



United States Department of Agriculture

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS NATIONAL PROGRAM



2013 E. KIKA DE LA GARZA
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



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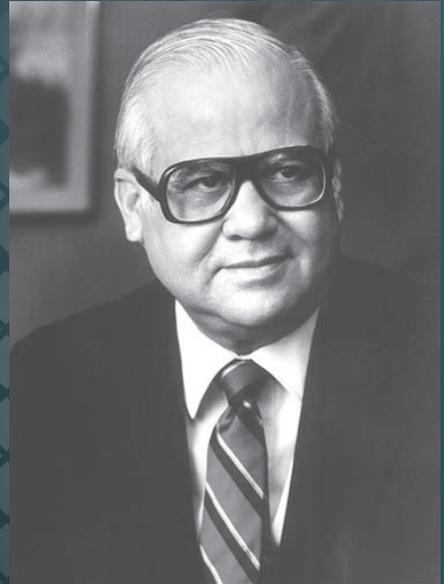
Eligio Kika de la Garza was born September 22, 1927 in Mercedes, Texas.

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 in addition to working twelve years in the practice of law. In addition to becoming the first Hispanic Congressman elected from Texas' 15th District, Kika also served as Chairman of the Congressional Agriculture Committee during 1981-1994. He had influential roles in overhauling the agricultural lending system, implementing federal farm crop insurance, commodity futures reform, reorganizing the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and providing numerous aid packages for American as well as international agriculture. Additionally, Kika co-founded the Congressional Hispanic Caucus during his time in Congress.

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, Kika has developed close working relationships with top-level government officials throughout the world.

E. Kika De La Garza II



United States Representative

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

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 up to two 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 learn first-hand the mission and programs of USDA by meeting with leadership and staff from each of the department's agencies. 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.



Laura E. Avila

Glendale Community College
Arizona

Laura E. Avila, MS, was born and raised in a small South Texas community. She attended St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX, and participated in the NIH MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers) program where she received her Bachelor's degree with an emphasis in Biology and Chemistry in 1998. She earned her Master's degree in Human Sciences from Texas A & M University-Kingsville in 2001.

In 2001, she became a full-time faculty member at Glendale Community College (GCC) in Glendale, AZ, part of the Maricopa Community College District. Laura currently serves as Department Chair for the Technology and Consumer Sciences (TCS) Department, which includes programs in Food and Nutrition, Engineering, Cisco Networking, Computer Aided Drafting, Child and Family Studies, and Interior Design.

Laura's instructional focus is Food and Nutrition, and the GCC Food and Nutrition Department is the largest program in the Maricopa system. As the only Hispanic female faculty from the STEM area, Laura is extremely passionate in fostering and encouraging underserved minorities to major in the science and math fields.

As TCS Department Chair, she works very closely with Dean of Instruction, Dr. Linda Maier, to align programs with the district's strategic plan. She leads initiatives to enhance access and increase student success and retention, and helps to build the recognition of GCC through community partnerships, grants development, and high school dual enrollment participation.

Laura has served as a faculty senate member, curriculum design facilitator, nutrition occupational program director, course assessment coordinator, and has served on various committees throughout her tenure at GCC.



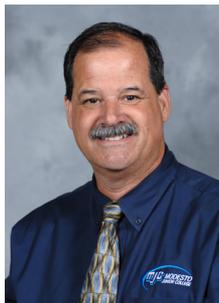
Edward Beaney

Napa Valley College
California

Edward Beaney is currently a Career Center Advisor at Napa Valley College. Originally from Los Angeles, California, he grew up in East LA. Edward received a BA in sociology at the University of Oregon. After some time, he received his Masters from Humboldt State University in sociology. Edward has taught sociology at the community college as an adjunct instructor, facilitated diversity trainings for staff, faculty, and administrators and advised students in both the career center and the workability three program supporting individuals with disabilities with career planning and placement.

Napa Valley is one of the world's premiere wine regions. Edward has developed strong working relationships with professional colleagues and employers, all to benefit students and Napa Valley College. He considers himself an Ambassador for the College, and specifically, the Career Center and Employment Services.

As for Edward's family, his wife of 29 years who has been his rock, and true soul mate, Mrs. Patricia Beaney is working as a medical administrator and is working towards obtaining her BA in medical administration. Edward has two boys, Anthony who is currently enrolled at Cal State Eastbay where he plans on receiving his BA in graphic design along with Christopher, currently finishing up his associates degree and preparing to transfer to San Jose State or Cal State Eastbay and major in multimedia marketing. As a Kika De La Garza Fellow, Edward is looking forward to learning more about USDA and ways to continue to assist students at Napa Valley College.



Don Borges

Modesto Junior College
California

Born and raised in California's Central Valley, Borges began his career in Agricultural Education at Modesto Junior College after teaching high school. Majoring in Forestry and Natural Resources, he obtained his Associated Science Degree in Agriculture. Borges also received Technician Certificates in: Agricultural Mechanics, Recreational Land Management, Landscaping, Park Maintenance, and Forestry. Later Borges transferred to California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, CA in Agricultural Science. While attending he earned a Bachelor of Science, a Masters Degree, and an Agricultural Specialist teaching credential.

