

**WASHINGTON DC SEPTEMBER 24-26**

**LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM**  
**NUESTRA HISTORIA**

**40**  
**YEARS**

**OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**LEADERSHIP AND IMPACT**  
**NUESTRO FUTURO**



National Community College Hispanic Council

EST.1986

# WELCOME

Dear Colegas y Amigos,

**¡Bienvenidos a Washington, D.C.!** On behalf of the National Community College Hispanic Council (NCCHC), it is my great joy to welcome you to the **2026 Concilio Leadership Symposium** at the **Washington Plaza Hotel**, September 24-26, 2026.

This year, we have an extra-special reason to celebrate: **Concilio esta celebrando 40 años!** For four decades, our familia has championed Hispanic leadership in community colleges, opened doors for emerging leaders, and strengthened the institutions and communities we serve. Our history is rich, our impact is real, and our future is bright.

Over these three days, we will honor **Nuestra Historia** while shaping **Nuestro Futuro** through lively conversations, powerful learning sessions, new connections, and plenty of moments to celebrate together. Bring your ideas, your stories, and your full Concilio spirit - this symposium belongs to all of us.

We are especially honored to welcome former U.S. Secretary of Education, **Dr. Miguel Cardona**, for una charla con el presidente. Expect a candid, timely, and energizing exchange about leadership, education, and the future our students deserve.

We are equally thrilled to be joined by **Dr. Lenore P. Rodicio**, President and CEO of Achieving the Dream, as our featured Saturday speaker. Join us to hear this nationally recognized leader share her inspiring vision for community colleges and student success.

And, as our special opening session, Cafecito con Dr. Maria, we will hear from **Ms. Janet Murguia**, President and CEO of UnidosUS in a conversation with our very special Concilio Past President, **Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick**, the Senior Fellow for the College Excellence Program at The Aspen Institute.

As Concilio President, I invite you to jump in: reconnect with longtime colegas, welcome someone new into your circle, ask bold questions, share a laugh, and leave with fresh energy for the work ahead. YOU are part of the story we are celebrating - and the future we are building.

Thank you for joining us for this milestone gathering. Here's to 40 years of leadership and impact - and to the next chapter we will write together.

¡A celebrar! ¡Adelante!

*Con orgullo y luz,*



**Dr. Mike Muñoz**

President, National Community College Hispanic Council  
Superintendent-President, Long Beach City College

# AWARD RECIPIENTS



## 2026 CAMPEÓN TRUSTEE AWARD

### Martin Valadez

Chair of the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, as the recipient of the 2026 Campeón Trustee Award.



## 2026 LIDERAZGO VISIONARIO AWARD

### Dr. Paula Pando

President of Reynolds Community College, as the recipient of the 2026 Liderazgo Visionario Award



## 2026 LÍDERES CON LEGADO AWARD

### Dr. George L. Pla

Founder and CEO of Cordoba Corporation, as the recipient of the 2026 Líderes con Legado Award.



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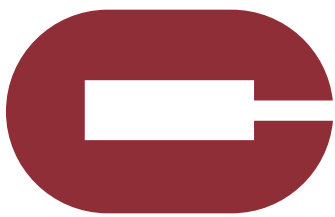
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# PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

|                        |                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3:00 to 6:00 PM</b> | <b>Symposium Check-In, Exhibit &amp; Registration Set Up</b><br>Large Foyer                                                |
|                        | <b>RECEPTION AND DINNER — CENA FAMILIAR<br/>CELEBRATING 2025-2026 FELLOWS GRADUATION</b><br>Large Foyer and Grand Ballroom |
| <b>6:30 to 7:30 PM</b> | <b>Reception</b>                                                                                                           |
| <b>7:30 to 8:30 PM</b> | <b>Dinner</b>                                                                                                              |
| <b>8:30 PM</b>         | <b>Graduation</b>                                                                                                          |
| <b>9:00 PM</b>         | <b>Party!</b>                                                                                                              |

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

|                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8:00 to 8:45 AM</b>                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Light Breakfast and Exhibits</b><br>Large Foyer                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>8:45 to 10:15 AM</b>                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Opening General Session/Welcome</b><br>Grand Ballroom                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                       | <b>Welcome: Dr. Mike Muñoz, NCCHC President and Superintendent/President of Long Beach City College, CA</b>                                                                                                |
|   | <b>Cafecito con Dr. Maria</b> , featuring Ms. Janet Murguía, President and CEO of UnidosUS, in conversation with Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick, Senior Fellow, College Excellence Program, The Aspen Institute |
| <b>10:15 to 11:00 AM</b>                                                                                                                                                | <b>Concurrent Breakouts (3)</b>                                                                                                                                                                            |

