



“Latinx in the Heartland: Fostering Resilience and Cross-Cultural Connections”

The following biographical information was submitted by the conference presenters for the convenience and exclusive use of conference participants.

Bios are listed alphabetically by the author’s last name.

- 17th Annual Conference -

**June 6-8, 2018
Kansas City, Missouri**



A

Yang Ai

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Yang Ai is a graduate research assistant at UMSL in Educational Research.

Edna Alfaro

Texas State University

Dr. Edna Alfaro is an assistant professor of family and child development in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences at Texas State University. Her research focuses on how environmental, cultural, and familial factors interact with one another and impact the academic outcomes of Latino high school and college students.

Chenoa Allen

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dr. Allen's research focuses on how structural forces, including state and local immigration-related policies, affect health and health care access for children of immigrant families. Dr. Allen's ongoing research focuses on the impact of state immigration laws on Latino children's health care access, and how community context can exacerbate or buffer the effects of state immigration laws.

Alondra Alvizo

Michigan State University

Alondra Alvizo is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Agribusiness Management with a Minor in Leadership and Integrated Learning at Michigan State University.

Catherine Anderson

Jewish Vocational Service

Catherine Anderson has been the Manager of Language and Cultural Services at JVS since 2003. She provides interpreters service training, cultural competency training, and management of JVS Interpreter Services. She is an author of three collections of poems touching on themes of immigration, language and culture.

B

Barbara Baquero

University of Iowa College of Public Health

Sandra Bertram Grant

University of Missouri-Columbia

Sandra Bertram Grant is a Master's student in the Counseling Psychology program at the University of Missouri. She attended the University of Kansas and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology, with a minor in French. She is interested in researching interventions to ease the transition for newcomers in the United States.

Marianne Bird

University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Edwin Bonney

University of Missouri-Columbia

Edwin Bonney is a Ph.D. student in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis in the PK12 track. His research interests include language and immigration, and language-in-education policies in multi-lingual, multi-ethnic, and multi-cultural contexts. He is also interested in informing policies that will help communities facing language shift and possible language extinction.

John Borba

University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

John Borba has served as the 4-H Youth Development Advisor for Kern County for the past 17 years. He has also worked in youth development programs in Tulare County and Klamath County, Oregon. He supervised military programs for the dependent youth of service personnel in California and Germany. Borba has also been active in promoting wildlife and outdoor education programs in conjunction with 4-H, the Boy Scouts of America, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Rebecca Bucklin

University of Iowa College of Public Health

Becky Bucklin is a research manager at the University of Iowa's College of Public Health. She received her MPH from the University of Iowa College of Public Health in Community Behavioral Health and her BS in Nutrition and Wellness from Bradley University. Her specific areas of study involve physical activity promotion, healthy retail interventions, and falls prevention programming for underserved populations in the state of Iowa through the lens of health equity-based research principles. She works in conjunction with community stakeholders and members within intervention communities to identify and

reduce barriers to health promotion programs, which, in turn, reduces current health inequities that exist in rural and minority populations within the state.

C

Luzkarime Calle Diaz

Fulbright / Universidad del Norte / University of Missouri-St. Louis

Luzkarime Calle Diaz, holds a MA in English Language Teaching from Universidad del Norte (Barranquilla, Colombia). She is currently undertaking doctoral studies in education at the same university. She has been in the educational field for more than 12 years and has taught from pre-school to adult education levels. She is also a member of the research group “Lenguaje y Educación (Language and Education)” and her current research interests are in the fields of discourse analysis, and education for peace and social justice. Luzkarime is a professor and student research advisor in the Masters in English Language Teaching program at Universidad del Norte.

Gustavo Carlo

University of Missouri-Columbia

Dr. Carlo received his Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Arizona State University in 1994. Currently, he is the Millsap Professor of Diversity and Multicultural Psychology at the Department of Human Development and Family Science at the University of Missouri. He teaches courses in child development, prosocial and moral development, and culture. His research focuses on the sociocultural, socialization, and personality processes associated with helping behaviors in children and adolescents from diverse cultures.

Michael Carmona

Hispanic Economic Development Corporation (HEDC)

Michael is Director of Community & Business Development for HEDC and has been with the organization since 2012, serving the small business and entrepreneurial needs of the Greater KC area's Latino community. Michael is a native of Kansas City, MO; and a proud graduate of Rockhurst University's Helzberg School of Management. Note: To be included on panel: Latinx in Kansas City under Neoliberalism III: Development, Demographic, and Educational Trends

Marcela Carvajal-Suárez

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Marcela Carvajal-Suárez is a recent graduate from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health, where she obtained a Master's Degree in Public Health focused on Epidemiology. She is originally from Colombia where she obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Health Management. Marcela worked with public health offices focusing on community environmental and

sanitary interventions using an educational and preventive approach. She is passionate about public health and working with communities, especially underserved communities. Her research interests include occupational and environmental health, health disparities, community participatory research, cancer prevention, and epidemiology of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (zoonoses). Currently, Marcela is an Outreach Project Specialist at University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health, Center for Reducing Health Disparities.

Irene Caudillo

El Centro, Inc., of Kansas City, Kansas

Irene Caudillo was appointed President and CEO of El Centro in December 2013.

Irene earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and her master's degree in public administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. After graduating college, she created children and youth programs for nonprofit organizations, including El Centro and Wyandotte Mental Health Association, in Wyandotte County.

In 1994, she took a job with the Kansas City Missouri Health Department as Minority Health Outreach Director. Her duties included educating health providers on how cultural beliefs and practices impact health behavior. In 1997, she returned to Wyandotte County as Executive Director for Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Inc., an agency devoted to developing and maintaining collaborative efforts to improve the quality of life for Wyandotte County youth. In 2004, she joined Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas as the Director of Family Strengthening where she directed and managed their social services throughout their 21-county service area. After serving as the Director of Clinic Operations for Swope Health Services, she "came home" to El Centro as the Chief Program Officer in anticipation of transitioning into the President & CEO position upon the retirement of the past President and CEO.

Grisel Chavez

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Grisel is currently working with the EFNEP program in Iowa helping low-income families get healthier lifestyles and influencing those lives little by little with every lesson taught. Grisel is also one of the leaders for the Marshalltown High School 4-H Club with all underrepresented youth from Latinx/Hispanic and Eastern Asian Pacific heritage.

Stephen Christ

University of Missouri-Kansas City

In his research, Dr. Christ examines how Mexican Americans experience daily life at home, work, and in public life, and how these experiences impact their sense of personal identity, their relationships with natives, their interactions with their families and community, as well as looking into the identity work that goes into producing such categories and social worlds.

