

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS NATIONAL PROGRAM
1994 TRIBAL LAND GRANT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM



2012 E. KIKA DE LA GARZA &
TERRA PRETA DO INDIO
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS



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02

E. Kika De La Garza II



United States Representative

Eighty-ninth - One Hundred Fourth Congresses
Serving from January 3, 1965 - January 3, 1997



About

Eligio Kika de la Garza was born September 22, 1927 in Mercedes, Texas.

De La Garza attained his Doctor of Jurisprudence from St. Mary's Univeristy Law School, in San Antonio, Texas. He is a member of the Texas State Bar Association and was admitted to practice in the Federal Courts and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Kika served six consecutive terms in the Texas House of Representatives before spending thirty-two years as a leading U.S. Congressman from Texas, in addition to working twelve years in the practice of law. The first Hispanic Congressman elected from Texas' 15th District, Kika served as Chairman of the Congressional Agriculture Committee from 1981-1994. He played a large role in overhauling the agricultural lending system, implementing Federal farm crop insurance and commodity futures reform, reorganizing the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and providing numerous aid packages for American and international agriculture. Additionally during his time in Congress, Kika co-founded the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

As an expert on national and international law related to agriculture and commerce, Kika played a major role in expanding trade with Japan, the former Soviet Union, China, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and the Far East. A skilled and multilingual communicator de la Garza has developed close working relationships with top-level government officials throughout the world.

03

USDA Terra Preta do Indio Fellowship Program

The Name

Terra Preta (Dark Earth) is the name assigned to a nutrient earth developed by pre-Columbian Amazonian peoples that sustained the development of a civilization. This soil is believed to be a human construction to supplement the poor soils within the Amazon River Basin that generates new bio-matter at the rate of 1 centimeter per year. This development made intensive agriculture possible and is considered to be one of the greatest agriculture accomplishments by indigenous people in the Americas. Modern technologies derived from the studies of this soil are bio-char and carbon sequestration.

Background

The program was established in 2009 as part of the USDA/American Indian Higher Education Consortium Leadership Group's efforts to advance USDA's relationship with participating 1994 Tribal Land-Grant Institutions. The program is designed to enhance the Fellows' professional growth while fostering workforce diversity and strengthening the Nation's capacity to provide high quality education and increased opportunities for American Indians/Alaska Natives.

04

E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship Program

The USDA E. Kika de la Garza Fellowship Program offers faculty from Hispanic-Serving Institutions the opportunity to work collaboratively with USDA to gain insight and understanding of the federal government. This uniquely tailored experience brings together HSI staff and federal executives to address the spectrum of challenges faced in the development of a well prepared Hispanic workforce.

Fellows spend two to four weeks in Washington D.C. to increase their understanding of USDA and other federal agencies; particularly at the national level and to identify and explore mutual collaborative interests.

EDUCATION FELLOWS

Education Fellows experience first-hand the education policymaking process and build linkages to research and funding opportunities. In addition to meeting with USDA officials, Fellows connect with other federal agencies and organizations. Participants enrich the USDA with their diverse experiences and allow for on-going dialogue regarding the educational challenges facing the Hispanic community.



David Baggett

Modesto Junior College

David Baggett was born in Xenia and raised in Bucyrus, Ohio and worked for two years in agriculture after high school before beginning his professional preparation at Ohio State's, Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, Ohio. Graduating with an A.A.S. in Agriculture in 1975, he became employed as an arborist and was injured on the job in 1976 resulting in continuing life as a paraplegic.

As a new wheelchair user, David reviewed his career options and elected to continue his education at the University of Arizona earning a B.S. in Agriculture /Ag Ed in 1979. He then began teaching general agriculture to students in grades 7-12 and adults in rural Virginia.

Between 1987 and 1992 while employed by the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMASS-Amherst as an Assistant Director/Admissions, Baggett earned a M.Ed. Ag Ed in 1989 and an Ed.D. in Educational Policy Research and Administration in 1993 from UMASS. Later at UMASS, he served as an USDE-OSERS Project Director which led to future consultation positions as an external evaluator for several large multi-institutional grants.

Since 1994, David has been employed by Yosemite Community College District at Modesto Junior College in California teaching general agriculture and environmental sciences. At MJC, he has produced and judged commercial wines, established a 14 acre vineyard at the MJC instructional farm and served as Faculty Academic Senate President. Baggett served as Interim Dean of Instruction, Arts and Sciences and Athletic Director at Columbia College in 2004-05.

David's personal interests include gardening, performing music and building acoustic guitars.



James E. Becerra

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

James E. Becerra is faculty in the Department of Landscape Architecture, College of Environmental Design, Cal Poly Pomona, CA. He has a BSLA and completion of a MS in Education is anticipated June 2012. He has worked in private practice with an emphasis on Park and Recreation Master Planning.

Mr. Becerra teaches primarily in the undergraduate program with an emphasis on Design Foundation and Theory in lower division course work. He also teaches Urban Design and Theory design studios in upper division course work, including the multi-disciplinary, capstone architecture/landscape architecture studio. Additionally, Mr. Becerra teaches in the fourth year design sequence at the Santa Chiara Center, Castiglion Fiorentino, Italy.

Mr. Becerra has a strong interest in the nexus between current federal policies and their influence on future urban conditions and design principles.



Greta Clark

Dodge City Community College

Greta M. Clark is leading an expedition into new frontiers of personal growth and development and she would invite you to come along. Born and reared in the “Cowboy Capital of the World,” Dodge City, Kansas, she champions the rugged self-reliance and individualism that symbolizes the Old West, and utilizes solid Midwestern principles that emphasize traditional ethics and family values as her guideposts.

She works with diverse audiences and business cultures; challenging, coaching, facilitating, motivating and leading by example. Beyond straight-forward training in particular skills, she highly recommends that we “paint a broader picture” of who we can be and what we can contribute. Currently, Greta is the Professor and Director of the Dodge City Community College English as a Second Language program initiating constant exploration of personal possibilities.

Greta has traveled throughout the U.S., Mexico, Europe and North Africa, studying the cultures and learning from the best professionals in her field. Her message stresses uncompromising ethics, systematic acquisition of knowledge, and enthusiasm for commitment. Her focus is on developing the academic, social and professional skills that maximize productive interaction in the community. In her own words:

“The key to life and work in the 21st century will be constant, conscious adaptation to change. There will be opportunities far beyond our wildest dreams as what seemed impossible becomes the norm. Those who avidly seek out and seize novel possibilities in those seas of change will thrive.”