**Nuestra Salud, Nuestro Futuro: How Miami Dade College and Mantra Health Scaled Culturally-Informed Mental Health Support** National A

*Presenters: MJ Norero, Head of Government Affairs, Mantra Health; Jaime Anzalotta, Vice Provost of Student Affairs/Chief Enrollment Officer, Miami Dade College*

# PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

## The LBCC DESTINO Program: A Blueprint for Latinx STEM Success at Scale National B

**Presenters:** Guadalupe Pasillas, *Interim Dean Student Equity, Long Beach City College, CA*; Dr. Nohel Corral, *Executive Vice Present of Student Services, Long Beach City College, CA*; Sonia De La Torre, *TBD*

## Conchas y Chisme: Building Belonging Through Conversation, Culture, and Connection Thomas Circle

**Presenters:** Susana Turowski, *Director of Student Success and Retention, Chandler-Gilbert Community College*; Arely Mata, *Student Services Analyst Sr.-Student Success Specialist, Chandler-Gilbert Community College*; Dr. Felicia Ramirez-Perez, *Dean of Enrollment Services, Chandler-Gilbert Community College*

### 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM Networking Luncheon

#### 12:30 to 1:30 PM



#### Award Presentations

2026 Campeón Trustee Award – Martin Valadez  
2026 Liderazgo Visionario Award – Dr. Paula Pando  
2026 Líderes con Legado Award – Dr. George L. Pla

#### 1:30 to 2:30 PM



**Charla con el Presidente**, featuring former U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona in conversation with NCCHC Concilio President Dr. Mike Muñoz

#### 2:45 to 3:30 PM

### Concurrent Sessions (Select from 3 offerings)

## The Leadership We Needed: Lessons From First-Generation Students National A

**Presenters:** Vanessa Mendez, *Senior Director of Retention & Support Services, Front Range Community College*; Marsus Merino, *Retention and Support Services Project Coordinator, Front Range Community College*

## 65 Million Reasons: Strategic Leadership and Predictive Analytics in a Shifting Adult Learner Landscape National B

**Presenters:** Tara Conrad, *Vice President, Community & Technical Colleges, CollegeAPP*; Dr. Marisa Pierce, *Vice President – Student Services, Victoria College*

# PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

## Mentoring Latinas in Undergraduate Research at Community Colleges: Expanding Access and Redefining Possibilities Thomas Circle

**Presenter:** Carla Gonzalez, *Director of Academic Support, Saint Paul College*

### **3:45 to 4:30 PM** Concurrent Sessions (Select from 3 offerings)

#### **A Bridge from a CC to a Selective 4-year Institution** National A

**Presenters:** Sandra Gonzalez-Torres, *Director, Articulation and Transfer, Community College of Philadelphia*; Roberto Marti, *Director, Career Development and Transfer Services, Harrisburg Area Community College*

#### **Transforming Student Support through COMPASS Advising Model** National B

**Presenter:** Gabriel Castano, *Vice President – Enrollment Management & Student Success, Front Range Community College*

#### **El Que No Arriesga, No Gana-Bad Bunny Leadership** Thomas Circle

**Presenters:** Jennifer Pena, *Associate Dean of Career Education, San Diego Miramar College*; Chantal Hernandez, *Outreach Coordinator, San Diego Miramar College*

### **DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

**7:00 to 10:00 PM** **Monuments by Moonlight** — Ticketed event; Meet at front entrance of Washington Plaza Hotel by 6:45 PM

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

**8:30 to 9:15 AM** **Networking Light Breakfast/Exhibits** Large Foyer

**9:30 to 10:00 AM** **General Session — Member's Meeting** Grand Ballroom

**10:15 to 11:15 AM** **General Session/Keynote** Grand Ballroom

**Dr. Lenore Rodicio, President and CEO of Achieving the Dream**



**11:15 to 11:30 AM** **Closing Remarks with Dr. Mike Muñoz** Grand Ballroom

**JOIN US IN DALLAS TX 2027 NCCHC/CONCILIO SYMPOSIUM  
SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2027 HYATT REGENCY DALLAS**

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## CONFERENCE CHECK-IN NCCHC DESK

The NCCHC Registration and information desk will be open during conference hours. Please look for anyone wearing a “Staff” or “Volunteer” ribbon as they will be happy to assist you with any questions you have.