Debra Cole

Missouri Migrant and English Language Learning

Debra Cole is a long-time language educator, teaching foreign languages and ESL for 25 years. For the last ten years, six years of that with the Missouri Department of Secondary and Elementary Education, Debra has been facilitating professional development for teachers and administrators of ESL through training, technical assistance, and on-site consulting.

Jennifer Coyle

Iowa Department of Public Health

Emily Crawford

University of Missouri, Columbia

Emily R. Crawford is an assistant professor in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her work has appeared in *Educational Administration Quarterly*, the *International Journal of Leadership in Education* and the *Journal of School Leadership*. Her research agenda includes looking at issues related to immigration in public schools and communities, how school leaders respond to ethical dilemmas, and the impact of immigration policy on undocumented students.

Karina Crouch

Missouri Parents Act

Karina Crouch has a Master's degree in Secondary Education. In the past, she has worked as a communication and instructional design coordinator. The motivation to empower and educate families with children with disabilities stem from her own journey as a mother to two boys with special needs.

D

Rocio Delgado

Trinity University

Rocio Delgado is an Associate Professor of Education and director of the bilingual/ESL program at Trinity University. She is a former bilingual special education teacher who is interested in researching teacher's beliefs about working with English learners and collaboration between school, families, and communities.

Ricardo Diaz

Xpenn Consulting

Until recently, Ricardo managed the expansion of 4-H to Latino families in Illinois. Through Xpenn Consulting, he now concentrates on helping other institutions collaborate with Latino youth, parents and workers for mutual growth.

David Diaz

University of Missouri

David Diaz is a doctoral candidate in Counseling Psychology at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Claudia P. Diaz Carrasco

University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

Diaz Carrasco received her B.S. in Food Industry Engineering from ITESM in 2012, a M. Ag. in International Agriculture from Oklahoma State University in 2014, and a M.S. in Management and Marketing from Universidad Popular Autonoma del Estado de Puebla in 2015. As a graduate assistant, she conducted research on food security and coordinated community development projects in Puebla, Mexico. As an Area 4-H Youth Development Advisor, Claudia's primary focus is to develop, implement, evaluate, strengthen and expand local 4-H programming to better serve currently under-represented populations and places, including Latino and/or low-income youth in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

John Diaz

University of Florida IFAS Extension

Lisa Dorner

University of Missouri - Columbia

Lisa M. Dorner is Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Her research examines immigrant childhoods, second language learning, and the politics of implementing bilingual and language immersion programs. Currently, she is analyzing the development of a network of language immersion schools in the Midwest, including how parents and community members understand and take part in their creation. Lisa also studies how the adolescent children of immigrants and language brokers perceive their opportunities for civic action.

E

Sandra Enriquez

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Oral Historian Sandra Enriquez received her Ph.D. in Chicana/o History from the University of Houston. Her research focuses on Mexican-American grassroots activism and community preservation in neighborhoods in South El Paso, Texas, in the 1970s. Enriquez recently participated in the Civil Rights in Black and Brown Oral History Project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Enriquez offers courses in conjunction with the Latinx and Latin American Studies and Urban Studies Program as well as introductory courses on oral and public history.

F

Maria G. (Lupita) Fabregas Janeiro

University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dr. Fabregas is originally from Mexico. She is the Assistant Director for 4-H Diversity and Expansion in the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources since August 2015. She leads the largest 4-H diversity and inclusion program in the United States. Before working in California, she worked in Puebla, Mexico and at Oklahoma State University, as a liaison among Mexican and American education institutions and as Cooperative Extension Specialist in Multicultural and Community Development in Family and Consumer Sciences. She studied her undergraduate degree in Monterrey Tech in Agriculture Engineering and Animal Sciences, her master's in Education from UPAEP and Doctoral Degree in Agricultural Education at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Fabregas is responsible for the UC ANR 4-H Latino Initiative in the state of California. She has written more than 15 journal articles in topics related to program development, inclusion and intercultural competence. Dr. Fabregas is a national and international speaker in topics related to diversity and inclusion, Chair of the 4-H Council Latino Advisory Committee and funder of the Epsilon Sigma Phi, Latino Affinity Group, and other organizations that support the mission of the land-grant universities by ensuring, equity, inclusion and full participation of youth, families and communities in the benefits and leadership of Cooperative Extension. Her interests in research and professional development areas are, Program Development, Inclusion, Intercultural Competency and Diversity.

Lisa Y. Flores

University of Missouri

Lisa Y. Flores, Ph.D. is a Professor and Program Training Director in Counseling Psychology at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Axel Fuentes

Gabriel Fumero

Hispanic Economic Development Corporation

Gabriel Fumero is an educator experienced in different educational systems: public, private and charter schools. He has worked in low-income urban contexts. He is an instructional technology specialist

experienced in school technology leadership and integration of new technologies into learning processes. He also has the experience as an editor in the instructional design, editing, and publishing of school's textbooks. He is committed to social justice and the development of opportunities to reduce the technology gap in our low-income communities.

G

Rodrigo Gamboa

Alejandro Garay

University of Missouri Kansas City

Alejandro Garay is a PhD candidate in the Department of Economics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). He completed his BA in Economics from Universidad Santiago Antunez de Mayolo (Peru), and his MA in Economics from UMKC on a Fulbright Scholarship. His research interests lie primarily in the political economy tradition, with emphasis on theories of capitalist development, imperialism, and the capitalist/non-capitalist articulation.

Ivis García

University of Utah

Originally from San Germán, Puerto Rico, Ivis García is an Assistant Professor in City and Metropolitan Planning at the University of Utah. Until a few years ago, Dr. Garcia acted as the chair of the largest Puerto Rican organization in Chicago (the Puerto Rican Agenda), who recently conducted the Pallets and Planes: Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief campaign, among other initiatives related to the humanitarian crisis that Puerto Rico is experiencing. She is also part of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Oral History Project, where she has documented the migration and community organizing stories of the Puerto Rican diaspora and its leadership. She is currently authoring a book titled, 'Puerto Rico and Chicago: The Art and Politics of the Possible' with the City University of New York.

Janet García-Hallet

Criminal Justice & Criminology at UMKC

Dr. Garcia-Hallett is an Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, and an affiliate faculty member of the Latinx and Latin American Studies Program. She is devoted to the increased life chances of disadvantaged groups in the criminal justice system. Her research is primarily focused on social justice issues across race/ethnicity and gender particularly, the impact of incarceration on families and communities of color, the obstacles women face post-incarceration, as well as the racial-ethnic differences in policing strategies. Janet's recent work investigates how formerly incarcerated women navigate motherhood post-incarceration and how this process influences mothers' ability to reintegrate back into society after imprisonment. Janet has also received numerous awards for her work, including the Rutgers Presidential Fellowship, the Rutgers

Dissertation Fellowship, the American Society of Criminology Graduate Fellowship for Ethnic Minorities (currently known as the Ruth Peterson Fellowship for Racial and Ethnic Diversity), as well as the Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship from the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Yolva Gil

University of California, ANR

University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Yolva Gil received her B.A. In Chicano/a studies and education from UCLA in 2012. As a 4-H program representative, she has focused on assessing needs of underserved youth in Riverside County and designing culturally relevant programming. She has also served as research assistant to improve the youth programs in the region.