John S. Crockett

San Diego State University

Dr. Crockett discharges multiple assignments on behalf of the San Diego State University Research Foundation, all of which center around the RF’s mission to promote university research and education. Dr. Crockett works to identify and develop new research opportunities for SDSU faculty. Through regular collaboration with state and federal agencies and elected officials, Dr. Crockett identifies ways in which SDSU can help fulfill priority missions on the state and national scale. In addition, Dr. Crockett assists early-stage energy technology companies in navigating the commercialization pathway through the Energy Innovations Small Grant program and is the Program Director of SDSU’s Jobs and Innovation Accelerator that supports clean energy training and technology demonstration in the Imperial Valley.

Dr. Crockett maintains an active role in education and research and is co-author on over 20 professional publications. Dr. Crockett is an Adjunct faculty member in Geology and works with the National Science Foundation-funded program Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in Geosciences, and is faculty advisor for Management 729, a course directly concerned with understanding the challenges involved in assessing the commercialization potential of new technologies.

Dr. Crockett received a Bachelor of Arts in Earth and Environmental Science from Wesleyan University, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Marine Geology from the University of Washington. He lives in San Diego with his wife and two children.



Rebecca Curry

Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center

Rebecca Currey has been teaching for 15 years at the High School and College level. Rebecca has experience teaching AP and IB Biology, Chemistry, and Anatomy and Physiology. She currently teaches at AAEC, Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center. At AAEC, Rebecca teaches Biology, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Study Skills, Communications and Biotechnology. The High School is located on the college campus, where students earn High School credit and college credit. AAEC offers an Equine and Agribusiness programs, introductory veterinary classes and a state winning environmental club.

Rebecca graduated from University of North Texas with an undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences and a Graduate degree in Education and Health Promotion. In college, she worked for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in the McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development on the Human Genome Project.

Rebecca has been an active participant in Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training, where she have been a participant, mentor and captain of the triathlon team, marathon team and century team. Rebecca recently finished her first half Ironman 70.3 in April down in Galveston, Texas! Her two dogs – Iris and Sasha (Great Dane and Pyrenees) love to run and hike with her.



José Flores

Eastfield College

José Flores is a Biology professor and the General Biology Faculty Coordinator at Eastfield College in Mesquite, Texas. José was born and raised in Puerto Rico, where he completed his bachelor's degree in animal science at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus. He went on to get his master's degree in zoology at Michigan State University.

José was exposed to teaching during the second year of his master's degree, and the experience defined his career goals. After he completed his graduate degree, he worked as an adjunct professor at Lansing Community College, and taught Animal Science at the Vetward Bound program at Michigan State. José started working full time at Eastfield College in 2007. During his second year at this institution he became Lead Faculty for the Biology for Non-Science Majors program, founded the Environmental Awareness Club, and became coordinator of the Science Corner, our science tutoring center, a position which he held for two years. In 2009, José took on the position of General Biology Faculty Coordinator overseeing the majors and non-majors Biology programs, and the Environmental Biology class. José strongly believes in community work and in learning outside of the classroom. For the last four years he has volunteered with his students at the biannual Keep Mesquite Beautiful Trash Bash, and Mesquite Recycles Day. He also has taken his students on field trips to locations of local environmental importance.

In 2009, José received the Eastfield College Excellence in Teaching Award, and the following year he was sent to the NISOD International Conference in Austin, where he received an Excellence in Teaching medallion. As a professor and coordinator José seeks creative and effective ways to improve student retention and engagement.



Jose Garcia

Dominican University River Forest

Jose' Garcia is the Assistant Director of Career Development at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois. As assistant director, Jose' coordinates the University's undergraduate internship program, facilitates panels and alumni forums that encourage students to engage with professionals working in their fields of interest, and meets individually with students to provide guidance about exploring and preparing for careers or graduate study. He also supports students' efforts to develop their professional communication and presentation skills through resume and cover letter reviews and interview preparation sessions.

Jose' is the Technology Chair for the Illinois Small College Placement Association, serves as staff advisor for the Common Ground student organization, and recently completed work with the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation's 2011-2012 Community Leadership Program. He is also an active member of both the Midwest and National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Jose' has his Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Earth Science Secondary Education from Western Michigan University. He also has a Master of Arts in Education with a School Guidance Counseling emphasis from Northern Michigan University. His previous higher education work includes eleven years of experience in Residence Life, New Student Orientation Programs, and Undergraduate Admissions.

As a Kika De La Garza Fellow, Jose' seeks to learn from the stories and experiences of his other fellows, investigate opportunities to build rich experiential learning programs with the USDA, and explore new ways to encourage Latino/a students at Dominican University to pursue their goals and be positive, confident contributors in their respective communities.



Jozka Vilek Garcia

Waseca High School

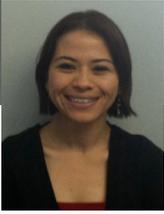
A former migrant worker himself from South Texas to Minnesota, originally from Northeast Mexico, Mr Garcia has come long ways by overcoming cultural, and language barriers. Mr Garcia got his GED once in MN and attended Minnesota School of Business and became a US citizen in June of 2011. Since 2009 Mr Garcia works as a Cultural Liaison for the Waseca School District. Mr Garcia is greatly relied upon for his strong work ethic, bilingual communication skills, and enthusiasm for the people he serves. As a Liaison and Bilingual Paraprofessional he has shown a high level of commitment to the students here at Waseca High School, and has helped them a great deal with their learning as well as doing a lot to facilitate a better school-home communication.

Through his bilingual command of Spanish and English, Mr Garcia provides the necessary link between Latino families and the Waseca School District Staff. As an Interpreter, he communicates clearly and respectfully. Through familiarity with the cultural values of the population served he has utilized this knowledge to offer insightful and pertinent information to Staff members, which otherwise may be overlooked.

Mr Garcia has also served as a resource to school staff in reaching out Hispanic/Latino families and encouraging them to take a more active role in our community.

Mr Garcia is also appreciated by the role model he is to our students of a Latino man who is committed to education, morality, family, and a strong work ethic.

Last year Mr Garcia was recognized by the Waseca Education Association as a Support Staff of the Year in recognition for his dedicated service to the Waseca Public Schools. His determination, excellent communication skills, and compassion are evident to everyone who is fortunate to work with him.



Consuelo Gonzalez

Bakersfield College

Consuelo Gonzalez (Connie) was born in Bakersfield, California and was taken to Guadalajara, Mexico at the age of two where she was raised for eight years. Connie was then brought back to the United States at the age of 10 where she began school in Kern County. She attended Arvin high School in Kern County and graduated in 1997. She then continued her education by attending California State University Bakersfield (CSUB) where she studied Pre-Engineering. Connie's family was so happy that she was the first person in their family to attend college.

After attending CSUB for 3 years, Connie transferred to San Jose State University in 2000 where she continued to study Engineering. In 2003, she graduated from San Jose State with a Bachelors of Science degree in Chemical Engineering with a concentration in Environmental Science.