## WI-FI

Wi-fi is included in guest rooms, however may not be generally available in the meeting rooms.

## NAME BADGES

Please wear your name badge to all NCCHC functions as it is your ticket to all events and educational sessions.

## EVALUATIONS

Your feedback is important to the leadership of NCCHC. A survey will be emailed to you following the conference. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts about this year’s meeting and planning for future Symposia.



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Miami Dade College, FL  
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**Dr. Nohel C. Corral**  
Long Beach City College, CA  
Exec VP Student Services



**Dr. Marisa Pierce**  
Victoria College, TX  
Vice President of Student Services

**Stop by the Coat Room and record a brief reflection about what NCCHC/Concilio, its community, or its leadership has meant to you**

The media team  
will be available:

**Friday, Sep 25**  
10:15-11:25 AM

**Friday, Sep 25**  
2:30-3:40 PM

**Saturday, Sep 26**  
9:15-10:10 AM

**Drop in!**

# NCCHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Dr. Rey Rivera**  
Estrella Mountain Community College, AZ  
President



**Dr. Irene Robles-Lopez**  
Pima Community College, AZ  
Vice Chancellor for Student Experience



**Dr. Frances Villagran-Glover**  
Houston Community College Southeast, TX  
President



**Dr. Sonia Watson**  
College of DuPage, IL  
Dean of Adjunct Faculty Support

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS/ CONSULTANTS



**Dr. Mayra Olivares-Urueta**  
NCCHC Interim Executive Director  
Fellows Program Co-Director  
mayraou27@gmail.com



**Dr. Raul Rodriguez**  
Fellows Program Executive Director  
Raulrodriguez82010@gmail.com



**Kimberly Andosca**  
Administrator  
kandosca@amgroup.us

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# OUR PRESENTERS

**Dr. Jaime Anzalotta**

Vice Provost of Student Affairs/Chief Enrollment Officer, Miami Dade College, FL

**Dr. Miguel Cardona**

former U.S. Secretary of Education

**Tara Conrad**

Vice President, Community & Technical Colleges, CollegeAPP

**Dr. Nohel Corral**

Executive Vice Present of Student Services, Long Beach City College, CA

**Dr. Sonia De La Torre**

VP of Student Services, Fullerton College, CA

**Dr. Carla Gonzalez**

Director of Academic Support, Saint Paul College, MN

**Sandra Gonzalez-Torres**

Director, Articulation and Transfer, Community College of Philadelphia, PA

**Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick**

Senior Fellow, College Excellence Program, Aspen Institute

**Roberto Marti**

Director, Career Development and Transfer Services, Harrisburg Area Community College, PA

**Arely Mata**

Student Services Analyst Sr.-Student Success Specialist, Chandler-Gilbert Community College, AZ

**Vanessa Mendez**

Senior Director of Retention & Support Services, Front Range Community College, CO

**Marsus Merino**

Retention and Support Services Project Coordinator, Front Range Community College, CO

**Dr. Mike Muñoz**

NCCHC President and Superintendent/  
President of Long Beach City College

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President and CEO of Achieving the Dream

**Susana Turowski**

Director of Student Success and Retention, Chandler-Gilbert Community College, AZ

**CELEBRATE NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH – SEPTEMBER 15 TO OCTOBER 15, 2026**

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**Dr. Mike Muñoz**

SUPERINTENDENT-PRESIDENT,  
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# CONGRATULATIONS! NCCHC 2026 GRADUATING FELLOWS

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DR. TED MARTINEZ, JR. LEADERSHIP FELLOW PROGRAM 2026 GRADUATING COHORT

**Dr. Joseph Alonzo**

Santiago Canyon College  
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**Dr. Christina Barrios**

Long Beach Cith College  
(CA)

**Antonio Benitez**

Lake Tahoe CC  
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**Ania Canales**

Miami Dade College - Kendall  
(FLA)

**Yvanna Corella**

Pima CC  
(AZ)

**Ramon De Los Santos**

City College of New York  
(NY)

**Uriel Delgado**

American River College  
(CA)

**Vanessa DeMont**

Alamo - Northeast Lakeview Coll.  
(TX)

**Dr. Monica Escobar-LeBlanc**

Dallas College  
(TX)

**Brenda Estrada**

Santa Ana College  
(CA)

**Gilberto Garcia**

Southwestern College  
(CA)

**Erineo Garcia**

Long Beach Cith College  
(CA)

**Dr. Citlali Gonzales**

Mt. San Jacinto College  
(CA)