After teaching at the secondary level for 9 years, Don's work evolved into administrative responsibilities at the secondary, county office, and then moved back to the Modesto Junior College Agriculture Department as the project director with the following responsibilities: Developed a network of industry supporters (Ag Partners) which resulted in successful fund raising and service to industry and local education partners; Developed an Agricultural Advisory Committee for program guidance, curriculum validation, and departmental support; Developed curriculum and program materials for advising, outreach, articulation and student support; Developed student leadership program through an Ag Ambassadors venue; Developed an excellent transfer pattern with local and statewide community college agriculture programs allowing for seamless transitions and efficient time to degree for students; Extensive involvement in committees and statewide initiatives, including university, industry and community agriculture support groups, Chambers of Commerce, statewide postsecondary agriculture curriculum and articulation, and statewide agriculture advisory groups; and Led the development of a statewide curriculum and articulation model.

Don is married to Kathy Borges and has three children; Brad (17), Mark (15), and Michelle (11). Spend spare time gardening and working the local FFA and 4-H programs in the county.



Claudia Mosqueda

Richard J. Daley
Community College
Chicago

Claudia Mosqueda is a Chicana, Chicago native. She has always believed in the power of education and the importance of opportunities. She completed her B.A. in Secondary Education / Spanish with a minor in Art at DePaul University. She continued her studies at DePaul earning a M.Ed. in Bilingual Bicultural Education while working at the institution in the Student Affairs Department. She began her career in Secondary Education teaching English as a Second Language, U.S. History, and later – Spanish. While teaching, she earned her M.A. in Instructional Leadership through Concordia University. Today, she has transitioned into Higher Education as an Academic Advisor and English and Spanish Adjunct Professor. She resides in Chicago where she is passionate about being a freelance photographer, artist, and proud parent of a 3-year old puppy.



Jesse Ortiz

Woodland Community College
California

Jesse Ortiz, Ed.D. is a professor at Woodland Community College where he works as a counselor along with teaching part time in Chicano Studies. He has been in the California K-14 public education system for thirty-years with the last nineteen years being at Woodland Community College. He has also been an adjunct instructor at California State University, Sacramento in the Department of Educational Leadership.

His educational career has been in the areas of Student Services along with working as a College Dean for four years. Jesse's community and educational career has always been to advocate for equal access and educational equity for Chicano/Latino students.

Being a first-generation college student and working at a Hispanic-Serving Institution he is reminded daily of the importance of student advocacy in particular in enhancing the transfer rate leading to a bachelor's level degree or higher.

Jesse has also been an elected Woodland School Board of Trustee for ten years serving as President four of those years. During this time he was selected as Yolo County School Board Member of the Year and is the recipient of the Annual Apple Award. He currently serves as an elected Yolo County School Board of Education Trustee. He is a member of the National Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) and California Latino School Boards Association (CLSBA).

As a Kika De La Garza Fellow, Jesse is looking forward to learning more about USDA and ways to continue to assist students at Woodland Community College.

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.



Luis Cabrales

California State University
Bakersfield
California

Luis Edgar Cabrales, Assistant Professor of Engineering, Department of Physics and Engineering, California State University at Bakersfield.

Luis Edgar Cabrales Arriaga was born in Tampico, Mexico. He received a BS in Chemical Engineering at the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Tamaulipas in Altamira, Mexico. He gained experience working as an engineer at M&G Polymers, one of the largest polyester producers in the world. Afterwards, he went on to earn an MS in Chemical Engineering at Texas Tech University (TTU) working on research projects related to polymer science. Then, he joined the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute (FBRI) at TTU as a research associate. While working at the Institute, he earned a Ph.D. with specialization in Fibers and Biopolymers from TTU in 2011. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Physics and Engineering at California State University-Bakersfield. His research interests are in the areas of functionalization of polymeric surfaces to impart antibacterial, hydrophobic, UV protection, photocatalytic, and oleophobic properties to textile materials. He is also interested in the study of cellulose materials and the synthesis of polyesters from renewable resources, their characterization and their processing. At CSUB, he continues to work on research related to materials and polymer science and engineering while initiating a concentration in biosystems and agricultural engineering within the engineering sciences program.



Matias J. Cafaro
University of Puerto Rico -
Mayaguez
Puerto Rico

Dr. Cafaro is interested in microbial ecology, symbiosis between fungi and arthropods, systematics and evolution. Many of his interests have manifested themselves in his research, from his undergraduate thesis on fungal endophytes of grasses, to his graduate dissertation on fungal endosymbionts of arthropods and also in his postdoctoral work on mutualistic bacteria associated with fungus-growing ants.

He received his graduate degree from the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 1997 and a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Kansas in 2003. Dr. Cafaro has completed two theses on microscopic fungi and continues to work with them in his current research at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez. Currently, Dr. Cafaro has a research program in evolution of fungal symbionts of arthropods and microbial ecology of actinobacteria associated with tropical insects. Basic microbiology, molecular techniques and phylogenetic analyses are the tools he uses to address questions of current interest in symbiosis.