Eleazar U. González

Community Development MU Extension

Dr. González has been involved with different programs to build the capacity of the Latino community to enhance skills and knowledge that allow members to take advantage of available resources that facilitate their integration into the whole community. Currently, he is working in two programs that support Latino farmers and ranchers activities. One program is helping producers to enhance skills and knowledge about sustainable production methods, and the other one is enhancing their capacity to access USDA financial resources.

Kathleen M. Grant

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Dr. Grant is a clinician-researcher who has served greater Nebraska as an educator and consultant. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Addiction Medicine and serves on the Steering Committee and as a Center Member for the Nebraska Center for Substance Abuse Research. She is on the statewide Nebraska Justice Behavioral Health and Probation Services Advisory Committee. She is a Visiting Faculty at the Universidad Centroamericana in Managua, Nicaragua. Her research interests include treatment of nicotine dependence in persons who have other substance use disorders (SUD), alcohol and methamphetamine use disorders in rural populations, the role of social support in recovery from substance use disorders, effective SUD interventions in understudied and underserved rural, justice and Latino populations and, the intersection between violence/trauma and substance use disorders.

Tracy Graybill

UMKC

Tracy Graybill is currently an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Candidate focusing on higher education and student affairs. Her current research explores Latinx students experiences of acculturative stress and coping responses in PWIs.

Kimberly Greder

Iowa State University

Kimberly Greder, an associate professor and extension specialist, examines the multiple interacting influences on health and well-being among low-income families, in particular among rural and Latino immigrant families. She has secured \$6 million in external and internal funding and published over 100 scholarly products related to community-based extension and research projects.

Viviana L. Grieco

University of Missouri Kansas City

Viviana L. Grieco is an associate professor of Latin American History at UMKC. She is a colonialist by training but her research expands across time periods. The main focus of her work is the political economy and political culture of early modern empires. She approaches these themes not only from economic and sociological viewpoints but also incorporating gender and cultural analysis. Her first book was published in 2014 and she is currently working on a second book manuscript.

Alejandra Gudiño

University of Missouri-Columbia

Alejandra is the Educational Programing Coordinator for the Office of Inclusive Engagement in the Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity at the University of Missouri in Columbia. She coordinates training on diversity and inclusion for the faculty and staff at MU. Prior to her current position, she worked in MU Human Environmental Sciences Extension.

Pedro Guerrero

Missouri House of Representatives

Pedro Guerrero is a native of Lima, Peru. His family and him immigrated to the United States in the early 1990s in the wake of conflict in Peru between the Shining Path and other opposition. A graduate of Loyola University Chicago, Pedro has worked as a Congressional Intern, and served as student body president of his alma mater. After earning his Bachelor Degree in Political Science, Pedro moved to Rome, Italy to work as a graduate assistant at Loyola University Chicago's John Felice Rome Center. There, he coordinated Campus Ministry events, and established their international volunteering program, where he took students to Poland to engage in a human rights symposium, and Malta, where he took students on an immersive experience of the refugee influx into Western Europe. Currently, he is the only green card holder working for the Missouri Legislature, holding the position of Legislator Assistant for Representative Lauren Arthur of Kansas City, Missouri. Pedro grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, and is always eager to speak to citizens and non-citizens alike about ways in which they can be innovative to be engaged in their political process in an age when many continue to be disenfranchised from the voting booths.

Zehra Gulseven

University of Missouri

Zehra Gulseven is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her research focuses on prosocial behavior, moral identity and moral development with parenting and cultural correlates.

H

Sarah Hairston

University of Missouri, Columbia

Sarah L. Hairston is a graduate student in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Previously, she taught theatre and public speaking for 16 years and holds an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Leadership and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction. Her current research interests include educational policy, structural violence in education, student voice, and educational activism.

Joseph Hartman

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Joseph R. Hartman has lectured and published widely on modern/contemporary Latinx and Latin American art, architecture, and experience. Hartman's first book, 'The Dictator's Dreamscape: Building Machado's Cuba' (The University of Pittsburgh Press, forthcoming), reconsiders Cuban visual culture within broader histories of nation building, globalization, and U.S. hegemony in the Western hemisphere.

Uzziel Hernández Pecina

University of Missouri Kansas City, School of Education

Biographical information: Uzziel Hernández Pecina, Ed.D., Teaching Assistant Professor of Education Administration, pk12 Education Administration Graduate Program Coordinator, University of Missouri-Kansas City. B.A. & M.S. Ed. - Kansas State University, Ed.D. University of Missouri-Columbia.

Russell Hill

University of California, ANR

Russell Hill is a trained Qualified Administrator in the Intercultural Developmental Inventory, Inc.; a co-chair to the University of California's 4-H Diversity Workgroup; a member of several research projects including 4-H Volunteer Culture, a multi-state Youth Retention Study, and From the Ground Up. His

passion is working with volunteers and organizations to make positive changes that affect the lives of the communities that they serve and delivering strong 4-H STEM programming in many different settings.

Molly Hilligoss

Welcoming America

Molly is the Regional Manager providing technical assistance to community partners in the Midwestern United States. Previously, she served as the Social Justice and Advocacy Director for YWCA La Crosse, where she focused on mission impact strategy and public policy initiatives. Prior to returning to the Midwest she worked as the Director of Volunteer Services for La Puente Home in Alamosa, Colorado, where she supervised a large residential AmeriCorps Program and oversaw a wide range of community engagement projects. Molly has experience in capacity building, equity work, and is strongly committed to building community through constructive dialogue and meaningful action. Molly attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, where she studied Social and Global Studies.

I

Nissa Ingraham

Northwest Missouri State University

Dr. Nissa Ingraham is currently Assistant Professor Northwest Missouri State University, where she teaches in elementary, ELL, a Spanish as a foreign language teacher preparation courses. She has taught kindergarten through graduate level TESOL, Spanish, and French courses and researched in the areas of TESOL teacher collaboration, captioning for the English as a Second Language and Spanish as a Foreign Language classrooms, and ESL ethnolinguistic vitality.

