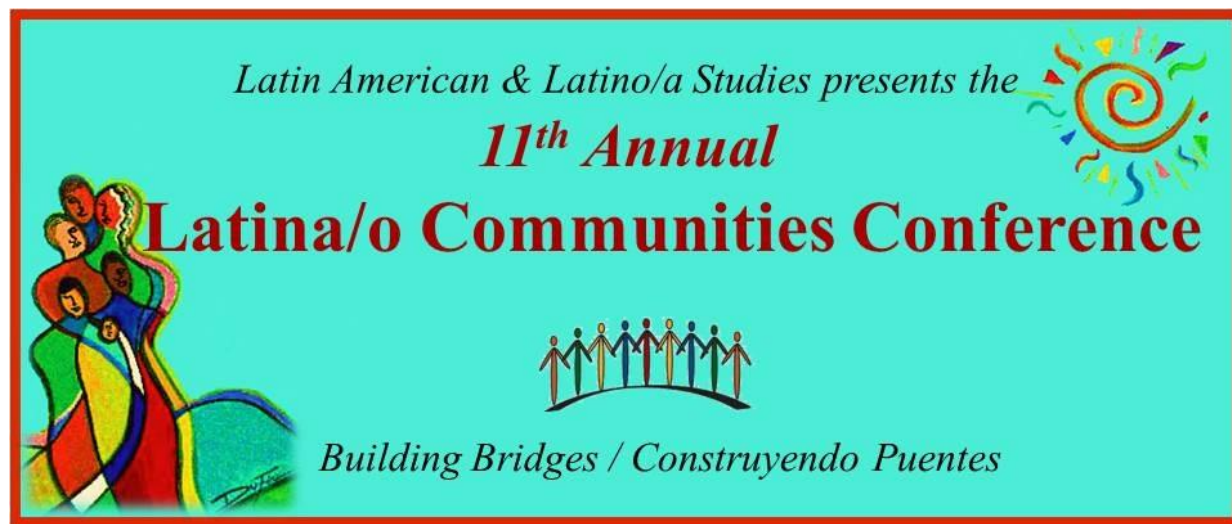


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11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LATINA/O COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

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SEPTEMBER 25 & 26 – 2019 – SYKES STUDENT UNION

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## 11TH ANNUAL LATINA/O COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE



This interdisciplinary conference provides a creative space to enhance the understanding of Latina/o issues, contributions and cultures. Our theme “*Building Bridges / Construyendo Puentes*” represents eleven years of this annual conference working to help the WCU community better understand and build ties with the Latino community and support Latino immigrants and immigration in the context of the current political, social, cultural, and economic environment.

### Tracks

**Immigration and Social Justice**  
**Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Education**  
**Social Services**  
**Visual and Performing Arts**  
**Health**  
**Community Development**

## Program Schedule

### Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>

Time	Topic		Location	Activity	
8:30 – 9:30	Sykes Lobby			Registration – café y pan dulce	
9:30 – 10:30	Ballroom A			Welcome	
10:00 – 10:50	Session 1				
	VIS/ARTS, COMDEV	1	Ballroom B	Atrévete: Building a Community Television Show	Laura Deutch, Gabriela Watson-Burkett, Claudia Ceballos, Leticia Nixon, Arianne Bracho, Antonio Arroniz, Carmen Marcet, Katiria Garcia - PhillyCAM
	IMM/SOCJ, EDUC	2	Ballroom C	Developing Empathy for Immigrant Families	Julie Miller, Kate Camarda, Genny Amores - Phoenixville Area School District
	EDUC	3	Sykes 10A	Offering Mirrors and Windows: A sharing of children’s books by and about Latinxs (a continuous session from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm)	Emily R. Aguiló-Pérez, WCU English, and student volunteers
11:00 – 11:50	Session 2				
	IMM/SOCJ, SOCSERV, COMDEV	4	Ballroom A	Casa Guanajuato Builds Bridges in Southern Chester County and its surroundings	Gonzalo Cano, Mayra Castillo, Marta Castillo, Kathleen Snyder, Raul Toledo, Sara Dickens-Trillo - Casa Guanajuato Kennett Square
	HEA, SOCSERV, COMDEV, HUM/SOC	5	Ballroom B	Familias Unidas- Empowering Latino Families Using an Evidence-Based Preventive Intervention	Antoinette Gomez, Maribel González - Familias Unidas, Family Service of Chester County; Mark Butler, Family Service of Chester County
	HUM/SOC	6	Sykes 255	Bilingual Service-Learning Internships: Bridging the Gap between Academics and Professional Experience	Andrea Varricchio, WCU Languages and Cultures; Cerridwen Cox, Maeve King, Adryana Gates - WCU students

<b>12:00 – 12:50</b>	<b>Session 3</b>				
	EDUC, VIS/ARTS	7	Ballroom B	Theatre in Education/Teatro en Educación: Multilingual learning in the early childhood classroom	Sindy Isabel Castro, Madeline Calandrillo, Lyn Glener
	HUM/SOC	8	Sykes 252	Workshop on Latin American Studies at WCU and Research and Study Abroad opportunities in Latin America	Linda Stevenson, WCU Political Science, León Arredondo, WCU Anthropology, Caitlyn Handlin WCU student
<b>1:00 – 1:50</b>	<b>Session 4</b>				
	IMM/SOCJ	9a	Sykes 255	Telling the City's Untold Stories: A Collaborative Documentary Project between The College of New Jersey and Trenton's Puerto Rican Community	Ann Warner-Ault , Susan Ryan, Samuel Kanig, Ryan Soldati, Kassandra Sánchez, Connor Chemris - The College of New Jersey
	EDUC, VIS/ARTS	9b		Kennett Multimedia: Building Alternative Narratives for Latinos	Raul Toledo Sanchez, Elideth Navarro - Kennett Multimedia
	EDUC	10	Sykes 252	Latino Undergraduate and Graduate Students Discuss Issues with Classroom Teachers Who Are not Latino	Greg Tully, WCU Undergraduate Social Work, Social Work Students of WCU
<b>2:00 – 2:50</b>	<b>Session 5</b>				
	EDUC	11a	Sykes 252	What it's like to be a Macho Man in Puerto Rico: A Biographical Narrative of Being a Gay Teacher in the Caribbean	Gabriel T. Acevedo, Penn State University – University Park
	EDUC	11b		In the Belly of the Beast: Situating Latin American Philosophy of Education in the United States	Jason Thomas Wozniak, WCU Educational Foundations & Policy Studies
	SOC SERV	12	Sykes 255	WCU Psychology Department collaborations with the local Latinx community to improve access to mental health services	Stevie N. Grassetti, WCU Psychology; Zachary Getz, Kenia Valdez, Caroline Guzi, Geaniant Echavarria - WCU students
	IMM/OCJ	13	Ballroom A	Stand Against Racism and Violence	Leslie Acosta, Perla Lara, Che Guerrero - USALA Media

3:00 – 3:50	Session 6				
	IMM/SOCJ	14	Sykes 252	Strategies in Community Organizing	Enrique Morones, Border Angels, Jessica Culley and Nancy Lopez Sosa, El Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas (CATA); Adan Mairena, West Kensington Ministry
	HUM/SOC	15a	Sykes 255	Todos Somos Joaquin: Identidad y Chicanismo	John Kaiser Ortiz, Millersville University
		15b		“Viva México?”: Competing Fan Discourses of Mexican Identity Surrounding Two Professional Boxing Champions”	Justin García, Millersville University
	HEA, SOCSERV	16	Sykes 209	Community Health Work and services for low income families	Milena Lanz, Alma Vidal, Mary Beth Giandonato, Cecilia Arce - Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC)
3:30-4:00	VIS/ARTS	17	Sykes 115	Salsa Dancing Workshop: Salsa De-Stress / Salsa sin estrés	Iliana Pagán-Teitelbaum, WCU Languages and Cultures
4:00 – 5:30	Sykes Ballrooms			Reception Refreshments and snacks WCU Latin Jazz Ensemble	
5:50 – 7:05	Session 7				
	VIS/ARTS, EDUC	18	Sykes Theatre	Baobab Flowers - Documentary Screening and Conversation about Education Inequality	Gabriela Watson-Burkett, Inti Wasi NGO, Nyanza Bandele, Give Our Youth a Chance, Melissa Beatriz

## Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

Time	Topic		Location	Activity	
8:30 – 9:30	Sykes Lobby – Ballroom A			Registration – café y pan dulce	
9:30 – 10:45	Session 8				
	IMM/SOCJ	19	Sykes 209	Employment Law: Do you know YOUR rights?	Karen Eichman, Nancy Ayllon-Ramirez, - Eichman Law, PLLC
	EDUC	20	Ballroom C	Empowering Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Families Through Sustained and Responsive Parent Engagement	Ángela Della Valle, WCU and Upper Merion Area School District, Daryl Schumacher, Upper Merion Area School District, Érica Pérez, Cabrini College
	HUM/SOC, HEA	21a	Ballroom A	Exploring the intersection between Housing Access, Legal Status and Health in Philadelphia	David Reyes-Farias, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
	EDUC	21b		Nurturing a Space for Underrepresented (Hispanic) Postsecondary Students in Northeastern and Central PA	Christopher Donahue, Bloomsburg University
	VIS/ARTS	22	Sykes 255	Multilingual Films for Linguistic Diversity and Cultural Resistance in the Americas	Iliana Pagán-Teitelbaum, WCU Languages and Cultures, Brook Lillehaugen, Haverford College
	HS	23	Sykes Lobby	WCU tour	WCU Latino American Student Organization

11:00 – 12:15	Session 9				
	HEA, SOCSESV, COMDEV	24	Sykes 255	Reaching the Unreachable: Lessons Learned in Engaging Underserved Communities	Laura Milazzo Mackiewicz, La Comunidad Hispana (LCH)
	IMM/SOCJ	25	Sykes 10A	Exploring the Experiences of Undocumented Central American Immigrants in Florida: An Interpretative Phenomenological Study	Elizabeth M. Jarquin, Kara S. Erolin - Nova Southeastern University
	EDUC, SOCSESV, COMDEV	26	Sykes 209	Padres Latinos from the West Chester Area School District: A Community’s Answer for a Better Communication Between Spanish Speaking Families and Schools	Sandra Bradley, Veronica Ortiz - Padres Latinos; Christine Miller, West Chester Area School District; Ivett Herrera, Carolina Bautista - Parent Volunteers
	HS	27	Sykes 252	WCU Admissions	Kenneth L. Jones, WCU Office of Admissions
12:00 – 2:00			Sykes Ballrooms	<b>Luncheon</b> <b>Enrique Morones, Keynote Address: “Border Realities &amp; Immigration Today”</b> Latino Professionals Luncheon Group of Chester County Scholarship Awards	
2:00 – 3:15	Session 10				
	IMM/SOCJ, VIS/ARTS	28	Sykes 209	Intergenerational Organizing for Migrant Justice	Yanira Rodríguez, WCU English
	COMDEV, SOCSESV, IMMSOCJ	29	Sykes 255	Housing & the Latino Community: Myths, Misunderstandings and Challenges	Sherry McCormack, Long & Foster Real Estate, Claudia Roemer, Cardinal Financial, Matrie Johnson, Home of the Sparrow, Nina Guzman, Alianzas De Phoenixville, Jessica Ortiz, State Farm Insurance

	EDUC	30a	Sykes 254	¿Qué tan diferente es México de la Venezuela de Chávez? Un acercamiento a través del programa de desayunos escolares – Author’s Book Presentation	Raúl Olmo Fregoso Bailón, WCU Educational Foundation and Policy Studies
		30b		Social Work in the Dominican Republic: A Human Rights Exploration	Kelly Smack, WCU Graduate Social Work, Ben Morgan, Student Success Center (WCU Philadelphia Campus), Suzanne Sellers, MSW
	HS	31	Sykes 252	Campus life	WCU Latino American Student Organization
<b>3:30 – 4:15</b>	<b>Session 11</b>				
	EDUC, HUM/SOC	32	Ballroom A	2020 Census Briefing	Juan F. Valencia, U.S. Census Bureau, Philadelphia Regional Census Center
	SOCSEV, EDUC, HEA	33	Ballroom C	The Bridge Between 2 Worlds: A psychoeducational group for 1.5-generation Latinx youth	Jari Santana-Wynn, Guadalupe Meza - Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems

IMM/SOCJ: Immigration and Social Justice

VIS/ARTS: Visual and Performing Arts

SOCSEV: Social Services

EDUC: Education

HUM/SOC: Humanities and Social Sciences

COMDEV: Community Development

HEA: Health

HS: High school session



## **Keynote Speaker**

# **ENRIQUE MORONES**



Enrique Morones is an internationally acclaimed activist and advocate for immigrant rights. He founded Border Angels, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that works to prevent migrant deaths on the US-Mexico border and advocates for a humane immigration reform through direct community engagement.

Since 1986, Mr. Morones has dedicated his life for the prevention of thousands of migrant deaths occurring on the US-Mexico border. In 2006, he led a caravan of thousands of activists, protesters and ordinary American citizens across the country in the first “Marcha Migrante,” the event that sparked massive demonstrations across the country and the “immigrant spring.” A Marcha Migrante has been held every year since to educate and inform Middle America of the plight of migrants while demanding humane immigration reform.

Mr. Morones has been acknowledged for his leadership in both the public and private sectors in advancing Latino culture and as a passionate advocate for human rights. He is founder of the House of Mexico in Balboa Park, San Diego, winner of the 2009 Mexican Human Rights Award and Mexico’s Othli’s Award.

## 1 - Atrévete: Building a Community Television Show

**Topic (track):** Visual and Performing Arts, Community Development

**Abstract:** Atrévete is PhillyCAM's Bilingual Community News and Culture TV Show focused on the stories and experiences of Latin Community in the Philadelphia area. Show producers will present segments from their monthly show and discuss the community driven production process that informs each episode. We will invite participants to contribute a short video segment using their mobile phone and discuss ways that we could expand our program to include more regional and national collaboration.

**Authors:** Laura Deutch, Gabriela Watson-Burkett, Claudia Ceballos, Leticia Nixon, Arianne Bracho, Antonio Arroniz, Carmen Marcet, Katiria Garcia - PhillyCAM

Laura Deutch is a Philadelphia-based artist, educator, and cultural organizer committed to using media as a tool for social justice, creative expression and community building. Her projects traverse digital and analog mediums to investigate the relationships between people, places and their stories.

Gabriela Watson-Burkett is a Brazilian of Peruvian descent. Gabriela holds a MFA in Film and Media Arts from Temple University. She is a filmmaker, producer and educator. Her independent work is focused on social-issue documentaries.

Community Producers: PhillyCAM's Community producers are part of an intergenerational and diverse group formed by people from different countries of Latin America.

## 2 - Developing Empathy for Immigrant Families

**Topic (track):** Immigration and Social Justice, Education

**Abstract:** This country's birth is rooted in a history of equality and justice for all, but do these ideals apply to immigrants crossing the Mexican border? These are individuals desperate for a chance at the quality of life that we enjoy here in the United States, but are we taking the time to understand the reasons why they risk it all to come here, and the challenges they face here once they arrive? Join me for a thought-provoking conversation about the immigrant experience, with a particular lens on our situation at the U.S. border.

**Authors:** Julie Miller, Kate Camarda, Genny Amores - Phoenixville Area School District

Julie Miller is a proud public school teacher entering her 17th year of teaching at the Phoenixville Area School District. In Phoenixville, she works almost exclusively with our immigrant families and students learning the English Language in her role as an English Language Development Teacher.