Following graduation Connie worked for Chevron as a Contract Engineer for a year and a half. In 2005 she redirected her career to the Education sector at Bakersfield College where she is currently still employed.

Connie is Director/Grant writer for the MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement) Program where she assists and encourages educationally and economically disadvantaged students to follow through with their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) professional career goals.



Ismael Diaz Herrera

California State University, Fresno

Ismael is the Director of the San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center (SJVRC) located within the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) at California State University, Fresno (Fresno State). The SJVRC connects rural communities to a wide range of indispensable services, resources, expertise and trainings to ensure their needs are met efficiently, effectively, and affordably. It responds to the needs of rural communities by leveraging the assets of university and regional partners.

Ismael also contributes to the development of university-led community and economic development activities as a member of the OCED team. He specifically assists with grant writing efforts that align Fresno State's assets to regional initiatives aimed at improving the competitiveness and prosperity of California's San Joaquin Valley.

Ismael serves on the Mendota Unified School District, Board of Trustees and is Chairman of the Board of Directors for Young Emerging Latino Leaders of the San Joaquin Valley; a non-profit organization dedicated to developing young Latino professionals into regional civic leaders. Ismael received Bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Chicano/Latino Studies from the University of California, Irvine and a Master's degree in Education Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Ismael resides in Mendota, CA.



Leticia López

San Diego Mesa College

Leticia P. López, Ph.D. coordinates the Honors Program at San Diego Mesa College and is a professor of Spanish of Cuban-American heritage. She holds bachelor's degrees in biology and Spanish from Mount St. Mary's College, and a master's degree and doctorate in Hispanic languages and literatures from UC Santa Barbara. A lifelong learner, Dr. López believes in education as a vehicle for prosperity. Having lived in France, Germany, Spain, and Costa Rica, she speaks four languages, and seeks new opportunities to learn about other cultures.

Dr. López has been teaching at Mesa College since 2002. She created new courses, such as Spanish for Heritage Speakers, and an honors film course in Spanish. In addition to lower-division Spanish courses, she has taught ESL through Santa Barbara City College Continuing Education, and courses in Hispanic cinema, Golden Age Spanish literature, and survey of Latin American literature at San Diego State University and UC Santa Barbara.

In addition to her successful teaching experience, Dr. López has been extensively involved in promoting international education. Since 1997, she has coordinated and supervised study abroad programs in Madrid, Costa Rica, and Donostia-San Sebastián. Currently, as the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) International Education Coordinator, Dr. López serves as the Gilman and Boren campus representative; markets study abroad programs; writes grants; assists faculty at the three SDCCD campuses (City, Mesa, and Miramar) with their diversity programming and funding support; and chairs the Mesa Global Awareness Committee that assists faculty with globalizing the curriculum.



María E. Luna-Duarte

Northeastern Illinois University-El Centro Campus

María E. Luna-Duarte is Interim Director at Northeastern Illinois University-El Centro Campus. She has ample experience coordinating programs that serve the Latino community. As the Interim Director of NEIU-El Centro Campus, Ms. Luna-Duarte has been a key stakeholder in the development and implementation of NEIU-El Centro Campus programs and services. She has worked as the Community Liaison for the Chicago ENLACE (Engaging Latino Communities for Education) partnership program at NEIU, where she assisted with projects concerning the retention of Latinos in higher education.

Ms. Luna-Duarte is bilingual (Spanish/English), and possesses an in-depth understanding of, and experience with the educational, economic, and cultural needs of Latino students.

Ms. Luna-Duarte received a B.A. in Sociology and an M.A. in Higher Education and Leadership from Northeastern Illinois University. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Policy Studies in Urban Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Jonathan Macias

University of Texas at El Paso

Jonathan Macias currently serves as a contracts and grants specialist in the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects at the University of Texas at El Paso. In that position, he formulates budgets for proposed grant-related activities and expenditures, assists faculty with grant submissions, performs mid- and post-award close out, and conducts award analysis and account set-up.

He began his career in grant administration in 2003 in the School of Nursing at UTEP.

In 2009, he was selected for the Hispanic Association of College and Universities' Capacity Building Fellowship. He volunteers his grant writing experience with the Texas Pain Advocacy and Information Network (an initiative of the American Cancer Society- High Plains Division).

In addition to championing Hispanic Serving Institutions, Mr. Macias holds three degrees from them: He earned his Associate of Arts degree at El Paso Community College, his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at UTEP, and his Master's Degree in Higher Education Administration and Leadership from Adams State University.

In 2011, Mr. Macias was nominated and elected by his colleagues to serve as the chairman of the UTEP Staff Council. Established in 1994, the council represents the interest and concerns of the more than 2,000 staff members. He was also selected to serve on the Texas Leadership Alliance, which seeks to remedy disparities in higher education in the state.



Richard Patton

Miami Dade College - North Campus

Tim Patton is currently on the faculty of Miami Dade College-North, and teaches Essentials of Human Nutrition. He has over 30 years of academic experience as a classroom instructor and in administration as a director of public health graduate programs. Professor Patton has had a long and enjoyable background in providing service to the South Florida community, in the professions of both nutrition, and public health. Tim has worked with the Migrant Medical Program, multiple county Health Departments and the Seminole Tribe of Florida (before they owned the Hard Rock cafes and casinos). He has provided services while in private practice as a nutritionist to America's wealthiest and most famous. And in addition to traveling the country conducting a one day "An Inspirational and Information Nutrition and Weight Management Seminar" continuing educational program, he has been an invited presenter at hundreds of professional meetings around the nation. He has degrees in public health nutrition from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and human nutrition from the University of Florida. He also holds credentials as a Certified Health Education Specialist and as a Registered Dietitian/Licensed Nutritionist in the state of Florida.



Louie Rodriguez

California State University, San Bernardino

Dr. Louie F. Rodríguez is currently an assistant professor in Educational Leadership and Curriculum at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB). He attended San Bernardino Valley College and CSUSB where he majored in psychology and became a McNair Scholar. After serving as a middle-school counselor/intervention specialist and later as a high school math teacher, Dr. Rodríguez completed two master's degrees and a doctorate in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University. His dissertation focused on issues of educational equity studying the experiences of Latina/o and Black high school students in the context of high-stakes testing, zero-tolerance policies, and school restructuring.

Prior to his position at CSUSB, Dr. Rodríguez was on the faculty for three years at Florida International University in Miami where he served as the principal investigator of a school-based research project aimed at understanding student engagement issues in the context of poverty, high dropout rates, and a complex policy environment. From his research, Dr. Rodríguez published the book *Small Schools and Urban Youth* (2007) and peer-reviewed articles in several prestigious journals

His current work focuses on issues of equity and access, specifically on the dropout crisis facing the Latino community. At CSUSB, Dr. Rodríguez is the principal investigator of the PRAXIS Project, Participatory Research Advocating for Excellence in Schools, which studies and advocates for educational excellence by directly engaging youth, educators, and community-stakeholders in the process of empirical research to positively impact educational policy and practice at the local and regional levels. He recently published *A 10-Point Plan to Respond to the Dropout Crisis*.