Clara Irazabal-Zurita

Latinx and Latin American Studies Program at UMKC

Prior to joining UMKC, in 2016, Dr. Irazabal-Zurita was the Latin Lab Director and Associate Professor of Urban Planning in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University, New York City. In her research and teaching, she explores the interactions of culture, politics, and place making, and their impact on community development and socio-spatial justice in Latin American cities and Latinx and immigrant communities in the U.S.

J

Cori Jakubiak

Grinnell College

Cori Jakubiak is an Assistant Professor of Education at Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA. A former ESOL teacher in central Georgia, Cori teaches courses in ESOL and world language methods, the Cultural Politics of Language Teaching, and Differentiating Instruction.

Stephen Jeanetta

University of Missouri

Dr. Stephen Jeanetta's extension work focuses on fostering the development of community organizations, the development and facilitation of community planning processes, and building inclusive communities. Dr. Jeanetta has also served as coordinator of the Community Development Academy since 1999. His research with the Latino community has focused on understanding the effects of community climate and social networks on the process of integration into rural communities. In addition, Dr. Jeanetta is currently engaged in research projects that seek to understand why Latino farmers in Missouri are not utilizing USDA programs, exploring relationships between Latino newcomers and access to healthcare resources, and connecting Latino newcomers to healthcare resources in the community. He has been engaged in the leadership of Cambio de Colores since the first conference in 2002 and is a founding member of the Cambio Center and serves as its Interim Director.

Adrienne Johnson

Missouri Western State University

Dr. Adrienne Johnson is an Assistant Professor at Missouri Western State University, where she teaches ELL certification courses for graduate and undergraduate students. She has taught English learners in various contexts, including English as a foreign language, middle school sheltered Science and Social Studies instruction, and dual immersion. She is also the current Socio-Political Concerns and Professional Standards Chair for MIDTESOL.

Corstella Johnson

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Region VII

Corstella Henley is the Regional Minority Health Consultant for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health and Office of Minority Health, Region VII (MO, IA, KS, and NE). In this position, she serves as the regional minority health principal advisor to the Regional Health Administrator and Director for the Office of Minority Health for US DHHS. Her work includes identifying public health priorities and workable solutions for Region VII, promoting and implementing HHS federal programs and initiatives (such as the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services), and providing technical assistance to partners and stakeholders within Region VII. Prior to this position, Ms. Henley served as the Region VII Public Health Advisor for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) within the US Department of Health and Human Services. Her primary responsibility was to provide program support and guidance to the OASH Operating Divisions: Office on Women's Health, Office of Minority Health, Office of Populations Affairs, and the Office of the Regional Health Administrator. Within this position, Ms. Henley worked on national initiatives such as National Women's Health Week and Engaging Men in Reducing Violence

Against Women, and worked with senior health officials to identify health and data gaps and assess community need. She has a heart for people and believes in fostering collaborations and building relationships to impact effective change. Her interests include health equity, health literacy, youth empowerment and development, minority health and health disparities, community mobilization and capacity building, program evaluation, and quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. Corstella Henley received her master's in Public Health and Health Promotion from The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Science. She is also a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES).

K

Jessica Kamuru

University of Missouri- Columbia

Jessica Kamuru is currently a Ph.D student at the University of Missouri- Columbia. Her focus is on English Language Learners who have Learning Disabilities in Mathematics. Prior to attending to Mizzou, Jessica was a Special Education for 13 years in Kansas City, MO. The majority of her students were Latinx, and classified as English Language Learners.

Natalie Kane

University of Missouri Kansas City

Natalie J. Kane is a Research Associate at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Center for Economic Information (UMKC CEI), and a Research Fellow at the Binzagr Institute for Sustainable Prosperity. She received her MA from the UMKC Department of Economics, and is currently a PhD candidate in Economics and the Geosciences.

Sarah Killoren

University of Missouri

Dr. Sarah Killoren is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her research focuses on parent-adolescent and sibling relationship dynamics, contributions of parents and siblings to adolescents' sexual health and positive development, and Latino adolescent and young adult adjustment.

Sungyop Kim

University of Missouri Kansas City

Dr. Kim is an Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Design at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Dr. Kim has expertise in urban transportation systems, urban spatial structure, travel behavior, and traffic safety. His scholarly work and research projects have focused on aging population in relation to his expertise. Dr. Kim currently serves as an editorial advisory board member of Accident Analysis and

Prevention and is a member of the Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies.

Sujin Kim

University of Missouri - St. Louis

Sujin Kim is an Assistant Research Professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Her research interests include immigrant students' identity construction, teacher training in TESOL, new media digital literacy, online/hybrid course development, and qualitative research in areas of critical discourse analysis and digital ethnography. She currently serves the National Professional Development grant project, SEE-TEL (strengthening equity and effectiveness for teachers of English learners) as the Co-Principal Investigator, developing TESOL courses and Summer Institutes for educators

L

Guadalupe Landeros

AgriLife Texas A&M

Part of the National 4-H Council, Landeros has been the Program Development Manager since 2014. She is also the County Extension Director for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Melinda Lewis, MSW

University of Kansas

Melinda Lewis, LMSW, received her Master of Social Work degree from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. She worked as a nonprofit policy advocate, grassroots organizer, and community researcher for several years and is now an Associate Professor of Practice in the School of Social Welfare, teaching social policy and community practice courses at the University of Kansas. She is the Assistant Director for the Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion (AEDI), advancing policy based on research into the role of assets in addressing educational inequities and catalyzing upward mobility. At AEDI, Ms. Lewis contributes to reports on student debt, Children's Savings Accounts, and asset policy, assists with research around the country on CSAs, and translates AEDI's research into strategic communications with policymakers and other stakeholders. She recently coauthored (with KU's Dr. William Elliott) the book, 'The Real College Debt Crisis: How Student Borrowing Threatens Financial Well-Being and Erodes the American Dream.'

Toya Like

Criminal Justice & Criminology at UMKC

Dr. Like received a doctorate in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Missouri - St. Louis. She specializes in victimology and racial/ethnic variations in violent crime. She teaches courses in theoretical criminology at the undergraduate and graduate levels and 'Race, Class and Justice' at the

undergraduate level. She received the Excellence in Teaching Award for 2011-2012 from the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Like-Haislip has served as an evaluator on various programs/initiatives aimed at reducing violence including the Hickman Mills Prevention Coalition (HMPC) and the Kansas City No Violence Alliance (NoVA). She is currently involved in the evaluation of the development and implementation of Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) policy and protocol for the Johnson County, Kansas Department of Corrections. Additionally, she serves as the Chair of the Service and Engagement Awards Selection Committee and a member of the Student Conduct Committee at UMKC. Her national, professional affiliations include the American Society of Criminology and the Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network.