As a professor Dr. Cafaro has designed and taught courses in Advanced Mycology, Economic Mycology, Symbiosis, Introduction to Systematics and both graduate and undergraduate seminars in Evolution. Mentoring research students adds a more personal dimension to teaching. In his laboratory over the past five years, Dr. Cafaro has directed over 63 undergraduate and 10 graduate students (all Hispanic) in their research on various microbe-arthropod associations. Several papers and presentations at local, national and international meetings have resulted from these projects.



Teresa Patricia Feria

University of Texas - Pan American
Texas

Dr. Teresa Patricia (Paty) Feria is an assistant professor in the Biology Department at The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA). Dr. Feria was born and raised in the State of Mexico, Mexico. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in Biology in 1997 from the Faculty of Superior Studies Zaragoza (FES Zaragoza), Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM). She received her master's degree in Animal Biology in 2001 from the Faculty of Science, UNAM, where she also obtained a diploma in Comparative Biology. Dr. Feria traveled to St. Louis, Missouri to continue her doctoral studies in biology with emphasis in ecology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. There, she earned a PhD in 2007 and worked a postdoctoral fellowship in the Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development at the Missouri Botanical Garden. She received a second postdoctoral fellowship at the Herbarium of FES Zaragoza shortly thereafter. Dr. Feria began her tenure-track position in the UTPA Biology Department as an Assistant Professor in the fall of 2008. Her research interests focus on understanding present and future (under climatic change) distributions of living organisms. This includes development of spatially and ecologically explicit predictive models of the current and future distribution of endangered and invasive species, as well as the spread of vector-borne diseases and their host distributions using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Species Distribution Modeling (SDM) techniques. At UTPA she obtained the Provost International Studies Award in the fall of 2011 and a Teaching Excellence Award in the spring of 2012.

As a Mexican national, Dr. Feria understands the importance of helping minorities finish their undergraduate and graduate studies. As a Kika de la Garza fellow, she will have the opportunity to become familiar with the primary mechanisms that USDA employs to help Hispanic minorities. She will use this knowledge when submitting future grants to the USDA to recruit locally among high school students for UTPA, to train undergraduate and graduate students, provide scholarships to develop research in areas of her expertise, and ultimately help students to finish their studies in a timely manner. Dr. Feria is positive that this experience will further develop her skills for engagement with the community and allow her to develop strong collaborations with researchers at the USDA.



Steven Ritter
Miami Dade College -
North Campus
Florida

Dr. Ritter has an A.S. in Biology, B.S. in Animal Science, M.S. in Agriculture, M.S. in Horticulture, and a Ph.D. in Biology. Along with his educational background, he was employed by Northwest Missouri State University, Rutgers University, Florida International University, Miami-Dade Community College, Ozarks Technical Community College and the University of Florida, where he was tenured in an educational capacity. While employed for Ozarks Technical Community College Dr. Ritter taught and coordinated general biology, life science, and environmental science. He was solely responsible for the lecture and laboratory setup and design. He has written the life science laboratory manual presently in use. He has also taught human biology, entomology, botany, anatomy and physiology, and microbiology, with their laboratory classes, at the college level. Besides teaching these courses he was involved in their set-up, development, and implementation. In addition to serving as Endowed Teaching Chair, he has been a Co-P.I. on several grants, one of which funded the creation of a palmetum and botanical garden of which he is the curator.



Alvaro Romero

New Mexico State University
New Mexico

Dr. Alvaro Romero is Assistant Professor of Urban Entomology at New Mexico State University. Romero has a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the National University of Colombia, a M.Sc. in Veterinary Entomology from Kansas State University, and a Ph. D. in Urban Entomology from the University of Kentucky. In 2010, he was recipient of a National Science Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship to conduct research in Urban Entomology at the North Carolina State University with Dr. Coby Schal.

Romero has studied bed bugs extensively since 2005. This blood sucking insect has resurged as the most pressing emerging issue in urban entomology reducing quality of life in affected people. The sudden resurgence of bed bugs and the limited knowledge of their biology present many challenges for the bed bug management today. Romero's research is designed to provide not only practical information for the pest control industry and its stakeholders, but also to begin to resolve the knowledge vacuum that surrounds this pest. Important achievements of his research include standardization of an artificial feeding system for bed bugs, detection and characterization of resistant populations of bed bugs to commonly used insecticides, evaluation of methods to reduce the impact of insecticide resistance, studies of behavioral effects of insecticides to bed bugs, and characterization of circadian rhythms in bed bugs. Romero is Ad hoc member of the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (FIFRA-SAP) to review issues related to methods for efficacy testing of bed bug pesticide products.

Fellowship Science Advisor

The Fellowship Science Advisor provides guidance, support, and advice to help fellows make the most of their experience. The science advisor is integral to the selection and placement of science fellows.

As a mentor, the Fellowship Science Advisor ensures that the Fellows connect the respective goals and challenges of their HSIs with the information gathered throughout the Fellowship. In addition, the Fellowship Science Advisor 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.

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