Kate Camarda has been teaching ELD and working with immigrant families since 2005. She has a bachelor's degree in International Studies with minors in Spanish and Business from Millersville University and a Master's Degree in Multicultural Education from Eastern University. She is currently teaching Kindergarten ELD in the Phoenixville School District.

Genny Amores was born in Guatemala and has lived in the US for 19 years. She knows first hand the hardships many immigrants face today. She is a wonderful wife and a mom of three. She is an advocate in Phoenixville for immigrant families. She also sits on the board of Alianzas in Phoenixville. She has the biggest heart and anyone is lucky to know her.

## 3 - Offering Mirrors and Windows: A sharing of children's books by and about Latinxs

**Topic (track):** Education

**Abstract:** Inspired by the National Council of Teachers of English's (NCTE) "Read-In"\* program, this session aims to provide a space where attendees can look at, peruse, and even read children's and young adult books about Latinx experiences. The purpose is to highlight more than one-hundred books by and about Latinxs and to offer the community at large-- people of all ages-- the opportunity to read some of these books or at least learn about them. They can read silently or read out loud, stay for a few minutes or for the entirety of the panel, and read entire books or excerpts.

**Authors:** Emily R. Aguiló-Pérez, WCU English, and student volunteers

Emily R. Aguiló-Pérez is Assistant Professor of English (Children's Literature), at West Chester University. She earned a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction and a minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at The Pennsylvania State University. Her teaching and research interests are in the areas of children's literature (particularly Latinx literature), girlhood studies, and children's cultures.

#### **4 - Casa Guanajuato Builds Bridges in Southern Chester County and its surroundings**

**Topic (track):** Immigration and Social Justice, Visual and Performing Arts, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Community Development

**Abstract:** Casa Guanajuato Kennett Square was founded in 2003, as a non-profit organization, to foster and promote the culture, traditions, arts and education of the Mexican community of Kennett Square. Casa Guanajuato has been serving as a bridge between the Mexican and American populations of the Southern Chester County region. The main mission of Casa Guanajuato has been to promote and conserve the Mexican traditions, language and culture of the migrants that arrived in this area in the early 1990's and for their new generations of U.S. born children.

**Authors:** Gonzalo Cano, Mayra Castillo, Marta Castillo, Kathleen Snyder, Raul Toledo, Sara Dickens-Trillo - Casa Guanajuato Kennett Square

Gonzalo Cano was born in Mexico in the state of Guanajuato and immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 18. He is a graduate of Penn State University with a B.A. in Public Relations and Latin American Studies and is currently finishing his Master's Degree in Social Work at Temple University. After working for 10 years in human resources for different mushroom companies, Gonzalo made a career change and currently works for the Kennett Area Community Service as a Case Manager and is a facilitator of the Getting Ahead classes, which are aimed at low-income adults in the Kennett Area.

Mayra Castillo was born in Mexico and immigrated to the United States at the age of 12. Her father worked over 20 years in the mushroom industry in Kennett Square as a picker, packer and everything related to mushrooms. Her mother has worked over 25 years at a local family owned orchard and green house. Thanks to her parent's sacrifice for a better life for their younger children, Mayra was able to attend college and receive a Bachelor's Degree as well as a Master's Degree.

Marta Castillo was born in Mexico and immigrated to the U.S. when she was 32 years old to give her daughters a better education and to remove them from the violence of their native state of Sinaloa. She had to work since she was eight (8) years of age, taking care of younger children, to help her family since they grew up without a father.

Sara Dickens-Trillo was born in Chihuahua Mexico. Her family immigrated to El Paso Texas when she was 15 years old. Her father worked in a Country club as a foreman for 40+ years, her mother ran the household and was a very successful sales person as well. Her parents dream was for their children to have proper education. Sara got married soon after graduating high school and few months later, she went back to school to become a travel agent.

#### **5 - Familias Unidas- Empowering Latino Families Using an Evidence-Based Preventive Intervention**

**Topic (track):** Health, Social Services, Community Development, Humanities and Social Services

**Abstract:** This workshop provides an overview of Familias Unidas, an evidence based preventive intervention for Hispanic and their adolescents designed by the University of Miami. In 2016, this program was piloted in Chester County, PA within the Kennett Square community. The speakers will address the strategies utilized while engaging and facilitating conversations between Hispanic parents and their adolescent children related to prevention of early sexual behavior, drug and alcohol use, and smoking. Risk and protective factors, acculturation, and conflicting messages in worlds of home, school, and community will be addressed.

**Authors:** Antoinette Gomez, Maribel González - Familias Unidas, Family Service of Chester County; Mark Butler, Family Service of Chester County

Dr. Antoinette Gomez is the Program Director for Familias Unidas at Family Service of Chester County. She holds a Doctorate in Marriage and Family Therapy (DMFT) from Argosy University, Master of Social Work from the

University of Denver, and a Bachelor of Science from Pennsylvania State University. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Addictions Counselor III.

Maribel Gonzalez is the Facilitator Supervisor for Familias Unidas at Family Service of Chester County. Previously, she worked at the Chester County Intermediate Unit where she served as a Student Support Specialist for Migrant Education of the for eleven years. She received her Bachelor of Social Work from Temple University. She is a current Master of Social Work student at West Chester University.

Mark Butler is the Executive Director of Family Service of Chester County. He received his undergraduate degree from James Madison University and his Master's degree from Chestnut Hill College. He has over 25 years of increasingly responsible experience serving Carson Valley School and Carson Valley Children's Aid; initially serving as a Mental Health Worker, Psychotherapist and growing into continuous leadership roles including Program Coordinator, Assistant Director of Residential Services, overall supervision for services in the Allegheny West Neighborhood Center and Director of Community Services.

## **6 - Bilingual Service-Learning Internships: Bridging the Gap between Academics and Professional Experience**

**Topic (track):** Humanities and Social Sciences

**Abstract:** West Chester University students of Spanish hone their Spanish language skills while serving as interpreters and translators for Hispanic immigrants at the Community Volunteers in Medicine clinic. The presentation will explain the academic requirements of service learning and the internship, and will demonstrate how the methodology is implemented in the Language Internship course of the Department of Languages and Cultures at WCU. The presentation will demonstrate the pedagogical value of bilingual service-learning and will show how the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities are met through service-learning in the community classroom.

**Authors:** Andrea Varricchio, WCU Languages and Cultures; Cerridwen Cox, Maeve King, Adryana Gates - WCU students

Dr. Andrea Varricchio, professor of Spanish and Linguistics in the Department of Languages and Cultures at West Chester University, works in the fields of foreign-language methodology and functional linguistics.

Cerridwen Cox is a senior at WCU with a Major in Political Science with International Relations. She has Minors in Spanish and Latin American/Latino Studies.

Maeve King is a senior at WCU with three Majors: Languages & Cultures with Spanish and German, and Political Science with International Relations. She has a Minor in Latin American/Latino Studies.

Adryana Gates is a senior at WCU with a Major in Languages & Cultures with Spanish and a Minors in French and Latin American/Latino Studies.

## **7 - Theatre in Education/Teatro en Educación: Multilingual learning in the early childhood classroom**

**Topic (track):** Visual and Performing Arts, Education

**Abstract:** How can Theatre in Education (TIE) create and support a multilingual learning environment? Working in Spanish Dual Language and General Education Kindergarten and 1st Grade classes, facilitators integrated TIE with school curriculum as part of their thesis project for CUNY's MA in Applied Theatre program. They explored the possibilities of a multilingual classroom by facilitating and implementing a Spanish and English bilingual TIE play that included moments for students to use their home languages and cultures for learning. In this workshop, participants will actively explore some of the activities and role work used in the classroom.

**Authors:** Sindy Isabel Castro, Madeline Calandrillo, Lynn Glenner

Sindy Isabel Castro is an actress, educator, and theatre artist. She recently graduated with her MA in Applied Theatre from CUNY's Schools of Professional Studies. She is a teaching artist with New York City Children's Theater, ArtsConnection, and People's Theatre Project in NYC. She was previously a teaching artist/education administrator in

Chicago for seven years and worked with Steppenwolf Theatre, Writers Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Adventure Stage Chicago, and Project AIM.