M

Michelle Maher, PhD.

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Michelle A. Maher is Professor and Program Coordinator of the Higher Education Administration program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her current research explores doctoral student research and disciplinary writing skill development and higher education access and equity issues.

Warapark Maitreephun

University of Missouri-Columbia

Warapark Maitreephun is a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Missouri-Columbia, holding a Masters in Educational Supervision and Curriculum Development from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. He previously taught mathematics for students from grade 10 to 12, and is currently affiliated with Prince of Songkla University's Department of Educational Administration, Thailand. His research agenda focuses on culturally, linguistically, and religiously responsive school leadership, particularly how prospective school leaders are prepared for diverse communities.

Adriana Maldonado

University of Iowa College of Public Health

Luis Marcos

Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim

Leticia D. Martínez

The University of Missouri

Leticia Martinez is a doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology program at the University of Missouri. She received her BA in Psychology with a minor in Women and Gender Studies at the University of Colorado-Boulder, then went on to work at the Neurodevelopmental Research Program at the University of Denver. Her current research focuses on Latino educational and career development and Latino immigrant transitions.

Dea Marx

University of Missouri Kansas City

Dea Marx, Field and Clinical Experience Coordinator, specializes in teacher education, mentorship, and preparing educators to work in culturally and linguistically diverse urban schools. Ms. Marx's research investigates culturally sustaining mentorship for higher education students who are historically marginalized within society.

Gloria McGillen

University of Missouri

Gloria McGillen is a doctoral student in Counseling Psychology at the University of Missouri-Columbia and a former graduate researcher with the Boston College Center for Human Rights and International Justice.

Meredith McGinley

University of Wisconsin-Parkside

Meredith McGinley is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Dr. McGinley has published research examining the social, cultural, and individual influences on empathy and prosocial behaviors in children, adolescents, and emerging adults, as well as the role of victimization and stress on anxiety, depression, and drinking behaviors across the lifespan. Additionally, she has published papers examining the psychometric properties and cross-cultural validity of instruments used to assess these factors, and has served as a statistical consultant and research specialist on multiple longitudinal NIH grants examining the well-being of children, youth, and working adults.

María Mendoza

Hispanic Economic Development Corporation

Maria Mendoza, HEDC's Business & Community Development Specialist, has 11 years of bilingual customer service experience. She leads HEDC's one-on-one technical assistance for current/aspiring entrepreneurs, helping them start and grow their businesses. She also helps train participants in HEDC's computer and bookkeeping classes. Prior to joining HEDC, Ms. Mendoza was a bilingual retail specialist at UMB Bank. She has a Bachelor's in Business Administration from New Mexico State University.

Denzil Mohammed

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.

Denzil Mohammed is an intercultural communications professional who works to build understanding across boundaries utilizing a research-based approach. He directs the work of the Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center in Malden, MA, including specialized online education, research initiatives with the Institute for Immigration Research at George Mason University, conference presentations and collaborative events that educates Americans on the contributions of immigrants. He has more than a decade of experience in journalism, research and communications.

Fe Moncloa

University of California

Dr. Fe Moncloa is a 4-H Youth Development Advisor with the University of California Cooperative Extension in Santa Clara County the heart of Silicon Valley. Fe is a bilingual and bicultural native Spanish-speaking professional from Peru. She offers more than 20 years of experience working with Mexican or U.S. Latinx communities to identify and implement cultural relevant practices in community youth development. Her primary interests are culturally relevant pedagogy, youth-adult partnerships, STEAM, civic and political engagement. Fe has taught workshops and presented papers on these topics at state, national and international conferences.

Shannin Moody

Iowa State University

Shannin Moody is a Masters and Ph.D student at Iowa State University in Human Development and Family Studies. Her researches focus on endocrinological biomarkers of pain.

Nancy J. Muro-Rodriguez

The University of Missouri

Nancy J. Muro-Rodríguez, currently pursuing an M.Ed. in Counseling Psychology. She received her Bachelor's at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies. She had the opportunity to work in investigating discrimination cases based on protected class, as well as sexual assault and harassment in a university setting. Her research interests consist of understanding the well-being of first-generation families who have immigrated to the United States as well as finding new interventions to help individuals who have experienced trauma.

Royce Bernstein Murray

American Immigration Council

Royce Bernstein Murray is the Policy Director at the American Immigration Council where she leads the Council's administrative and legislative advocacy to promote sensible and humane immigration policies and to achieve justice and fairness for all immigrants under the law. Prior to joining the Council, Royce served as the Director of Policy at the National Immigrant Justice Center, and previously consulted for the National Immigration Forum, Center for Global Development, and the World Bank's Nordic Trust Fund. For five year, Royce was also an adjunct professor of immigration and refugee law at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. She began her career working for the federal government as a Presidential Management Fellow and Asylum Officer for the Immigration and Naturalization Service and later at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office of the Chief Counsel. She holds a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center and a Bachelor of Arts with distinction in political science from the University of Michigan.

Maria Mushi

N

Linda S. Niehm, PhD

Iowa State University

Dr. Linda S. Niehm is a Professor in the Department of Apparel, Events, and Hospitality Management at Iowa State University. She has a Ph.D. in Retailing/Merchandising Management from Michigan State University. Her research interests include rural and community business, retailer-consumer relationships, small retailer competitive strategies, family business, and experiential marketing. She is also very involved in entrepreneurship education, including community outreach and student business consulting experiences.

P

Eva Pabón

University of Florida/IFAS Extension

Rudy Padilla

American GI Forum Kansas City Metro

Starting in 1972, Rudy was an active part of National Image Inc., LULAC and American GI Forum. In addition, Rudy currently contributes two articles to the monthly publication somosprimos.com in the Middle America table of contents. Rudy has been a part of somosprimos.com since July, 2016.

Steve Pankey

Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City

Steve W. Pankey has worked in higher education for over ten years in both two- and four- year institutions, serving in a diverse number of roles while serving students. As the Enrollment Manager for one of the Metropolitan Community College campuses, Steve oversees the support and academic resources for entire student life cycle while they attend the college. He has a Master's in Counseling Psychology from Avila University, and anticipates completing his Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in the spring of 2018.

