowering these individuals to discover their full potential. In addition to working at Cisco, she spends her evenings teaching technical and professional skills to underemployed communities.



Mariana Zuniga - BA Latino Studies, UC Berkeley

Mariana Zuniga is currently interning at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in the Space History Department. Prior to working at the Smithsonian, she interned at the California Attorney General's Office as Press Intern. There she assisted the office in groundbreaking work, such as protecting the integrity of the 2020 elections against unofficial ballot boxes, handling press for Supreme Court Arguments for the Affordable Care Act, and helping the office transition into a new attorney general as the incumbent was nominated to serve in the Biden Administration. In May, Mariana graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Global Studies with a concentration in Societies and Cultures in Latin America. Latin America and the Latinx experience is a theme Mariana honored during her college career, where she served as leadership chair for the Latino Leadership Society, and during her time at Las Positas College when she was on the UndocuAlly Task Force. Mariana is still debating between 40 different career paths; however, one thing's for sure, she will dedicate her life to fighting injustice, and will always love continuing to learn about the complexity, beauty, and history of Latin America.



Professionals

Peter A. Hernandez - Superior Court Judge, County of Los Angeles

Judge Hernandez has been a Superior Court Judge for the County of Los Angeles since June 2012, after being appointed by Governor Brown. He is currently assigned to a civil independent calendar court at the Pomona Courthouse South. He handles unlimited civil cases, including law and motion matters, court and jury trials, and any post-trial/resolution litigation. He has also worked in various assignments during his tenure as a judge, including as the site judge of the El Monte Courthouse and handing in criminal felony matters and jury trials.

Judge Hernandez was an Assistant United States Attorney from September 1999 until his appointment to the bench. He prosecuted large-scale racketeering, narcotics, and white-collar fraud crimes. He started his legal career litigating voting rights cases as a Trial Attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice in Washington D.C. He grew up in the Pico-Union District in Los Angeles and is a graduate of UCLA Law and UC Berkeley.



Rosanna Bayon Moore - Assistant City Manager, City of Antioch

Rosanna Bayon Moore is currently the Assistant City Manager for the City of Antioch. She is responsible for advancing a number of special initiatives, including the City’s unhoused resident services and mobile mental health crisis response.

Rosanna double majored in Political Science and English at UC Berkeley. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree with an emphasis in Urban Policy and Advanced Management Techniques from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs.

Over the last 20 years, Rosanna has worked in the public, private and nonprofit arenas in a variety of roles. Prior to relocating to northern California in 2020, she served for nine years as the City Manager of Brawley, a community of 27,000 residents in southeastern California.

Rosanna describes the public sector as exhilarating and rewarding with no two days that are ever the same. She has a unique perspective as a former elected official who served as the 1st Mexican American woman Mayor in the City of El Centro’s history.



David Noguera - Director of Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization, City of Dallas

David Noguera is a housing and community development professional with 20 years’ experience developing housing policy, administering programs, assessing and troubleshooting program implementation issues and advising government officials and representatives on housing issues. As Director of Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization for the City of Dallas, David is overseeing investments in the development and preservation of mixed-income housing. Prior to coming to Dallas, David oversaw the development of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and managed it at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington D.C. for six years. He later developed an audit resolution division for HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development, where he negotiated settlements on Office of Inspector General audits of states, local governments and nonprofits. Along his career, David analyzed housing policy for Freddie Mac, evaluated federally funded programs for the U.S. Government Accountability Office and nonprofit investments for the New York Empowerment Zone. David is married to Lisa Noguera and together they have two children, Kaiya and Reece.



EDUCATION:

- Master of Regional Planning City & Regional Planning, Cornell University
- Bachelor of Arts International Development, UC Berkeley

Gene Calderon - Legislative Affairs Liaison, CalTrans

After several years in the private sector, Gene Calderon has returned to the public sector where he has over a dozen years working at the county, special agency, and state levels of government. Gene was first interested in government as an undergraduate at UC Berkeley where he majored in Political Science. Then he went to UCLA where he pursued a Master's in Public Policy. Gene has worked for the California State Senate and State Assembly, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, and as a consultant to the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART). He has recently joined Caltrans as a Legislative Affairs Liaison. Gene resides in the East Bay with his wife, two kids, and their cat. In his free time, Gene likes to read fiction, cheer on his Golden Bears, and is starting a garden.



Event Moderator

Michelle Zapata – LPC Counselor, EOPS and Calworks

Michelle Zapata is a Counselor and Psychology-Counseling instructor at Las Positas College. She is currently a Counselor in the CalWORKs and EOPS programs, but she has worked in general counseling and as the Transfer Center Director. Prior to working at Las Positas College, she worked in Student Services at Diablo Valley College. Having a career as a counselor and educator is Michelle's second career. She transitioned to counseling after a nearly ten-year career as a Senior Policy Analyst with the U.S. Government Accountability Office. While working for the GAO, Michelle focused on analyzing federally-funded programs within the financial market, housing and community development sectors. She published over ten reports with policy recommendations to the U.S. Congress. During her last two years working for the GAO, Michelle did a lot of soul-searching and realized that her true passion was to return to working in education, and specifically with first-generation college students.



Michelle has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from UC Berkeley, a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Washington, and a Master's degree in Counseling from Saint Mary's College.

Michelle is married and she has two teenage sons, and two dogs. She loves to travel. Her top 3 "bucket list" trips are to visit Spain, Greece, and to complete the "MLB Stadium Challenge" with her family.



Brought to you by Las Positas College UndocuAlly Task Force, Celebrating Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month