**Dr. Carla Gonzalez**

Saint Paul College  
(MN)

**Sandra Gonzalez-Torres**

Community College of Philadelphia  
(PA)

**Dr. Edward Henderson**

Mt. San Antonio College  
(CA)

**Dr. Angel Hernandez**

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**Rozanne Hernandez**

Bakersfield College  
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**Yuritzi Lozano**

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**Dr. Janeth Manjarrez**

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**Vanessa Mendez**

Front Range CC  
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**Veronica Palafox**

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**Sydney Pedregon**

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**Jennifer Pena**

San Diego Miramar College  
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**Dr. Joel Pilco**

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**Dr. Claudia Velasco**

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# CONGRATULATIONS! NCCHC 2026 GRADUATING FELLOWS

## WELCOME 2026-2027 FELLOW CANDIDATES

### **Gladys Aguilar**

Lake Tahoe Community College  
(CA)

### **Esteban Alfaro**

Los Angeles Valley College (CA)

### **Dr. Genette Alvarez-Ortiz**

Nassau Community College (NY)

### **Dr. Diana Arredondo**

Southwestern College (CA)

### **Maria Battisti**

San Diego Miramar College (CA)

### **Rebecca Beck**

Irvine Valley College (CA)

### **Linda Bermudez**

California Community Colleges  
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### **Lionel Candido Flores**

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### **Juan Cordoba**

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### **Dr. Leana Cuellar**

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### **Dr. Claudia Patricia Diaz Carrasco**

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### **Elizabeth Gomez de la Casa**

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### **Sorangel Hernandez**

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### **Fabiola Huerta**

Long Beach Community College  
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### **Marina Martinez**

Hartnell College (CA)

### **Dr. Ericka Paddock**

Crafton Hills College (CA)

### **Dr. Guadalupe Pasillas**

Long Beach City College (CA)

### **Sandra Payan Catano**

City Colleges of Chicago (IL)

### **Nancy Ramirez**

East Los Angeles College (CA)

### **Janet Rico Uhrig**

Pima Community College (AZ)

### **Angela Rodriguez**

Front Range Community College  
(CO)

### **Laura Rodriguez**

Miami Dade College (FL)

### **Maria Del Carmen Rodriguez**

San Bernardino Valley College (CA)

### **Dr. Rebecca Saiz**

Lone Star College (TX)

### **Isaac Torres**

Estrella Mountain Community  
College (AZ)

### **Susana Turowski**

Chandler-Gilbert Community  
College (AZ)

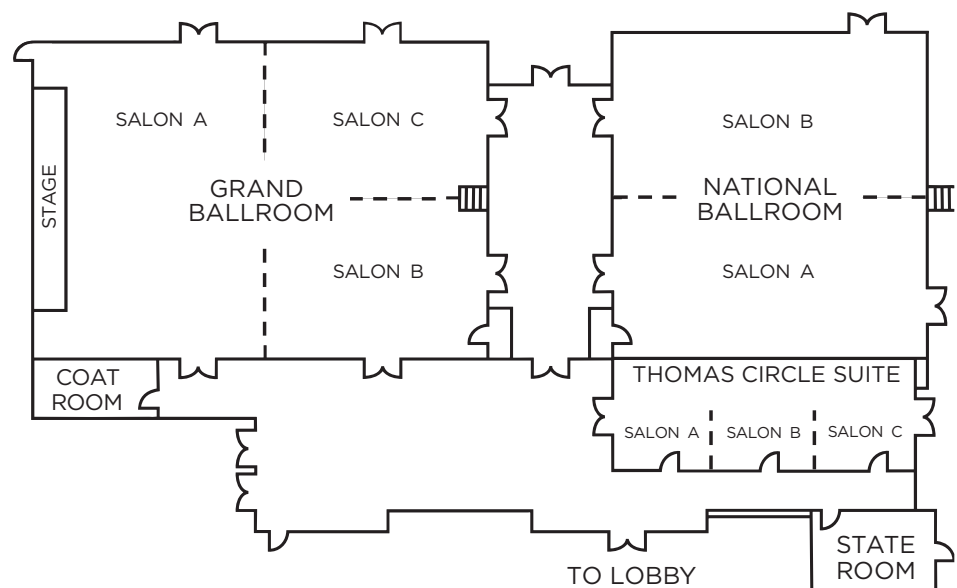
### **Dr. Elizabeth Zavala**

Long Beach City College (CA)

### **Stephen Zubia**

Estrella Mountain Community  
College (AZ)

## EVENT MAP



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