Elver Pardo

University of Florida/IFAS Extension

Elver Pardo, Extension Agent II/ 4-H Youth Development since 2002, is currently working for the UF/IFAS Extension in Orange County Florida since December 2011. Elver brought to Florida an understanding of 4-H youth development, as he worked as a 4-H Specialist in Missouri for more than eight years. In Orange County, Elver takes the lead for Animal Science, Natural Resources and Leadership programming. His efforts have been recognized not only by parents, volunteers, club leaders and 4-H members, but also by key supporters and partners within the Orange County 4-H Program. Elver is an individual who able to both nicely balance 4-H program directives and community needs; especially with the engagement of diverse youth and adults. He has expertise in the areas of leadership, career exploration and outreach programs for minorities. Elver is recognized by his efforts in developing leaders, creating and implementing career exploration programs and executing outreach programs for minorities, especially Latino/Hispanic populations, honoring his own heritage and background. Elver is a native from Colombia, South America, received a master's degree from Drury University in 2002 and psychology degree from Universidad Santo Tomas, Colombia in 1998.

Rebecca Perdomo

University of Georgia

Rebecca Perdomo is a doctoral student at the University of Georgia. She received her MA in sociology at UGA in 2015 and is currently pursuing her PhD in higher education policy. Largely, her work focuses on policy issues affecting stratification and inequality but the majority of her work centers on Latinx issues, specifically. She spent the summer of 2017 working with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities in government relations advocating for Hispanic Serving Institutions and Hispanic higher education opportunities.

Stephanie Potochnick

University of Missouri

Stephanie is Assistant Professor in public affairs and public health. She studies immigrant children and families' health and educational well-being.

Hari Poudel

University of Missouri- Columbia

After his Bachelor's degree, he has started his professional career in different non-profit and government organizations in various capacities. Now, he is doing Ph.D. in public policy focusing on immigrants health disparity.

R

Ignacio Ramírez Cisneros

UMKC

PhD candidate in Economics at UMKC.

Athena Ramos

UNMC Center for Reducing Health Disparities

Athena Ramos is currently the Community Health Program Manager/Instructor for the Center for Reducing Health Disparities in the Department of Health Promotion at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in Omaha, Nebraska. She leads a Latino outreach and engagement team and serves as principal investigator for a number of community-based health research and education initiatives in areas such as tobacco control, agricultural health and safety, immigrant integration, and community well-being. She is an experienced administrator, program manager, and junior researcher with proven ability to develop and implement social, health, and human service programs with culturally diverse populations. She has over 15 years of experience in health promotion, strategic thinking, community development, and public relations. Athena has a PhD in International Family & Community Studies from Clemson University and two Master's degrees“ one in Business Administration (MBA) and one in Urban Studies from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Athena serves on the Board of Directors for Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim and Fontenelle Forest. Ms. Ramos is member of the International Society for Agricultural Safety & Health, Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice, and the National Hispanic Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related and Cancer Health Disparities. Athena has been honored numerous times for her commitment and dedication to making Omaha and Nebraska a better place to live, work, and play. She was recognized as one of the '40 Under 40' by the Midlands Business Journal, one of the Ten Outstanding Young Omahans, and the American Heart Association's Advocacy Volunteer of the Year Award.

Greg Rich

Northwest Missouri State University

Dr. Greg Rich has been an Assistant Professor at Northwest Missouri State University since August 2013. As a retired public school administrator, he serves as the NWMSU Director of Field Experiences. Some presentations and research topics include: PK 12 and Educator Preparation Program (EPP) Partnerships,

Using Data to Make EPP Decisions, Teacher Candidates and Diverse Field Experiences, PK12 Alternative Education, and Real-Time Captioning in an Elementary School Foreign Language Classroom.

Maria Rodriguez-Alcala

University of Missouri

Maria Rodriguez-Alcala is a native of Paraguay. She has an undergraduate degree in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University and an MS also in agricultural economics and a PhD in Sustainable Development in the department of Rural Sociology at the University of Missouri. She holds a PostDoc with the Cambio Center and Division of Applied Social Sciences. Her current research focuses on the Latino population in the state of Missouri.

Before beginning her PhD, she worked for a think tank in Sao Paulo (Brazil) where she did research in agricultural trade and managed a large project in the four Mercosur countries funded by the InterAmerican Development Bank. She then held a teaching/advising position at University of Missouri in the department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

Rene Rosenbaum

Michigan State University

I received my Ph.D. in economics from the University of Notre Dame in 1985 and currently am Associate Professor in the School of Planning Design and Construction (SPDC) at Michigan State University. I came to MSU in 1990 as a post-doctoral fellow with the Julian Samora Research Institute (JSRI) and joined the Department of Resource Development two years later. Through that time I remained affiliated with the JSRI as a Research Associate. Two years ago, I joined SPDC. While in the Department of Resource Development, I taught a course on community economic development (CED) for about 20 years. I also conducted research and outreach in the field. My current academic interests are in the following CED topics, strategies, and policies: a) Latino economic development b) social accounting, c) sustainable public procurement, d) sustainable supply chains, e) heterodox community economic development, and f) policies to promote rural and urban economic development and community economic stability through shared capital strategies and that strengthen local income multipliers. The Latino economic development component of my effort has been a major focus of my work. Past topics of research and outreach include business development, organizational capacity building, farm labor research on community impacts, migrant health research, migrant early childhood education, and farmworker disaster preparedness. I also administer the Community Engagement in the Peruvian Highlands study abroad program, a leadership responsibility I assumed in 2012. The summer program to Peru allows students to participate in a community engagement learning experience that integrates meaningful community service with faculty guidance and reflection. For six weeks the students reside in the community of Huamachuco, Peru, where they live with local families. They are able to earn academic credits while gaining practical experience and contributing to community action goals by working daily in a local community organization or public sector agency and conducting needed community-based applied research. In addition to the Peru study abroad program I lead, I am conducting my own community development research in Peru. Over the years, I have been funded and have done consulting work with a number of federal agencies, including the Health Resources and Service Administration, the Center for

Medicare and Medicaid, and the Institute for Children and Families and the Office of Head Start in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the US Department of Agriculture.

Brianna Routh

Iowa State University

Brianna Routh is a Registered Dietitian with a Masters in Public Health Nutrition from the University of Minnesota and formerly an Extension Educator with University of Minnesota Extension. She is currently a PhD candidate at Iowa State University in Human Development and Family Studies. Her research focuses on how families across the lifespan influence behavior development and health outcomes, primarily exploring this phenomenon for low-income and Latino families.

Pedro Ruiz

Saint Louis University

Pedro Ruiz is a 2nd year PhD student in the Public & Social Policy program at Saint Louis University. His research interests include residential segregation, neighborhood change, and homeownership.