Madeline Calandrillo is a New York City based teaching artist and arts educator. She most recently graduated with her masters from the MA in Applied Theatre Program at CUNY's School of Professional Studies. In addition to her work in the graduate program Madeline teaches and creates curriculum for various organizations and non-profits such as: New York City Children's Theater, The Tilles Center, NY, The George Street Playhouse, NJ, and The John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Lynn Glener is a theatre educator, teaching artist, and performer based in the New York City area. She is a graduate of SUNY Potsdam earning her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre/Theatre Education, and is a recent graduate of the Masters program in Applied Theatre at CUNY School of Professional Studies. Lynn has experience teaching theatre and facilitating drama activities with students of all ages in Westchester County, NYC, and the Potsdam area.

## **8 - Workshop on Latin American Studies at WCU and Research and Study Abroad opportunities in Latin America**

**Topic (track):** Humanities and Social Sciences

**Abstract:** This workshop is offered by Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) Minor faculty and students to share ideas about successful undergraduate Latin American research projects in recent years, what are "hot" topics in the field; and to help you brainstorm your topic, narrow/specify it, and begin to prepare a proposal for grants to carry out your research in the Latin American country of your choice in Summer 2020! Come with your ideas/dreams and see how/if we can help you realize them.

**Authors:** Linda Stevenson, WCU Political Science, León Arredondo, WCU Anthropology, Caitlyn Handlin WCU student

Linda Stevenson is a Professor of Political Science/International Affairs, and Latin American and Latino Studies at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. She has published articles in *Latin American Perspectives*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Women and Politics*. Her current research focuses on the intersection between social justice and equity issues in Latin America with those for immigrants in Pennsylvania.

León Arredondo is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Director of Latin American and Latino/a Studies program at WCU. He teaches courses on Latin American culture and politics and conducts research on protest and social movements in Colombia.

## **9a - Telling the City's Untold Stories: A Collaborative Documentary Project between The College of New Jersey and Trenton's Puerto Rican Community**

**Topic (track):** Immigration and Social Justice

**Abstract:** Our presentation discusses a multimedia documentary project, completed in collaboration with a community partner in Trenton, New Jersey. The project responds to the Puerto Rican community's desire to tell and preserve stories of their arrival, challenges and triumphs in Trenton since the 1950s. While the city archives contain extensive documentation and data about Irish, Italian and Jewish residents of Trenton, such accounts of the city's Latino groups are largely absent, even though Latinos comprise more than 30% of Trenton's current population.

**Authors:** Ann Warner-Ault , Susan Ryan, Samuel Kanig, Ryan Soldati, Kassandra Sánchez, Connor Chemris - The College of New Jersey

Dr. Ann Warner-Ault is an Assistant Professor of Spanish at The College of New Jersey. Her teaching and research interests include avant-garde art and literature, community-engaged learning, digital humanities, and study abroad.

Dr. Susan Ryan is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies at The College of New Jersey. Her teaching and research interests include film and television studies, documentary production, community media, and labor conditions in the film and television industries. Her 2014 documentary, *From the Burg to the Barrio*, documents the changing neighborhood of Chambersburg in Trenton.

Samuel Kanig has been a leader in the Latinx community in Trenton for more than a decade. He was the founding president of the Puerto Rican Civic Association, and the founder of Galería Casa Cultura. In 2018-2019 he served as TCNJ's first Community Fellow in Residence.

Ryan Soldati is a senior at The College of New Jersey majoring in Communication Studies with a focus in Radio, Television and Film.

Kassandra Sánchez is a senior at The College of New Jersey with dual majors in Elementary Education and Spanish

Connor Chemris is a senior at TCNJ. He will graduate this year with a major in Communication Studies with a Radio, TV and Film specialization and a minor in Environmental Studies. In the future Connor plans to work as a documentary filmmaker.

### **9b - Kennett Multimedia: Building Alternative Narratives for Latinos**

**Topic (track):** Education and Visual and Performing Arts

**Abstract:** Kennett Multimedia: Building Alternative Narratives is a project in which individuals from different Latin American backgrounds work together to create educational and visual content. One of our goals is that the public outside our area comprehend that us, as Latinos are the outcome of our experiences in life that shows the extent to which our process of immigration is the end result of historical, social, and political factors. We intend to share our content models with students, professors, and other organizations.

**Authors:** Raul Toledo Sanchez, Elideth Navarro - Kennett Multimedia

Raul Toledo Sanchez - 35 year old. Born in the State of Mexico. Father of a 10 and 5 year old children. I immigrated to the United States in 2012. I am an IT Technician and GED tutor. I volunteer my time at the Kennett Square library and I'm also a member of many non-profit organizations. I currently work in a transportation and logistics company. From experience as an immigrant, I've learned that is important to help other people, educate ourselves and continue improving personal development. I'm part of Kennett Multimedia.

Elideth Navarro - 31 years old. Born in Guerrero México. My father immigrated to the United States in 1973. However, he decided to bring my mother, 4 brothers and me in the year 2002. I was 14 years old back then and without knowing a word of the new language I continued high school, I learned a little and was able to graduate from the Oxford Area High school. I'm part of Kennett Multimedia: My goal is to be the voice of many.

### **10 - Latino undergraduate and graduate students discuss issues with classroom teachers who are not Latino**

**Topic (track):** Education

**Abstract:** Latino undergraduate and graduate students often find their classroom educators are not Latino. Numerous issues evolve for these students who are eager to learn but must overcome obstacles due to the racial mismatch between the teacher and the student. In this presentation, several Latino undergraduate and graduate students will join together on a panel to surface, analyze, discuss, and attempt to resolve the most significant struggles and stressors they experience in the classroom when their educator is not Latino. The presentation will include suggestions on how to improve upon some of these issues and struggles experienced by Latino students, and the presentation will also include audience interaction. Dr. Greg Tully, a Professor in the Undergraduate Social Work Department at West Chester University who is not Latino, will join with several panelists who are West Chester undergraduate and graduate Latino students.

**Authors:** Greg Tully, WCU Undergraduate Social Work, Social Work Students of WCU

Dr. Greg Tully is a Professor in the Undergraduate Social Work Department at West Chester University who has presented at conferences on the international and national level. He will be joined on this presentation by a panel of West Chester University undergraduate and graduate students.

### **11a - What it's like to be a Macho Man in Puerto Rico: An Biographical Narrative of Being a Gay Teacher in the Caribbean**



**Topic (track):** Education

**Abstract:** The purpose of this paper is to look at a Puerto Rican gay man's relationship with masculinity/machismo, queerness and the intersection of their teaching identity. This presentation seeks to explore how the connection between their masculinity, queerness and teaching identity, as well as, considering the ways their intersecting identities (e.g. ethnicity, language, culture, sexual identity, and others) may influence the presentation within an educational setting. Scholars have attempted to capture and interpret Latino experiences in ways of understanding and supporting culture and masculinity, yet no intersection with gay teachers in Puerto Rico is present in the field.

**Authors:** Gabriel T. Acevedo, Penn State University – University Park

Gabriel T. Acevedo: I am currently a Ph.D. Graduate student in Penn State University in the College of Education. My studies are in Curriculum & Instruction – Language, Culture and Society track. I also have a Masters of Arts in English Education as well as a B.A. in Elementary and Secondary English and Theater Education from the University of Puerto Rico. My current research draws from my own experiences as a teacher in Puerto Rico on how queerness intersects with pedagogical practices. My current dissertation research examines issues of masculinity and machismo, how they intersect with gay teachers' identity in Puerto Rico and the social and cultural implications that such identity markers have on male teachers.