In 2012, he was selected as a Fellow for the Executive Leadership Academy at UC Berkeley. In 2011 he received a Person of Distinction award by San Bernardino Valley College and was a Faculty Fellow for the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education. In 2010, he was the recipient of the 30 Under 35 Award for Latinas/os and Native Americans for his service to the community by California State Assembly Member Wilmer Amina Carter and received special recognition from Assembly Member Manuel Perez for this service to the 62nd assembly district in California. Dr. Rodríguez is currently working with the National Latino Education Research and Policy Project (NLERAP) at the regional and national levels, serves on the advisory board for the California Council on Economic Education, and is a board member for the Hispanic Alumni Board at CSUSB. He is a frequently invited speaker to address school dropout and educational equity issues for schools, districts, and communities.



Jorge Talamantes

California State University, Bakersfield

An immigrant from Tijuana, Mexico, Jorge Talamantes came to the US after High School and attended a California Community College, where he learned to communicate in English. He then obtained a B.S. in Physics from the University of California, San Diego, and a Ph. D. in Physics from the University of California, Riverside. He then worked in the defense industry in Southern California before realizing that he could have a more rewarding career in education. He accepted an offer as an Assistant Professor of Physics at California State University, Bakersfield in September 1990 where he was awarded early tenure and promotion to Professor, served as Chair of the Department of Physics and Geology from 2000 to 2003, and was again elected Department Chair upon the formation of the Department of Physics and Engineering in Spring 2011. In 2011 CSUB was awarded a Department of Education HSI grant to establish an engineering program leading to the B.S. Degree in Engineering Sciences, on which Talamantes serves as Project Director. CSUB has an Engineering Management Emphasis degree in place, and will add Agricultural Engineering, Environmental Engineering, and Petroleum Engineering concentrations in the near future. His duties as a physics instructor have included teaching almost everything imaginable from lower and upper division Physics and Engineering courses, to service courses such as Astronomy, Weather and Climate, Physics for K-12 teachers, etc. Similarly, his research experience is broad, from designing and performing computer simulations of nuclear war between the US and the USSR, radar studies, investigations of electronic transport properties in disordered materials, environmental problems such solar energy absorption by cloud droplets, and outbreaks of coccidioidomycosis (an airborne fungal disease) in Kern County, California. He was honored to receive the CSUB Faculty Research Award in 2000.

He often shares engineering opportunities at CSUB with students, faculty and industry members and gives presentations to faculty, students, and parents at high schools and community colleges about CSUB programs. Through this access to a very important segment of the community, he uses his position to inform stakeholders of opportunities, from programs at CSUB to graduate programs, scholarships, internships, and grants.



Oscar Villarreal

West Hills College

Oscar Villarreal is an Outreach Specialist for the Upward Bound Math and Science Program at West Hills College Lemoore, a Hispanic Serving Institution, located in Central California. His experience is in motivating and empowering underserved students to pursue higher education. As a native of South Texas, Oscar and his family moved to California in 2000. He is a graduate of Fresno Pacific University and is pursuing a Master's Degree program in Administration and Leadership. Beginning in the fall of 2012, he will be participating in the Educational Leadership and Administration Program at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Oscar's 15 years of experience includes youth development, project organization, student advising, educational outreach, youth leadership, supervision, grant writing and community development.

Oscar looks forward to sharing his fellowship experience as an E. Kika de la Garza fellow with his students and residents in his community that will benefit from the resources and training provided by the USDA. His goal is to develop a stronger relationship between USDA and West Hills College Lemoore. This experience will help expand his knowledge which will ultimately benefit college faculty, administrators and students, along with business and community leaders throughout Central California. His motivation is to promote USDA opportunities, for the purpose of bringing opportunities and additional resources to the rural residents of California.



Karen Wallace

California State University, Monterey Bay

Karen Wallace is the Academic Advisor for Science and Environmental Policy at California State University Monterey Bay where more than 800 undergraduate students have declared a science degree as their major. Approximately 30% of the student population is Hispanic. Karen recommends appropriate placement in courses based on career interests, program requirements, and previous coursework in the major. She works closely with faculty and other departments to mentor students and encourages them to seek research and part-time employment opportunities in science-related areas. In her capacity as Division liaison, Karen also connects SEP to other campus departments – Admissions, Records, Registrar, Undergraduate Advising Center, Center for Student Success, Early Opportunity Services (EOP), Trio, Student Support Services, (SSS), and the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP).

In addition, Karen serves as Graduate Secretary for the Coastal and Watershed Science and Policy Master's degree.

She is currently a graduate student in the Academic Advising MS program at Kansas State University and active member of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). Prior to her move to Monterey, she taught Business Communication and worked as assistant to the Dean of the Academic Division at Colorado Mountain College, Steamboat Springs, Colorado. She quilts, weaves rugs and blankets, gardens, writes, and hikes as often as possible.

Karen looks forward to learning more about the opportunities available for STEM students in the USDA, building collaborative relationships with other attendees, and connecting students who show exceptional promise to departments, institutions, and agencies seeking specific skill sets and areas of interest.



Gloria White

St. Edwards University

Dr. Gloria A. White is Director of Sponsored Programs and Mathematics Instructor at St. Edward's University in Austin, TX where she has served since 2009. She previously held academic appointments at the University of Texas, Texas A&M University, Austin Community College, Oberlin College, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. At St. Edward's University, she has helped the institution secure over \$7.0 million in federal grants. Her goals include obtaining additional funding to support faculty research and students' participation and success in college. Currently, Gloria serves as the Project Co-Director for the Café Con Leche Project on her campus, a USDA-funded project to increase Hispanic college-going rates and transfer rates from 2-year to 4-year institutions. The Café Con Leche Project is a joint project of Houston Community College, El Centro College, Del Mar College, and Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi.

She is also the Project Co-Director for the university's Work-Study Student Mentorship Program, a project funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to increase college-going rates of high school students by having college students serve as mentors to 9th-12th graders. She is passionate about the importance of post-secondary education for all students and the importance STEM courses for all students, especially low-income and first-generation students. Dr. White earned a bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Abilene Christian University, a master's degree in Statistics from Southern Connecticut State University, and completed her doctoral work in Higher Education Administration at the University of Akron.

SCIENCE FELLOWS

Science Fellows collaborate with leading scientists from USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) - one of the world's premier scientific organizations. Participants learn about state-of-the-art agricultural research that solves problems affecting Hispanic Americans and the rest of our nation on a daily basis.