S

Robert Sagastume

Washington University-St. Louis/Kingdom House

Robert has lived in Independence Missouri for the past 15 years ever since coming to the U.S. at the age of 12 from Honduras. Robert knows firsthand the challenges faced by the undocumented community in the Kansas City metropolitan area as someone who has worked closely with the undocumented community through his activism with the Kansas Missouri Dream Alliance (KSMODA) and through his own undocumented experience. Robert began organizing in 2010 both at the local level with KSMODA and at the national level with UWD through his leadership in the Deportation Defense program formally known as Education Not Deportation (END). Recently, Robert has been able to readjust his immigration status and has obtained permanent residency through same-sex marriage. Robert completed his undergraduate studies in the social welfare department at the University of Kansas and was also a member of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter and a McNair Scholar. He is currently completing his master's degree in social welfare with a focus on nonprofit management and policy at the Brown School - Washington University, St. Louis.

Onesimo Sandoval

Saint Louis University

Dr. Sandoval is an Associate Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Saint Louis University. He is also the Co-Director of the Ph.D. program in Public and Social Policy. His primary research interests focus on the intersection of Demographic Techniques and Computational

Spatial Science to study spatial inequality in American cities. He also has an interest in using demographic techniques to advance the field of Social-Environmental Synthesis. Finally, Dr. Sandoval has an interest in the emerging field of Forensic GISc and the application of spatial statistics to crime and social and economic neighborhood disadvantages.

Lyndsie M. Schultz

Washington University in St. Louis

Lyndsie Marie Schultz is a Ph.D. candidate at Washington University in St. Louis. She is an educational researcher in sociology of education, with a focus on emergent bilinguals and English Learners. Her research uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to explore the academic, social, and political contexts surrounding opportunity to learn for emergent bilinguals. She received her MA.Ed. in Elementary Education from Washington University in 2010, and has worked with emergent bilinguals and their teachers in rural, suburban, and urban classrooms in Illinois and Missouri.

Ruchira Sen

University of Missouri Kansas City

Ruchira Sen is a PhD candidate of Economics and the Social Sciences Consortium at UMKC. Her research is on developing a non-capitalocentric framework to the neoliberal empire of capital. The main focus of her work is the kinship economy where most tasks of care are relegated and to which most of women's time is confined. She is also concerned with the privatization of state processes as an incursion of capitalist processes.

Jordan Shipley

University of Missouri Kansas City

Jordan Shipley is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Missouri Kansas City with aco-discipline in GeoSciences. He is a research fellow at the Binzagr Institute for Sustainable Prosperity currentlyworking on several research projects including the development of alternative indicators of unemployment andlabor well-being.

Elizabeth Shirtcliff

Iowa State University

Elizabeth Shirtcliff, an associate professor in Human Development and Families Studies at Iowa State University examines and director of Iowa State's Stress Physiology Investigative Team (SPIT) lab. Her research includes stress responsivity and developmental psychobiology. Her lab examines stress-biomarkers like cortisol, bonding-biomarkers like oxytocin, development-biomarkers like testosterone, or immune-biomarkers like herpes simplex virus with the goal of using biomarkers to point to what really matters: the child's family and social environment.

Kim Song

University of Missouri - St. Louis

Dr. Kim H Song is Associate Professor, and bilingual in Korean and English as well as an immigrant from South Korea. Kim's research interests, not limited to, are: Backward Teaching and Learning Cycles; Attitudes toward English Learners (ELs); Sheltered Instruction of Observation Protocol and English Language Teaching; Linguistically and Culturally Responsive Content/Math Teaching for ELs; Technology-Mediated Cyclic Teaching and Learning for English ELs; and Intersectionality of Racism and Linguicism for Immigrant and Refugee Children. Dr. Song is also a Principal Investigator of the Strengthening Equity and Effectiveness for Teachers of English Learners (SEE-TEL), which is a Missouri State professional development grant os the US Department of Education.

Hui Siang Tan

Iowa State University

Dr. Hui Siang Tan is a lecturer in the Department of Apparel, Events, and Hospitality Management at Iowa State University. She received a Ph.D. in Apparel, Merchandising, and Design from Iowa State University in 2017. Her research interests include entrepreneurship and small business, bi-cultural entrepreneurs, cultural-creative industries, rural and community business, merchandising, and creative design. Dr. Tan also has expertise in rural community outreach and business assistance.

T

Cayla Taylor

Iowa 4-H Youth Development

Cayla Taylor is proud to build capacity for all youth across Iowa through her work as the K-12 Educational Opportunities Program Manager with the Iowa 4-H Youth Development Program. She has been a champion for developing educational programs that provide youth specifically from underserved and underrepresented populations in long-term learning experiences in the Iowa 4-H Program, including youth from Latino, Native American, African, African-American and Asian-American backgrounds. While the Iowa 4-H Program currently reaches 1 in 5 youth throughout the state, Cayla's mission is to make the youth-serving organization more accessible to all youth, including those of color, disability, English Language Learners, and from low-income backgrounds. Cayla received her doctorate degree from Iowa State University in Agricultural Education. She is a native Iowan, former 4-H'er and advocate for youth-driven learning experiences.

Katherine Tegtmeyer Pak

St. Olaf College

Tegtmeyer Pak is Associate Professor in Political Science and Asian Studies at St. Olaf College, where she has taught for 15 years. She has published on immigration politics and political socialization in Japan.

She has also conducted community-based research on local immigration issues in Minnesota in cooperation with her undergraduate students over the past decade, sharing research findings through public reports, presentations, and the Rural Immigration Network website.

Elizabeth Thorne Wallington

Missouri Western State University

Dr. Elizabeth Thorne Wallington is an Assistant Professor at Missouri Western State University where she teaches literacy and ELL courses at the undergraduate and graduate level. Her research interests include the moderating effects of geospatial contexts on literacy achievement.

Theresa Torres

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Dr. Torres areas of expertise are Latina Latino Studies, immigration, race and ethnic relations, religious studies, sociology, and gender studies. She is currently working on a book on Latina spirituality and resilience based on interviews of Latina leaders. She has successfully received grants through the Missouri Humanities Council (2 grants), Francis Family Foundation, UMKC Women and Gender Studies Grant, UMKC Online Teaching Grant, UMKC Teaching Grant, UMKC Faculty Research Grant.

Natalia Trinidad

University of Nebraska Medical Center, Center for Reducing Health Disparities

Natalia Trinidad is a Masters of Public Health Student and staff member at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health. She has been doing community outreach with the Latino community since 2014. Natalia's work is primarily in the area of tobacco prevention. She also conducts various evidence-based health promotion programs in Spanish and English on nutrition, mental health, tobacco cessation, and other health topics. She is a certified Spanish/English medical interpreter and uses her translation and interpretation skills for clinical trials and to assist faculty at UNMC on various research projects. Natalia graduated from Creighton University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.

U

V

Laura Valencia

Univerisity of Florida/IFAS Extension

Parker Van Nostrand

Grinnell College

Parker Van Nostrand conducted a senior capstone project on low-incident ESOL districts while he was at Grinnell. He currently teaches at a private school in Sweden.