### **11b - In the Belly of the Beast: Situating Latin American Philosophy of Education in the United States**

**Topic (track):** Education

**Abstract:** Since its founding in 2013, The Latin American Philosophy of Education Society (LAPES) has sought to introduce diverse audiences to the rich tradition of Latin American education theory and practice. In this short presentation I will introduce audience participants to LAPES. Then, I will argue that Latin American Philosophy of Education is uniquely positioned to help those of us in the United States struggle for justice in, as José Martí once put it, "the belly of the beast."

**Authors:** Jason Thomas Wozniak, WCU Educational Foundations & Policy Studies

Jason Thomas Wozniak (PhD Teachers College/Columbia University) is an Assistant Professor in the Educational Foundations & Policy Studies department at West Chester University where he teaches in the Higher Education Policy and Student Affairs (HEPSA) post-graduate program. Jason has authored several articles on education debt and is currently working on completing the book manuscript *The Mis-Education of the Indebted Student*. In addition, Jason founded and co-directs The Latin American Philosophy of Education Society (LAPES).

### **12 - WCU Psychology Department collaborations with the local Latinx community to improve access to mental health services**

**Topic (track):** Social Services

**Abstract:** The underutilization of mental health services by Latinx communities in America is a growing concern to psychological practice and research (Rastogi et al., 2012; Wong et al. 2017). Stigma surrounding mental health concerns and language barriers are two specific factors that present barriers to receiving these services in the community (Leong & Klibatseva, 2011). As the population of Latinx families in the United States increases, stronger efforts to improve access to mental health care are imperative. Students and faculty members in West Chester University's psychology department are involved in several collaborative endeavors to improve Latinx' families access to mental health services. This panel discussion will describe three ways in which the WCU psychology Department is partnering with the local Latinx community to improve access to mental health services.

**Authors:** Stevie N. Grassetti, WCU Psychology; Zachary Getz, Kenia Valdez, Caroline Guzi, Geaniant Echavarria - WCU students

Dr. Stevie Grassetti is a licensed clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department. Dr. Grassetti's research and clinical work focus on promoting access to evidence-based treatment and evaluation services, especially for underserved communities.

Zachary Getz is pursuing a master's degree in General Psychology at West Chester University. A graduate assistant in Dr. Michael Gawrysiak's Brain Map Lab, Zachary coordinates and assists in research focusing on addiction, trauma, and mindfulness-based interventions. Last Spring Zachary was part of a Program Evaluation team that conducted a needs assessment at a bilingual elementary school.

Kenia Valdez is pursuing a PsyD in Clinical Psychology at West Chester University. Last Spring Kenia was part of a Program Evaluation team that conducted a needs assessment at a bilingual elementary school and Kenia has also provided services in Spanish within the Community Mental Health Clinic at WCU.

Caroline Guzi is pursuing a PsyD in Clinical Psychology at West Chester University. As a student in Dr. Grassetti's RAISE lab, Caroline researches evidence-based treatment for youth including a trauma-focused intervention implemented with English Language learners at a nearby Elementary school. She enjoys engaging in clinical work with children and families.

Geaniant Echavarría is a bilingual senior Psychology major and member of the RAISE lab. Geaniant has been a key member of the research team whose bilingual abilities transcend multiple projects in the lab. Geaniant has been especially heavily involved in a study of a trauma-focused intervention implemented with English Language learners at a nearby Elementary school.

### 13 - Stand Against Racism and Violence

**Topic (track):** Immigration and Social Justice

**Abstract:** This country is experiencing a watershed moment in the fight for racial justice. As civil and human rights continue to be eroded for immigrant communities and people of color, USALA stands united in solidarity with all immigrants and communities of color facing the very real threat of racist and xenophobic attacks.

Immigrants are, and should always be, welcome here. We know that immigrant justice is integral to racial justice. All immigrants — regardless of status — deserve to be safe, healthy, and treated with dignity and respect. Too often our stereotypes around immigration are cemented around terms of division, fear, and hate against the stranger among us.

**Authors:** Leslie Acosta, Perla Lara, Che Guerrero - USALA Media

Leslie Acosta was raised in North Central Philadelphia. After graduating from college, she began her journey providing social services to underserved families. After completing her master's degree in Business Administration, she taught courses in leadership management, financial management, public speaking and social justice. Leslie has a wide range of experience advocating and crafting policy initiatives in criminal justice reform, government contracts, social services, immigration, gun safety laws and education, to name a few.

Perla Yolanda Lara is an accomplished, multimedia journalist with extensive experience in broadcasting, writing, editing and investigative reporting. She was a news manager at Televisa Estado de Mexico. She co-anchored daily news shows, and contributed reports for special assignments, covering breaking news, local, state, and national reports. She produced editorial articles, wrote content for "Metropolis Revista TV", for Luis De Llano Televisa.

Comedian Che Guerrero (an immigrant himself) talks to people who have come to America in pursuit of their dream and how they are maneuvering through these turbulent times. Che Guerrero has spent 12 years tackling race, marriage, and work through stand-up comedy. A revolutionary voice on the modern comedy scene, Che's style is rooted in his experiences growing up undocumented. His sense of humor and command of the stage is the result of obstacles often unseen by the average American. In 2014, Che broke out on the New York scene with a feature on Gotham Comedy.

### 14 – Strategies in Community Organizing

**Topic (track):** Immigration, Social Justice

Enrique Morones is an internationally acclaimed activist and advocate for immigrant rights. He founded Border Angels, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that works to prevent migrant deaths on the US-Mexico border and advocates for a humane immigration reform through direct community engagement. Since 1986, Mr. Morones has dedicated his life for the prevention of thousands of migrant deaths occurring on the US-Mexico border. He is founder of the House of Mexico in Balboa Park, San Diego, winner of the 2009 Mexican Human Rights Award and Mexico's Othli's Award.

Jessica Culley has been working with CATA since the year 2000, starting as an intern and now working as CATA's General Coordinator, where she is responsible for coordinating CATA's work throughout southern New Jersey,



southeastern PA and the Delmarva Peninsula. She's originally from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania but has lived in the Philadelphia area for the last 20 years.

Nancy Lopez Sosa is a community organizer for CATA in the Pennsylvania office. A significant part of her work consists of conducting visits to apartment complexes and labor camps to inform the immigrant community about their rights. In 2017, she completed her B. A. in Applied Anthropology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

### **15a - Todos Somos Joaquín: Identidad y Chicanismo**

**Topic (track):** Humanities/Social Sciences

**Abstract:** By 1969, when Rudolfo Corky Gonzales published his poem “Yo Soy Joaquín,” the divergent but sometimes interconnected political protests spanning the American social horizon were multiply nationalistic, hemispheric, and global. Through a detailed textual and applied analysis of this poem, my argument is that the Chicano civil rights movement should be seen as a popular form of engaged syncretism that attempts to harmonize the radical philosophical and cultural differences between Mexico and the United States. By such differences I mean to suggest differences of a moral, cultural, individual, and social nature.

**Authors:** John Kaiser Ortiz, Millersville University

John Kaiser Ortiz’s teaching, research publications, and activism stand at the crossroads between social/political philosophy, human rights, and ethics. Since receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Oregon, he has taught in the Department of Ethnic Studies at Bowling Green State University and the Philosophy Department at Millersville University. Presently, he also teaches for the Women’s and Gender Studies program. His essays have appeared in *Critical Philosophy of Race*, *philoSophia: A Journal of Continental Feminism*, *The Pluralist: The Journal of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy*, and *Comparative Philosophy*.

### **15b - “Viva México?”: Competing Fan Discourses of Mexican Identity Surrounding Two Professional Boxing Champions”**

**Topic (track):** Humanities/Social Sciences

**Abstract:** Mexican and Mexican American boxers have achieved world championship success in the professional ranks for decades, but over the past two decades, the “Mexican identity” of several of these professional fighters have become increasingly scrutinized by Latino and non-Latino fans alike. This paper focuses primarily on competing fan discourses surrounding the “Mexican” (or perceived lack thereof) identities of middleweight champion Sául “Canelo” Álvarez and the recently-crowned new world heavyweight champion Andy Ruiz, although some background on previous discourses surrounding now-retired boxers Oscar de la Hoya and Fernando Vargas will be provided to establish a foundation for which to analyze contemporary Mexican identity debates within professional boxing.