Fellows share their expertise with students at their respective HSIs, motivating Hispanic students to pursue careers in agriculture, science, research, and technology.



Ivan Castro-Arellano

Texas State University - San Marcos

Dr. Castro-Arellano is an assistant professor in the Biology Department at Texas State University – San Marcos. Dr. Castro-Arellano was born and raised in Mexico. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Biology at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (1997). He continued his studies at Texas A&M University where he received his M.S. (2000) and Ph.D. (2005) In Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. He received a Fulbright-CONACyT Garcia Robles Fellowship to support graduate studies. He continued his training as a Postdoctoral Fellow under Dr. Michael Willig at the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering (CESE) from the University of Connecticut studying various aspects of animal ecology.

He arrived to Texas State University-San Marcos in 2011, where he teaches Wildlife Management at the undergraduate level as well as graduate level courses related to ecology and disease in wildlife. His current research interests are focused in two related areas: one is about the determinants of animal species assemblage patterns from local to global scales and the other is how these patterns and processes affect the emergence of zoonotic diseases. For his research he uses a combination of fieldwork data gathering together with analytical and modeling tools to address these questions. Dr. Castro-Arellano believes collaborative research is of essential value given the multidisciplinary nature of his research. His main interest in the Kika de la Garza Fellowship Program is to develop close collaborations with USDA labs with shared research interests. This collaboration can extend opportunities to students as they are exposed to other research-intensive centers or institutions.



Kirsten W. Corda

University of Texas at San Antonio

Kirsten W. Corda, PhD, is a Community Nutritionist who started her career as an Expanded Food and Nutrition Program paraprofessional educator for the North Carolina State Cooperative Extension Service. She holds a bachelors of nutrition from Texas A&M University (1988) and masters of Adult and Higher Education from the University of Texas at San Antonio (2006). In May 2012, she received her doctorate in nutritional sciences from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Her dissertation research was a National Research Initiative to design, implement and evaluate a physical activity intervention which is receiving national recognition as a means of improving the health of limited-resource diverse adults. The project has received one student research award and is being institutionalized by federally funded nutrition education programs. Currently, Dr. Corda is co-investigator and project manager of a Hispanic Serving Institution educational strengthening grant, which identifies students who are interested in nutrition and helps them achieve careers as dietitians and nutrition professionals. She is also a research assistant for a multi-state USDA food safety grant, adjunct faculty at the University of Texas at San Antonio teaching introductory nutrition, and an active member of several local and national organizations. Dr. Corda uses her research, teaching and service to engage Hispanic college students in the promotion of health and nutrition in their community.



Monica Palomo

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Dr. Mónica Palomo, is an assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Mónica was born in Guanajuato, México. She obtained her degree in Civil Engineering from La Universidad de Guanajuato in 1999. In 2000 she worked for the Guanajuato's Water State Commission as part of the sanitation department in Guanajuato México. Dr. Palomo obtained her MS and PhD in civil engineering with emphasis in environmental engineering from Kansas State University. Her expertise is in water and wastewater quality and treatment. In 2004, as part of the work at Kansas State, Palomo collaborated with Black and Veatch to study wastewater ballasted flocculation and surfactant effects in surface waters. During summer of 2008, Palomo evaluated nutrients from a Golf course and investigated the occurrence of lead, zinc and cadmium in soil.

Dr. Palomo joined Cal Poly-Pomona's Civil Engineering Department in the fall of 2008. In 2010 she spent the summer as a visiting scholar at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA). IEUA is a leading agency on innovative and sustainable engineering practices in California.

Dr. Palomo is active member of local community efforts that promote water sustainability.

Since her arrival to Cal Poly, she has been dedicated to the development of projects that provide research and travel opportunities for undergraduate engineering students. As academic advisor for the Society of Hispanics in Science and Engineering, the California Water Environment Association and Engineers without Borders student chapters, Dr. Palomo has promoted academic excellence, service to community, professional development and lifelong learning through higher education. Student projects developed with undergraduate students have highlighted the importance of water management and environmental issues as well as, outreach and service to the community.



Bert Rivera-Merchand

Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Bayamón Campus

Bert joined the faculty at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Bayamón Campus in 2006. He began his career teaching undergraduate courses and performing research while carrying out administrative duties including directing the Biological Field Station and the Environmental Sciences Office. With two other colleagues, he created the Biology Graduate Program and in 2009 was named Associate Dean of Studies. He returned to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in 2010. During this period he was named Biology Undergraduate and Graduate Program Coordinator. Presently he serves as the AMP liaison (an NSF sponsored program) and directs a federally funded project that offers workshops to science and math school teachers.

His research experience began as an undergraduate studying bat ecology. For his MS he studied the pollination ecology of a columnar cactus while working on a study of flea beetles. During this period he volunteered in a center for the rehabilitation marine mammals. His doctorate dissertation focused on Africanized honeybees in Puerto Rico where he found that they have reduced defensive behavior while retaining their small size and resistance to mites.

His current research focuses on the little fire ant. With five graduate and seven undergraduate students he studies division of labor, behavioral flexibility of workers and queens, defense, hormonal regulation of behaviors, gene expression and behavior, circadian rhythms, and population genetics of this invasive ant.

An important aspect of his career is outreach. He frequently gives talks and workshops in local schools on diverse science subjects and to all grades.



Pablo R. Sacasa

Miami Dade College - North Campus

Pablo Sacasa received a B.A. in Chemistry in 1997 from Florida International University and later completed his Masters in Chemistry in 2003 under the direction of Dr. Stanislaw F. Wnuk. His research was focused on synthetic medicinal chemistry. He designed and synthesized analogs of S-adenosyl-L-homocysteine with 5', 6'-double bond (or halovinyl) moieties incorporated in place of the sulfur atom employing different cross-coupling approaches. The purpose was to test if these analogs could serve as substrates for the oxidative activity forming a new species containing a hydroxyl or keto binding site within the enzyme.

Pablo Sacasa later became an adjunct faculty at Miami Dade College and after much thought and tribulation he placed his career on hold and went on to receive a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at Florida International University in 2010 under the supervision of Dr. Stanislaw F. Wnuk. Sacasa developed radical-mediated gemyldesulfonylation reaction utilizing less toxic germane hydrides to produce gemyldesulfonylation reactions to remove toxicity of tin reagents. Dr. Sacasa also developed a radical mediated thiodesulfonylation reaction of the (α -fluoro)vinyl sulfones with arylthiols in organic or aqueous medium to provide a bench and environmentally friendly way to access (α -fluoro)vinyl sulfides. Dr. published one book chapter and eight peer-reviewed publications from his graduate work at FIU in such respectable journals as J. Med. Chem., Tetrahedron Lett., and Bioorg. Med. Chem.