Yeni Vásquez Vásquez

Alliance for Leadership, Advancement and Success

Yeni Vasquez was born and raised in Mexico. Got her master's degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Missouri State University. She has been working for the Missouri Migrant Education Program for nine years. Interests include higher education, mental health, disabilities, and working with minorities. She is the co-founder of Alliance for Leadership, Advancement, and Success (ALAS) in Springfield, MO. A non-profit organization interested in fomenting the value of education within the community.

Jordana Vera-Montero

Alliance for Leadership, Advancement and Success

Jordana Vera-Montero was born in the United States and raised in Mexico. Got her bachelor's degree in Sociology from Missouri State University and is currently working on a Multicultural Education Graduate Certificate at the University of Missouri. She is a student services representative at Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) in Springfield, MO. At OTC she is also the advisor for the Student Organization of Latinos (SOL) and is the co-chair of MOSAIC, a group dedicated to bring awareness of how to create a safe environment for a diverse population. She is also the co-founder of Alliance for Leadership, Advancement, and Success (ALAS) in Springfield, MO.

W

Jake Wagner

University of Missouri, Kansas City

Dr. Jacob A. Wagner is an Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Design and Director of the Urban Studies program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. His area of research, teaching and service is focused on community-engagement, neighborhood planning, urban design and equity planning. Dr. Wagner's research has been published in the Journal of Planning History, the Journal of Planning Education and Research, Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research, the Journal of Urban Design and the Journal of Urbanism. Dr. Wagner is the faculty founder of the Center for Neighborhoods at UMKC.

Jacob Wagner

University of Missouri Kansas City

Dr. Jacob A. Wagner is an Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Design and Director of the Urban Studies program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. His area of research, teaching and service is focused on community-engagement, neighborhood planning, urban design and equity planning. Dr. Wagner's research has been published in the Journal of Planning History, the Journal of Planning

Education and Research, *Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research*, the *Journal of Urban Design* and the *Journal of Urbanism*. Dr. Wagner is the faculty founder of the Center for Neighborhoods at UMKC.

Wen Wang

Iowa State University

Wen Wang is a Ph.D student at Iowa State University in Human Development and Family Studies. Her researches focus on adolescent/puberty development in psychoendocrinological perspective as well as hair steroids as novel biomarkers in stress and child development scopes.

Jon Wolseth

Iowa State University Extension & Outreach

Jon Wolseth is a cultural anthropologist and community development specialist who works for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Prior research projects include studying community factors in preventing youth and gang violence in Honduras and the street culture of homeless and working children and youth in the Dominican Republic. His work with ISU Extension focuses on strengthening Latino and immigrant small businesses as well as community integration and development in Western Iowa.

Steven M. Worker

University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Steven Worker is a 4-H Youth Development Advisor at the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources serving Marin, Sonoma, and Napa counties. His research focuses on learning in out-of-school time, specifically practices promoting youth development and informal science learning. He received a master's degree in Community Development and a PhD in Education both from the University of California, Davis.

X

Y

Ruddy Yañez Benavides

K-State Research and Extension, 4-H Youth Development

Ruddy Yañez Benavides is currently the New Youth and Adult Audiences Program Manager for K-State Research and Extension, Department of 4-H Youth Development. In this role, she serves Kansas families and youth through culturally sensitive programming. She has facilitated Cultural Adaptation Navigator Webinars including, 'Ages & Stages, Cultural Edition' and 'Innovation in Volunteerism', and helped pilot multiple bilingual/bicultural 4-H clubs in southwest Kansas for underrepresented youth and families. From her time as a graduate assistant in the Kansas 4-H Office, she has worked on developing culturally sensitive curriculum to educate professionals working with underrepresented populations. Ruddy is fluent in both Spanish and English; she is a first-generation college student as well as a first-generation

Mexican-American. She recently completed her Master's thesis on 'Cultural Self-Identification among Extension Educators and Cultural Competence in Cooperative Extension'. Her research interests include culturally sensitive programming development and Latino family and youth outreach.

Z

Pedro Zamora

Hispanic Economic Development Corporation

Mr. Zamora is a seasoned executive with over 30 years of leadership and management experience from both the corporate for-profit and not-for-profit worlds. An enthusiastic entrepreneurial leader, he has established strengths in strategic planning, fundraising and financial management, product and program introduction, marketing, organizational transition management, and board development.

Pedro was appointed the Executive Director of the Hispanic Economic Development Corporation of Greater Kansas City (HEDC) on April 1, 2015. Prior to his appointment, Pedro had served as the agency's Interim Executive Director for 5 months. His service as "interim", allowed this 21 year-old non-profit's Board of Directors the luxury of time of refining their strategies for the entrepreneur incubator, improving their operating and economic models, enhancing their performance measurements approaches and growing HEDC's Micro Enterprise loan fund. This transformation will lead HEDC to viability, and establish systems that enable the organization to better achieve their mission and long-term sustainability with motivated embracing organization change.

Pedro's career story is divided into two distinct chapters with a common theme, organizational leadership. In the first chapter of his professional life, he served as the leader in research and development in the telecom communications industry. In 2007, he founded and served as CEO of a company named Kyland USA an industrial Ethernet communication manufacturer. Pedro has experience in R&D, product development, traditional manufacturing organizations and has international sales and marketing experience from his thirty year professional career. More recently, in his second chapter as an executive, Pedro has dedicated his leadership energies to the non-profit arena, particularly with the Kansas City Latino organizations, like Guadalupe Centers Inc. where he served as Board Chair, Alta Vista Charter School and the Terminal Railroad Guadalupe Credit Union. Pedro's interim assignment at HEDC drew upon his former significant roles in both his for- and not-for-profit experiences.

Amanda Zamudio

University of Arizona

As a 4-H alumni, Amanda Zamudio is passionate about youth in agriculture and an Assistant 4-H Agent in Santa Cruz County. She received her Bachelor of Science in Animal Sciences and Master of Science in Agricultural Education from the University of Arizona. Amanda has been a 4-H agent for four years both in Wyoming and in Arizona and a graduate from the University of Arizona. She is passionate about club programs, animal science projects, and is currently expanding her programming along the Mexico border in Santa Cruz County. She is also an active member of the National 4-H Latino Advisory Committee.

Yuyang Zhao

University of Missouri - St. Louis

Yuyang Zhao is a Ph.D student majoring in Educational Psychology at University of Missouri-St. Louis. Yuyang's research interest focuses on Quantitative Research and Methodologies. Currently, Yuyang helps with the 2017 National Professional Development grant, SEE-TEL, for validating surveys and analyzing qualitative data.