**Authors:** Justin García, Millersville University

Dr. Justin García is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Millersville University of Pennsylvania. He also frequently teaches courses for Millersville’s Latino Studies minor. He earned his Ph.D. in 2011 from Temple University with a focus in Urban Anthropology. Some of his publications include “Hispanic/Latino Identity as Racial Misnomer” in *Race in America: How a Pseudoscientific Concept Shaped Human Interaction* (Praeger, 2017) and “Boxing, Masculinity, and Latinidad: Oscar de la Hoya, Fernando Vargas, and Raza Representations” in *The Journal of American Culture* (vol. 36, no. 4, 2013).

### **16 - Community Health Work and services for low income families**

**Topic (track):** Social Services

**Abstract:** MCHC’s mission is to empower families to build a healthier and brighter future for their children by overcoming the social and environmental barriers that lead to poor health conditions in our communities. While poverty continues to climb up in Chester County and the healthcare coverage landscape remains precarious, the need for pre/post natal support, healthcare education and healthcare insurance enrollment assistance for women, their children

and families, particularly Hispanic families, continues to grow. To increase the chances of healthy babies and prompt enrollment of children into pediatric care and health insurance programs, MCHC's programs provide home visiting, case management, resource linkage, interpretation/translation, health education and help children prepare to enter kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed in school, families are screened for symptoms of depression, and ACEs to guide care plan.

**Authors:** Milena Lanz, Alma Vidal, Mary Beth Giandonato, Cecilia Arce - Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC)

Mary Beth Giandonato, MCHC's Pottstown CHW is pursuing a Masters of Education in School Counseling and holds a B.S. in Human Development/Family Studies. She completed an MCHC internship and volunteered for Healthy Start, served as an Assistant Teacher with MCHC's Kindergarten Transition program and volunteered at Orion Communities prior to joining MCHC.

Director of Programs, Cecilia M. Arce, M. Ed manages and oversees all programs and has extensive experience meeting/exceeding the administrative requirements of local, state and federally funded maternal/child health projects. Milena Lanz, MCHC's Executive Director, has over 25 years of women and children's services experience. She holds a B.A in Business Administration and studied for a Masters in Public Health from West Chester University.

Alma Vidal, MCHC's Program Coordinator manages daily operations of offices and staff, and carries a Healthy Start caseload. She holds a high school degree, certifications in Early Childhood Education, Community Health Workers, Parents as Teachers, and Credentials for Strengths-Based Family Workers.

## **18 - Baobab Flowers - documentary screening and conversation about education inequality; Flores de Baoba - documental y conversa sobre desigualdad en la educación**

**Topic (track):** Visual and Performing Arts, Education

**Abstract:** Baobab Flowers is a documentary about education inequality as a global issue in black communities. It follows the journey of two public school teachers, mothers and community leaders, Nyanza Bandele, in Philadelphia and Priscila Dias in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Through a female perspective, the documentary intends to address the similarities of black women, the impact of low quality education in the black community and the struggle to achieve equality in education. Link to watch the film <https://vimeo.com/329240421> Password: DocFlores2019

**Authors:** Gabriela Watson-Burkett, Inti Wasi NGO, Nyanza Bandele, Give Our Youth A Chance, Melissa Beatriz

Gabriela Watson-Burkett, Brazilian of Afro-Peruvian descent is a filmmaker and educator. She holds a MFA in Film and Media Arts by Temple University and has background experience in Production of Broadcast TV Journalism and independent media focused on Afro-Brazilian culture and black identity. She directed *Nosotros, Afroperuanos* (We, Afro- Peruvians), that was screened in many countries around the world and *Baobab Flowers*, which won Audience Award in the category - Documentary Short in the 2017 edition of BlackStart Film Festival, in Philadelphia.

Melissa Beatriz Skolnick is a documentary filmmaker and multimedia storyteller, who uses these platforms to bring awareness to social justice and human rights issues that are often ignored. Since 2010, she has been working with nonprofit and community based organizations throughout Philadelphia, while using media as a tool for community building and storytelling.

Nyanza Bandele, educator and mother was born and raised in Philadelphia. Nyanza has taught English, in the Philadelphia Public School system for the past twenty years in neighborhood schools such as Overbrook High School. A mother of three, Nyanza also homeschools her two daughters. She incorporates black culture in her curriculum to make her students connect with their own history. Currently, Nyanza is part of the nonprofit organization Give Our Youth a Chance (GOYAC), which is opening an education facility in West Philadelphia with after school programs dedicated to this underserved community.

## **19 - Employment Law: Do you know YOUR rights?**

**Topic (track):** Immigration and Social Justice

**Abstract:** Did you know, that every immigrant in the United States, whether here legally or not, has rights? Immigrants have the right to equal employment treatment, properly paid wages when due, medical bills paid when injured on the

job, not automatically be fired if a federal agency makes an initial inquiry into the immigrant's social security number or work authorizing documents. Immigrants have a right to privacy in their homes, and to NOT have to answer their door, just because someone knocks on it. Join us for an interactive workshop regarding some key employment and immigration rights of undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

**Authors:** Karen Eichman, Nancy Ayllon-Ramirez, - Eichman Law, PLLC

Karen E. Eichman, Esquire: Owner of Eichman Law, PLLC, Karen Eichman concentrates in the area of labor and employment law, business law, and estate planning. Before launching her private practice in January 2012, Karen spent nearly 28 years in Kennett Square as the Business Manager, and then General Counsel, of one of the largest mushroom farming organizations in the United States. Karen earned dual Bachelor of Science degrees from Delaware State University. She obtained her JD from Widener University School of Law in 2002.

Nancy Ayllón-Ramírez, Esquire: Nancy is native of Mexico and has lived in Kennett Square most of her life. She attended Bloomsburg University for undergraduate studies and Widener University Delaware Law School for her J.D. Nancy joined Eichman Law in 2019 where she offers immigration law and family law services. She is fully bilingual in Spanish and English. Nancy is on the board of Youth Community Forward, and an active member of Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce and Longwood Rotary.

## **20 - Empowering Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Families Through Sustained and Responsive Parent Engagement**

**Topic (track):** Education

**Abstract:** The single most important factor in student achievement is not socioeconomic status, home language, nor race; rather, the most accurate predictor of student success is the extent to which families encourage learning at home and are engaged in the child's learning (PTA, N. (2000). Building Successful Partnerships: A Guide for Developing Parent and Family Involvement Programs. (pp. 11-12). Bloomington, Indiana: National PTA, National Education Service). Upper Merion Area School District, through its ESL Department, has created a sustained and responsive parent engagement program that consists of parent workshops at least twice a year, in addition to establishing a system of interpreter use to facilitate on-going parent/school communication throughout the school year.

**Authors:** Ángela Della Valle, WCU and Upper Merion Area School District, Daryl Schumacher, Upper Merion Area School District, Érica Pérez, Cabrini College

Angela Della Valle teaches English learners at the middle school level and is the Department Head at Upper Merion Area School District. As an adjunct professor at West Chester University, she prepares undergraduate teachers to meet the needs of linguistically/culturally diverse learners. She has been invited to participate in a review of the ACCESS for ELLs at the Center for Applied Linguistics in June of 2013 and of the BEC for the Pennsylvania Department of Education in the spring of 2017.

Daryl Schumacher is an ESL and English teacher for Upper Merion Area High School. She received her B.S.ed from West Chester University and her Masters in English as a Second Language and Connected Learning from Arcadia University.