In 2011, Dr. Sacasa became the Chairperson in the Department of Chemistry/Physics/Earth Sciences at Miami Dade College-North Campus. As Chairperson, he oversees eleven full time faculty and adjuncts. In addition, he oversees a major STEM grant. Sacasa aspires to continue to grow within Miami Dade College to better serve his students and his community.



David Sotomayor-Ramirez

University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez Campus

David Sotomayor-Ramirez earned his Ph.D degree in Agronomy from Kansas State University, Manhattan in 1996, and served as a Postdoc at USDA-ARS-Gainesville FL from 1996 to 1997. Since, 1997 he has been Professor of Soil Science at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez and has regularly taught three courses in soil science: Soil Fertility at the undergraduate and graduate levels and Introductory Soils. He has supervised undergraduate and graduate students in research programs at the University. He is an active participant in national and international conferences and congresses. He has served as ad hoc reviewer and Associate Editor for several scientific journals. As professor at the University of Puerto Rico, he has collaborated with and hosted scientists from United States and other countries. His research has covered a wide variety of topics including: trace gas exchange, soil microbial ecology, soil fertility and nutrient availability, carbon and nitrogen transformation in soils, nutrient transport in runoff from agricultural soils, nutrient transport in watersheds, and the impact of agricultural activities in lake and river water quality. He has published forty-five peer-reviewed scientific publications and over 150 published abstracts, non-peer reviewed publications and/or professional presentations in scientific meetings. He has been successful in securing competitive extramural funding and in collaboration with other scientists at the University of Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

EXECUTIVE FELLOWS

Executive fellows represent the senior leadership at HSIs and take part in a dynamic and tailored experience designed to provide connections and knowledge useful to the operation of their institutions.



Alfred Konuwa

Woodland Community College

He began his professional career as an economist in Liberia, West Africa shortly after returning from the United States with master's degrees in economics and public administration. He worked as a senior administrator implementing plans for civil service and budget reform in the country, and served as the Deputy Director-General of the Civil Service Agency. Later in the 80's, he migrated to the United States and completed post graduate studies in economics at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and later completed doctoral studies in public policy and administration at the University of Southern California.

Education, student learning and success have always pervaded his professional career. While working as a government official in Liberia, he taught economics as an adjunct professor at the University of Liberia. In the United States, he taught economics at the California State University in Chico and also at Butte College in Oroville, California. At Butte College, he also served in several academic administrative positions, including chair of the Business Department, Dean of Instructional Services and Dean of Business and Social Science. In 2008, he accepted his current position as Vice President of Academic and Student Services at Woodland Community College in Woodland, California, a Hispanic Serving Institution.

Throughout his professional career, he has endeavored to plan and implement strategies that foster student learning and success. His participation in the E (Kika) de la Garza Fellowship is a testament to this interest.



Martin Valadez

Columbia Basin College

Martin Valadez is currently Vice President for Diversity & Outreach at Columbia Basin College. Some of his responsibilities as Vice President include outreach and recruitment efforts, overseeing a number of programs that serve first generation, low-income, disable, migrant and/or traditionally underrepresented students, and diversity programming. Martin has been studying the economy, politics and history of Latin Americas as well as immigration and Latinos in the United States for over 20 years and currently teaches a course called "Survey of Hispanic Culture." Prior to arriving in the Tri-Cities in 2006 Martin taught history and Chicano/Latino and Ethic Studies at various colleges and universities including the National Hispanic University, Scripps College, San Francisco State University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Laney College and CSU Los Angeles.

Martin is a member of the Columbia Center Rotary and serves number of local and state-wide boards such as the TC Visitor & Convention Bureau, United Way, the CREHST Museum, the Latino/a Education Project (LEAP), the Association of Washington State Hispanic Chambers and the Washington State STEM Foundation and the Tri-Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, where he has been president since 2010. Martin earned his B.A. in Economics from UCLA and a Masters degree from Stanford University, where he is currently completing his Ph.D.

USDA TERRA PRETA FELLOWS

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Terra Preta Fellows Program offers faculty and staff from 1994 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) the opportunity to work collaboratively with USDA to gain insight and understanding of the Federal Government. This uniquely tailored experience brings together 1994 TCU staff and Federal executives to address the spectrum of challenges faced in the development of a well-prepared American Indian/Alaska Native workforce. Fellows spend 2-3 weeks in Washington, D.C., or in a USDA field office, to increase their understanding of USDA and other Federal agencies, particularly at the national level, and be able to identify mutual collaborative interests.



Todd J. Brier

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College

Todd J. Brier is an 18 ½ year veteran of the U.S. military serving in the Navy, Army and Air Force. He is a father of six and Grandfather of Three. After serving he work few jobs but was not happy with work he was doing. After losing a deli because of new owner of the building he was renting, he decided to go back to school. Even after being in college off and on for ten years or so, he never did finish with a degree until he went back to school at Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College. After three years at the college he finished with associates degrees in Native American Studies /with Ojibwe Language and Agriculture/Natural Resources with a emphasis in Land Management.

Two months before the 2011 December graduation Todd was hired at LCO as the Sustainable Agriculture Research Manager, here he supervises the daily operations of the college farms with it's many programs going on there. The farm is the host of community gardens for the local population where there is no charge. The farm is also involved with a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) where those wishing to join may for the cost of 200 dollars a share of produce for 10 -12 weeks in the summer. He the members can work the shares off at a rate of ten dollars a hours, getting refunded at the end of the season.

The farm is also the location of studies for students as well as staff in many of the SMAT classes/degrees. They include Chemistry, Biology, Sociology, and Natural Resources. Some of the studies Todd is conducting at this time are a Three Sisters Comparative, A Wild Blueberry Reintroduction Study, Bio-Char Soil Enrichment Study, and a Organic Potato Climate Zone Study.

While doing this, working full time he is enrolled at the University of Wisconsin Superior working on an Inter-division Degree in which he will finish in the fall of 2012. After completing this he is planning to achieve a Master Degree in Ethno History with a Native American food system concentration. With this Masters he wants to use the knowledge to increase production to feed Native Communities.



Mick Gillespie

Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College

Mick Gillespie has been working at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (FDLTCC) since 2000. FDLTCC is located in northern Minnesota at the western tip of Lake Superior. Mr Gillespie received his bachelors degree in Chemistry and a masters degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. He has experience in laboratory based research. Some topics he studied include; ion transport across the mammalian intestinal wall, effects of birch bark derivatives on viral infection rates, cell cycle analysis of immune system activation and bacteria associated with wild rice nutrient cycling. As a biology instructor at FDLTCC he teaches General Biology I, Microbiology and Cellular Biology. He is also works with two projects at the University of Minnesota Duluth. One project is the Bridges to Baccalaureate program funded by NIGMS. The objective of the program is to increase the number of minority students in biomedical careers. At FDLTCC students are recruited for acceptance to the program. After a summer training session at the University of Minnesota, students return FDLTCC to continue course work and working with faculty on a science project. The other project is the Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award, also funded by NIGMS. The objective of this program is to help post doctoral fellows increase teaching skills. At FDLTCC fellows develop and teach a science course that is part of the FDLTCC long range strategic plan. FDLTCC faculty mentor the fellows. At the present time three students and Mick are studying a bacterium that may be involved in nutrient cycling of wild rice. Students design experiments, collect data and form conclusions with Mick as a mentor. Future plans are to definitively identify the bacterium and study the enzyme activity of the bacterium.



Birgit Graf

Little Big Horn College

Birgit Graf is the USDA Equity Grant Program Director at Little Big Horn College (LBHC) in Crow Agency, Montana. The long range goals of the Equity Program are to create diverse economic opportunities in sustainable agriculture and to improve the access to healthy foods in Apsáalooke (Crow) Country. LBHC offers two degree options in agriculture: Rangeland Ecology & Management and Livestock Management & Industries. Student graduates are able to transfer to a four-year institution or to pursue careers in agriculture-related agencies and industries. Birgit is responsible for promoting and coordinating the relatively new degree program, and further developing the curriculum & coursework. Her intent is to implement a well rounded, culturally and socially appropriate program, which incorporates traditional Apsáalooke scholarship while also addressing relevant Crow specific land tenure issues. Currently, she is collaborating with the Native American Liaison at Montana State University Bozeman on developing a course in Crow Land Literacy. Birgit also oversees the teaching greenhouse/garden project, which has been established on campus. The goal of the project is three-fold: 1) to provide students with experiential learning opportunities in community outreach and involvement 2) to encourage local food production 3) to revitalize the knowledge about traditional foods and their health benefits. With the support of Equity funds, LBHC was able to hire on a seasonal basis a part time greenhouse manager, who is effectively expanding the outreach component. Birgit and the greenhouse manager are currently seeking additional funding sources in order to ensure the continuity and successful expansion of the project. Birgit works closely with LBHC faculty and other grant programs on agriculture and nutrition related topics, and continuously expands working relationships within the wider community. Responding to community input, she focuses increasingly on objectives of sustainable, possibly organic range livestock production, direct producer/consumer marketing opportunities, food security, farm/ranch to school/college food programs and related topics. In collaboration with faculty and vested community members, she is in the process of developing an equine program that meets the needs of the community. Birgit received a Master's degree in General Education Science, Adult and Continuing Education, and Environmental Education from Hamburg University, Germany. She worked in the educational field as an instructor, advisor, coordinator, and educational supervisor for over 15 years, before joining Little Big Horn College in 2008.



Jacquelyn A. Gutierrez

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American Indian Arts Institute

Jacquelyn A. Gutierrez is from the Pueblo of Santa Clara in New Mexico. She comes from a family who has been involved in Native Traditional Dry Farming and has kept and maintained the methods from one generation to the next.

She comes to the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA)- Center for Lifelong Learning (CLE) from having recently worked for the a Native American consortia in New Mexico where she provided technical assistance to improve environmental program capacity and provided resources for the 22 Pueblos/Tribes in New Mexico as well as Ysleta del Sur in Texas

She had also assisted with educational outreach to the communities, and has planned and coordinated a 5 day technical and cultural summer camp which would allow the students hands-on training in the areas of water, air, soils/sustainable agriculture, ecology, forest restoration, benthic macro-invertebrate surveys, and Emergency Response. She has also been responsible for researching grants, instructors, recruitment and logistical planning.

Ms. Gutierrez has also worked with the Indigenous Communities Mapping Initiative with Santa Clara Pueblo and was responsible for the cultural environmental impacts of the Pueblo's past, present, and future operations through a cultural database. And she also monitored plan compliance with knowledgeable strategies for tribal cultural and historic preservation laws, section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Executive order on Protection of Sacred Sites, and Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

She comes to IAIA with 15 years of environmental experience and will continue to work with communities to provide outreach in various agriculture and environmental projects.

FELLOWS ADVISORS

Fellows' Advisors provide guidance, support and advice for making the most out of the Fellowship experience. The advisors are alumni of the USDA E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship Program, and have demonstrated leadership, appreciation and understanding of the mission of the USDA, the HSI National Program, and other federal agencies.

As a mentor, the Fellows' Advisors ensure that the Fellows connect the respective goals and challenges of their HSIs with the information gathered throughout the Fellowship. In addition, the advisors encourage the sharing of ideas, facilitation of dialogue, and highlight opportunities for collaboration.



Ann Donoghue

USDA ARS Southern Plains Area

A native of Southern California, Dr. Donoghue received her B.S. from San Diego State University her M.S. from Texas A&M University and her Ph.D. in Physiology from the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. She was a post doctoral fellow at the Smithsonian Institution before joining the Germplasm and Gamete Physiology Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, as a Poultry Research Physiologist in 1993. Dr. Donoghue conducted basic research to identify and elucidate factors which influence or alter sperm function in poultry including investigating sperm competition between males and its relationship to genetic paternity, and determining the effects of liquid or cryopreservation on sperm function.

Dr. Donoghue became Research Leader in June 2000 for the Poultry Production and Product Safety Research Unit, ARS, USDA within the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science at the University of Arkansas and continues to serve in this capacity. The Unit's research focus is on enhancing the food safety of poultry, reducing metabolic disease which impacts poultry production and developing environmentally-friendly methods to utilize poultry manure. Her research here has focused on developing alternatives to antibiotic use in poultry and developing strategies to reduce or eliminate pathogen contamination.

Dr. Donoghue has published more than 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts, patents, invited proceedings or book chapters. She has received over \$5 million in grants as PI or co investigator. She received numerous honors including the Distinguished Young Scientist for State of Maryland by the Maryland Science Center, the USDA, ARS, Hebert L. Rothbart Outstanding Early Career Research Scientist of the Year; the U.S. Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers; the HyLine International Research Award; the Helene Cecil Leadership Award; the National Excellence in Technology Transfer Award from the Federal Laboratory Consortium and the ARS Outstanding Technology Transfer Award.



Dan Hostetler

California State University Polytechnic, Pomona

Dan Hostetler has served California State Polytechnic University for 35 years. He received a bachelor's degree in Agronomy and a master's in Agricultural Science from the same institution. Following graduation he worked with two large farming companies in the San Joaquin Valley, before returning to Cal Poly in 1976. He has been the Department Chairman of the Plant Science Department for the past 20 years. During his tenure, he has assisted in developing AGRIScapes, a new Center which incorporates agricultural literacy projects into a Farm Store, research labs, greenhouses and visitors center.