## **21a - Exploring the intersection between Housing Access, Legal Status and Health in Philadelphia**

**Topic (track):** Humanities and Social Sciences

**Abstract:** Access to stable and adequate housing plays an important role in not only determining economic success but also the possibility to achieve and maintain a healthy wellbeing. Prior research explores the relationship between migration and potential housing outcomes in the United States, yet there is scarce research that explores how legal status affects housing access. Considering the current political climate surrounding immigration and its policies in the United States, more effort is needed to address this gap in research. The American Communities Survey (ACS) data are used to better understand this issue within the context of undocumented persons living in Philadelphia. The specific research questions that will be analyzed include the following: how does access to housing affect the health of undocumented communities in Philadelphia and what are some specific health challenges faced by these communities; how does

discrimination act as a barrier to housing; and what protections and resources are available to undocumented persons when faced with housing discrimination.

**Authors:** David Reyes-Farias, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

David Reyes-Farias is a recent graduate of West Chester University with a Master's in Spanish Language and Culture. He currently works as a clinical researcher at the University of Pennsylvania.

## **21b - Nurturing a Space for Underrepresented (Hispanic) Postsecondary Students in Northeastern and Central PA**

**Topic (track):** Education

**Abstract:** Northeastern Pennsylvania is a largely rural area with Hispanic populations centered mostly in the region's urban centers. Two examples of such urban centers of Northeastern PA are Hazelton and Wilkes-Barre. Central Pennsylvania boasts higher populations of Hispanics in urban centers such as Lancaster and Reading. Nonetheless, access to postsecondary education at the universities of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education for these underrepresented populations appears to be limited in comparison with other traditional PASSHE university populations. An example of this reality can be seen at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. While percentages of underrepresented (Hispanic) students at Bloomsburg University are on the rise, the increase is occurring slowly and the imbalance is noteworthy.

**Authors:** Christopher Donahue, Bloomsburg University

Christopher Donahue is Chairperson of the Department of Languages and Cultures, Bloomsburg University. Active supporter of programs designed to aid in the recruitment and retention of Latino students to the PASSHE.

## **22 - Multilingual Films for Linguistic Diversity and Cultural Resistance in the Americas**

**Topic (track):** Visual and Performing Arts

**Abstract:** This session introduces and screens two multilingual film projects made in linguistically diverse communities that explore the politics of language in daily life and the struggles for language preservation and linguistic justice. Brook Lillehaugen (Haverford College) presents *Dizhsa Nabani*, a documentary web series that explores the relationship between Zapotec identity, language, and daily life, focusing on the relationship between Zapotec languages and traditional farming, cooking techniques, and artistic performance and creation in Oaxaca, Mexico. Iliana Pagán-Teitelbaum (West Chester University) presents a preview of *Twin Tongues: Learning English in América*, a film that explores the efforts of a Puerto Rican-Peruvian family to preserve their native Spanish language as their children enter the English-language schooling system in Philadelphia.

**Authors:** Iliana Pagán-Teitelbaum, WCU Languages and Cultures, Brook Lillehaugen, Haverford College

Brook Danielle Lillehaugen is Associate Professor and Chair of Linguistics at Haverford College. Her research profile includes technical grammatical description as well as collaborative language documentation and revitalization projects. She has found combining linguistic fieldwork with tools from the digital humanities to be a productive way to collaborate with both Zapotec speaking communities and undergraduate students.

Iliana Pagán-Teitelbaum is an Associate Professor of Latin American Film and Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Languages and Cultures at West Chester University. Her research focuses on cultural representations of violence and inequality. As a filmmaker, she directed *Twin Tongues: Learning English in América*, currently in post-production.

## **24 - Reaching the Unreachable: Lessons Learned in Engaging Underserved Communities**

**Topic (track):** Community Development

**Abstract:** This presentation will reflect on the barriers to access and awareness of quality health care for underserved communities in southern Chester County, and how the Community Engagement Team at LCH has worked (and learned)

how to build trust with community members to come and receive services at our health centers. Strategies that will be covered include (1) community wellness check health screenings, (2) health literacy initiatives through social media, (3) investing in community events, and (4) finding and building community champions. Time will be set aside during the presentation to work in groups through several scenarios and brainstorm how to reach and connect in the community.

**Authors:** Laura Milazzo Mackiewicz, La Comunidad Hispana (LCH)

Laura Milazzo Mackiewicz joined LCH (La Comunidad Hispana) in April 2014. As Community Engagement and Programs Manager, she leads strategic initiatives to educate and captivate the community to support LCH's mission of being the leading provider of integrated health and community services for all in southern Chester County. Responsibilities include the management of community and public relations; marketing and outreach strategy, and special events and programs.

## **25 - Exploring the Experiences of Undocumented Central American Immigrants in Florida: An Interpretative Phenomenological Study**

**Topic (track):** Immigration and Social Justice

**Abstract:** The purpose of this research is to understand the experiences of undocumented Central American immigrants and their families, and to explore what, if any, impact the current sociopolitical climate and immigration policies have on them. Although much research exists on Latinxs in the United States, it has largely neglected the Central American subgroup and the experiences of undocumented immigrants. Immigration is a concept embedded in the fabric of United States history, yet it also represents a source of intense debate (Silva, Paris, & Añez, 2017). While immigration has always been a popular issue, in recent years there has been an escalation of debates around the subject, resulting in a shifting immigration climate and policies.

**Authors:** Elizabeth M. Jarquin, Kara S. Erolin - Nova Southeastern University

Elizabeth M. Jarquin, MS, LMFT is a doctoral candidate in Family Therapy at Nova Southeastern University. She has a special interest in immigration issues, marginalized populations, diversity, and social justice, and has published and presented on Central American immigrants. Elizabeth's dissertation study focuses on the experiences of undocumented Central American immigrants and their families. After she graduates, she hopes to conduct further research on this topic and continue working with this population.

Kara S. Erolin, PhD, LMFT is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Therapy at Nova Southeastern University. She is passionate about social justice issues for marginalized populations, especially as it relates to trauma. Her scholarship focuses on the adaptation/innovation of culturally and contextually appropriate treatments for diverse and traumatized populations. She has presented and published nationally and internationally on this topic.

## **26 - Padres Latinos del Distrito escolar del área de West Chester: una respuesta de la comunidad para una mejor comunicación entre las familias hispanas y las escuelas; Padres Latinos from the West Chester Area School District: A Community's Answer for a Better Communication Between Spanish Speaking Families and Schools**

**Topic (track):** Social Services, Education, Community Development

**Abstract:** We believe that having a safe forum to network, bridge cultural differences and discuss our children's education in a primary language provides a greater opportunity for parents to understand the school system and helps provide the children with a comprehensive inclusion in the school environment. The group was created in response to what we believed was a need in our community to bridge a perceived cultural and communication gap between Latino families and the school district.

**Authors:** Sandra Bradley, Veronica Ortiz - Padres Latinos; Christine Miller, West Chester Area School District; Ivett Herrera, Carolina Bautista - Parent Volunteers

Sandra Bradley is an independent contractor working as an interpreter and translator in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Ms. Bradley co-founded and maintains a leadership role in Padres Latinos, a West Chester area parent group dedicated to



bridging the cultural and communication gap between Latino families and the school district. The organization has gained the recognition of the School District's Administration and continues to help community families through volunteerism and support from teachers, counselors, administrators and families.

Veronica Ortiz is a social worker at the West Chester Area School District. Veronica's goal is to ensure that all students are able to meet their academic needs by providing services that strengthen the home and to help address barriers that can impact the students learning and achievement. Veronica is pursuing her master's degree in Social Work at West Chester University. Veronica has been in the field of social work for sixteen years and she loves every aspect of it.

Christine Miller is an English Language Development teacher in the West Chester Area School District. She has been teaching English learners for over 20 years. Christine has taught a range of ages and levels of English learners in elementary school, college and adult night school. She received a Master's in Education with a focus in Reading from Widener University and a Master's in TESOL from West Chester University.

Ivett Herrera, a long-time resident of West Chester and a parent in the West Chester Area School District, has been part of Padres Latinos since 2014. Ms. Herrera is a community leader and an advocate for Padres Latinos, working in planning and organizing sessions and making personal connections between the Spanish speaking community and the group.