Dan is a member of the American Society of Agronomy, past board member of the California Chapter of the ASA, and the California Alfalfa and Forage Association. He recently served 12 years as Chairman of the Board of the Southern California Agricultural Land Foundation, a land conservancy group in Chino. He has been awarded the outstanding teacher and outstanding advisor award from NACTA, the College of Agriculture and Gamma Sigma Delta, the national honor society for agriculture.

Dan continues to teach various agronomy and farm management classes within the college. He also manages over 1555 acres of diversified farming for the university, which provides experiential learning opportunities for the students. Dan also coaches a successful crops judging team which competes in national competitions.

He Resides in Chino Hills, California with his wife Melinda. They have 3 sons aged 30, 26, and 21, the latter graduating from Cal Poly Pomona (hopefully very soon) in Mechanical Engineering.



Frank Reyes

Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Foundation

Frank Reyes, Executive Director of the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Foundation, hopes to build on the many successes of the non-profit foundation by utilizing his extensive experience and skills in the area of federal and state grants. Reyes was appointed to his current post in September 2009. Prior to joining the Foundation, he served as the Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for the San Bernardino Community College District for 33 years. Under his leadership, the District and its two campuses received more than \$100 million in grants in the last 10 years.

Reyes' expertise centers on his extensive knowledge of federal grants procedures and ability to identify potential funding sources. He has enjoyed great success in procurement of funds and, most importantly, political familiarity and association, having traveled extensively to Sacramento and Washington D.C.

Reyes is a graduate of Cal State San Bernardino, where he received his Bachelors and Masters degrees. He has earned many distinguished awards, including selection to the prestigious International Conference for Leaders in Madrid, Spain where he was able to visit the Spanish Embassy to exchange information regarding education, the economy, culture, linguistics and political systems. Other awards include: ETS Fellow, for his work with state and federal elected officials, including Congressman Jerry Lewis. Congressman Joe Baca, the late Congressman George E. Brown Jr. and Congressman Jerry Lewis have all recognized Reyes for his commitment to the betterment of the community. Reyes has been listed in the Inland Empire Magazine as one of the Most Influential Hispanics and was named Latino of the Year by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Through his community and political involvement, Frank has recognized the importance of working with our leaders and keeping the interest of the community and patients in mind. His goal continues to be to bring more funding to the area for the benefit of the community, its students, its patients and those in need.



Tom Rivera

California State University, San Bernardino

Dr. Tom M. Rivera, or "Dr. Tom," as he is commonly referred to, has over 40 years of experience in the field of education, including teaching as a Peace Corps volunteer, teaching at the elementary school level and college level, and serving as a counselor at San Bernardino Valley College.

For the past 37 years, Dr. Rivera has been a California State University, San Bernardino administrator, where he has initiated numerous programs designed to motivate underrepresented students to enroll in and graduate from college

In 1985, with the help of local educators and community volunteers, Dr. Rivera founded the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program. To date, the organization has graduated over 3,000 participants. "My deep concern for the dropout rate of our young people motivated me to begin this program and I take great pride in the fact that students who participate in our program boast a college-going rate of 90%. National figures indicate that 53% of Hispanics dropout and that only 20% of Hispanic high school graduates go on to college. I am also proud of the fact that we have always had a 100% volunteer staff."

Dr. Rivera has a life-long history of commitment to the community. He has served on various Boards and community organizations. His many years of service to the community have been recognized by several organizations.

Dr. Rivera and his wife, Lily, have been married 43 years and have 3 children. They reside in Grand Terrace. He is a product of Colton schools and San Bernardino Valley College. He received his bachelor and master degrees from Cal State University, Los Angeles, and his doctorate degree in 1973 from UCLA.

In a wheelchair for the last 27 years as a result of Guillain-Barre Syndrome, he is often asked if he feels that his condition has been a hindrance. He responds, "It would be, but I've been very fortunate to have a lot of good people helping me. They're the ones who inspire me and help me succeed."

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Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program

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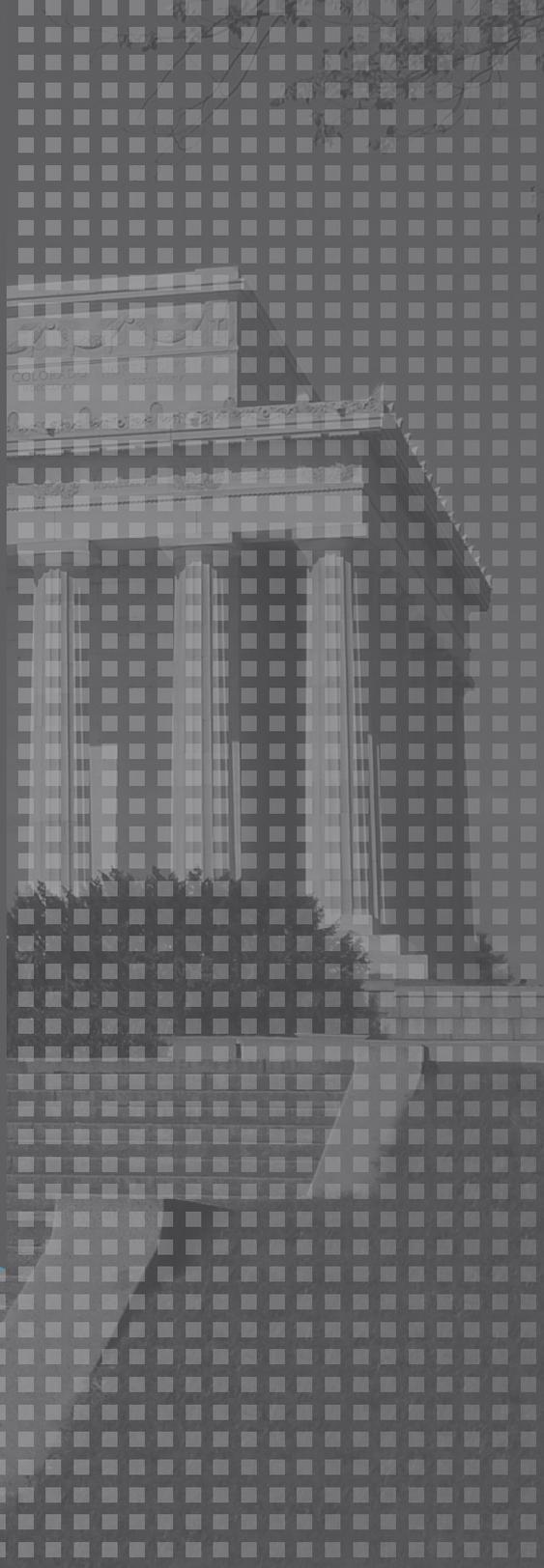
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