Carolina Herrera is a mother with two young students in the West Chester Area School District. She has participated in Padres Latinos since 2016. She has demonstrated her leadership skills by volunteering at the meetings. Her responsibilities include room set up, meeting attendance and exit surveys.

## **28 - Intergenerational Organizing for Migrant Justice**

**Topic (track):** Immigration and Social Justice, Visual and Performing Arts

**Abstract:** This presentation focuses on the intergenerational and intersectional principles that informed and grounded organizing efforts as a long-time collective organizer with the Workers' Center of Central New York, the Syracuse Childcare Collective, and as a co-founder of the Radical Education Collective. The presentation will address the following questions: What does it take to make spaces accessible for people of all ages? What kinds of principles frame these spaces? What kinds of practices take place there to engage people of all ages? What does intergenerational solidarity-building look like? How do movements look when we imagine birth justice, mental health and healing as foundational? How do we respond in ways that hearten us rather than demoralize us? The Workers' Center of Central New York is an organization focused on migrant, low-wage worker and immigration justice, the Childcare Collective provides childcare during organizing meetings and events to various organizations including the Workers' Center, BLM Syracuse, Doula training events, and others; the Radical Education Collective (REC) formed out of a need to provide spaces for local organizing work on issues that affect Black and Brown communities.

**Authors:** Yanira Rodríguez, WCU English

Yanira Rodríguez is an assistant professor of journalism and writing at West Chester University. Her research focuses on questions of being and belonging exploring the intersections of teaching, organizing, writing and cultural production as collective practices focused on transformative action. She conceives her work as feminist anti-racist praxis—as a doing—and composing technologies as tools to create a free and just world.

## **29 - Housing & the Latino Community: Myths, Misunderstandings and Challenges**

**Topic (track):** Community Development, Social Services, Immigration and Social Justice

**Abstract:** Are you currently renting and are a DOCA resident or student; self-employed; paid wages only in cash; switching jobs every 6 months; only have a temporary work visa; or have no social security number, you really could be a homeowner instead! Learn how in this panel discussion on Housing Myths, Misunderstanding and Challenges in the Latino Community. You will also learn: What services and out-reach is available to solve housing needs? What are the top 10 Tips for first-time home buyers in the Latino Community? Where to turn for housing when faced with abuse situations? What support groups help with housing issues?

**Authors:** Sherry McCormack, Long & Foster Real Estate, Claudia Roemer, Cardinal Financial, Matrice Johnson, Home of the Sparrow, Nina Guzman, Alianzas De Phoenixville, Jessica Ortiz, State Farm Insurance

Sherry McCormack, REALTOR Long & Foster Real Estate in West Chester. Passionate about helping solve the housing needs of Chester County. Member of Latino Luncheon. Avid Latin dancer. Founder of 100 Women Who Care. Supporter of Home of the Sparrow. Working on practicing my Spanish so I can “Hablo Espanol” with my beautiful grandniece Sophia in Asunción, Paraguay.

Nina M. Guzman, Executive Director Alianzas de Phoenixville. Founder of Alianzas in 2010. Graduate of Valley Forge University. Board of Director of the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation, Member of Phoenixville Area Social Concerns and Phoenixville ACES Committees. Mother of 2 Adult sons and one granddaughter.

Claudia Roemer, Loan Officer, Cardinal Financial Company, Limited Partnership. Claudia is an experienced financial and business professional who manages a loan portfolio of residential mortgages for home ownership, investment properties, refinancing, renovations, and access to home equity. Highly recommended for analyzing and recommending mortgage loan solutions of varied levels of complexity and specializes in working with clients holding non-resident visas. She is also bilingual in Spanish. Claudia represents Cardinal Financial through active involvement in business and community affairs. She serves on the Board of Directors for a large nonprofit in Philadelphia. Claudia was born in Colombia and raised in Chester County where she resides. She is also a busy mother of three children.

Matie Johnson is the Director of Programs at Home of the Sparrow, where she oversees five housing programs. She has presented at numerous conferences, workshops and webinars on housing issues.

### **30a - ¿Qué tan diferente es México de la Venezuela de Chávez? Un acercamiento a través del programa de desayunos escolares - Author's book presentation**

**Topic (track):** Education

**Abstract:** To what extent was Mexico different from Venezuela during the government of Hugo Chávez?; This book explores some of those differences in regard to the construction of education as a social right in both countries. This is a comparative educational research in two elementary schools in Caracas, Venezuela and in two other schools in Jalisco, Mexico. This comparison illuminates how principals, teachers, parents and students signify and practice in relation to education as an economic, social and cultural right. The author worked in developing a school breakfast program in all four of the elementary schools.

**Authors:** Raúl Olmo Fregoso Bailón, WCU Educational Foundation and Policy Studies

Raúl Olmo Fregoso Bailón is a Normalista. Currently, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Foundations and Policy Studies at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. He previously worked at the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional, Mexico. He received his PhD from The University of Texas at Austin in Cultural Studies in Education. He has conducted fieldwork throughout Latin America and is the author of ¿Que tan Diferente es México de la Venezuela de Chávez? Un acercamiento a través del programa de desayunos escolares. rfregosobailon@wcupa.edu.

### **30b - Social Work in the Dominican Republic: A Human Rights Exploration**

**Topic (track):** Education

**Abstract:** In this presentation, WCU faculty, staff, and graduate social work students discuss the cultural, systemic, and religious ideals that cultivate policy and challenge human rights in the Dominican Republic. Presenters explore a May 2019 study abroad program in the DR to address value systems and biases surrounding human rights and social services within Latina/o communities. Global learning is essential to every social worker. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards encourages social workers to promote opportunities to “engage diversity and difference in practice” and “advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.” This presentation highlights graduate social work student learning experiences which align with CSWE standards and engage with concepts related to human rights, sustainability, and social services among various Latina/o communities in the Dominican Republic.

**Authors:** Kelly Smack, WCU Graduate Social Work, Ben Morgan, Student Success Center (WCU Philadelphia Campus), Suzanne Sellers, MSW

Kelly Smack, MSW is the Assistant Director for Recruitment in Philadelphia and Adjunct Instructor within the Department of Graduate Social Work at West Chester University. Kelly earned the Master of Social Work degree from West Chester University in 2016 where she was honored as Outstanding Student and holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies from Penn State University.

Ben Morgan, MA. directs the Success Center at West Chester University in Philadelphia, where he supports the writing, career development, and research of undergraduate and graduate students.

### **32 - 2020 Census Briefing: It's important. It's easy. It's safe**

**Topic (track):** Education, Humanities and Social Sciences

**Abstract:** This 2020 Census briefing is part of the outreach campaigns to educate the community about the importance of participating in the 2020 Census. We will invite the Latino students to suggest recommendations to have a fair and accurate count of the Latino community.

**Authors:** Juan F. Valencia, U.S. Census Bureau, Philadelphia Regional Census Center

### **33 - The Bridge Between 2 Worlds: A psychoeducational group for 1.5-generation Latinx youth**

**Topic (track):** Social Services, Education

**Abstract:** The effect of immigration on children is lifelong and uniquely characterized by the differential impact that straddling two cultures has on their acculturative process. Known as the 1.5 generation, immigrants who arrive in the host country as children face the distinctive challenge of developing a cultural identity that integrates a worldview shaped by experiences in the host country while maintaining a first language and culture of origin that was not firmly embedded before the migration. This workshop will present a short-term, focused psychoeducational group curriculum targeted to 1.5-generation Latinx youth intended to support and facilitate the acculturation process by fostering resilience, increasing the range of coping skills, and providing a roadmap for navigating the challenges of effectively bridging two cultures. Overall, the acculturative process faced by the 1.5 generation is complex and stressful, characterized by unrelenting conflict and intricate dynamics of coping and adaptation.

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