



5TH *Annual* HSI SUMMIT

SEEDS OF SERVINGNESS: GROWING TOGETHER

SEP 14, 2026 | 8 AM - 2 PM | CSUSM USU BALLROOM

INAUGURAL *HSI Week*

SEPT 14 - 18, 2026

Our first-ever HSI Week invites the campus community to celebrate our purpose as a Hispanic-Serving Institution through events focused on advancing inclusive excellence and promoting student success.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

5th Annual HSI Summit

8 AM - 2 PM | USU BALLROOM

Registration Required

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Latine Heritage Month Celebration

5 - 8 PM | FORUM PLAZA

Chicanx/Latinx Studies *Tardeada*

5:30 - 7:30 PM | USU 2310

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Latine Reporte a la Comunidad

11:30 AM - 1 PM | Kellogg 5400

Registration Required

Latinx Center Mural Unveiling

5 - 7 PM | Latinx Center/USU 3200

Registration Required

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Milpa Project Showcase

12 - 1 PM | Community Ethnobotany Garden (EBG)

Beyond the Bachelor's: Exploring Graduate School at CSUSM

6 - 7:30 PM | USU Ballroom C

Registration Required

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Conchas y Comunidad

10 - 11 AM | Founders Plaza

**SCAN FOR MORE DETAILS
& REGISTRATION!**



These events are open to all, regardless of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin.

SUMMIT *Theme*

Summit Purpose

The 2026 HSI Summit marks the fifth annual campus-wide convening dedicated to advancing CSUSM's Hispanic-Serving Institution identity and student-centered mission. This year also introduces CSUSM's inaugural HSI Week, expanding the impact of the Summit through a week-long series of programs that celebrate servingness, student success, and institutional commitment in alignment with National HSI Week. Building on the success of the previous four summits, this year's programming will deepen institutional engagement with HSI values by promoting student success, fostering belonging, highlighting innovative scholarship, sharing evidence-based practices, and strengthening collaboration across the university.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate CSUSM's continued commitment to servingness while positioning the university as a leader in advancing the mission of Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

Theme Explained

Seeds of Servingness: Growing Together

Inspired by the idea that seeds carry the promise of growth and transformation, this year's summit will encourage participants to nurture practices grounded in servingness and cultivate new possibilities for student success at Hispanic-Serving Institutions. Sessions and networking opportunities will provide space to reflect on the roots of this work and envision new ways to build more equitable and inclusive institutions.

This free summit serves as a professional development opportunity, deepening understanding of HSI responsibilities and generating collaborative solutions that benefit both individual campuses and the broader community.

***This event is open and available to all regardless of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin. Our commitment to equal opportunity means ensuring that every student and employee has access to the resources and support they need to thrive and succeed in a university environment and in their communities.*

Agenda

2026 SUMMIT

8:00 - 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

9:00 - 9:20 AM

PLANTING THE SEEDS: WELCOME REMARKS & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Speakers:

Erik Ramirez, Ed.D.

Audrey D. Paredes, Ph.D.

Viridiana Diaz, Ed.D.

Ellen Neufeldt, Ed.D.

9:20 - 9:30 AM

FEDERAL POLICY HSI UPDATES

Speakers:

Maria Venegas Escobedo, M.A.

Konane Martinez, Ph.D.

9:30 - 10:25 AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Featured Speaker: Daniel G. Solorzano, Ph.D.

10:25 - 10:35 AM

BREAK

10:35 - 11:25 AM

ROOTED IN STUDENTS, GROWING IN SERVINGNESS: STUDENT PANEL

Moderators:

Aswad Allen, Ph.D.

Fernando Vasquez Rendon, Graduate Student

Panelists:

Monica Ambrocio, Undergraduate Student,
Biology

Yolotzin Aquino, Undergraduate Student,
Psychological Sciences

Hazel Soriano, Graduate Student, Social Work

Germán Reyes, Undergraduate Student, History
Single Subject & Political Science

Session Description: Students will share the experiences, relationships, and campus practices that have helped them feel seen, supported, and empowered. Grounded in student voices, this panel explores how servingness is experienced across campus and how we can collectively build a more affirming university for all.

2026 SUMMIT Agenda

11:25 - 11:30 AM

BREAK

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM

CULTIVATING SERVINGNESS: PRACTICES FOR TRANSFORMATION

Speaker: Arely Villalobos Ayala

Facilitator: Natacha Cesar Davis, Ph.D.

Panelists:

Lucio Lira, Ed.D.

Jose Padilla

Erik Ramirez, Ed.D.

Session Description: This session will highlight promising practices and initiatives at CSUSM and across the state and region, creating opportunities to learn from one another, strengthen collaboration, and explore how servingness can be put into practice to support diverse communities and advance meaningful transformation for students.

12:15 - 1:05 PM

LUNCH & ACTIVITY

Harvests of *Cariño* and MicroAffirmations: *Notitas* of Appreciation

1:05 - 1:45 PM

ROOTED & RISING: SUSTAINING OUR COLLECTIVE SERVINGNESS

Facilitators:

Audrey D. Paredes, Ph.D.

Ariel Stevenson

Session Description: This session invites us to envision what servingness can look like across our campuses and communities. Centered on a shared vision for what comes next, the session invites us to consider: What do we want the future of servingness to look like, and what possibilities can we imagine together?

1:45 - 2:00 PM

GATHERING THE HARVEST: CLOSING REMARKS

Speaker:

Carmen Nava, Ph.D.



SPEAKER & FACILITATOR *Bios*



Aswad Allen, Ph.D.
Chief Diversity Officer
Office of Inclusive Excellence, CSUSM

Dr. Aswad Allen is the Chief Diversity Officer at California State University San Marcos, where he leads the Office of Inclusive Excellence. With over 30 years of experience in higher education, Dr. Allen is a nationally recognized leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). His work centers on fostering inclusive environments that promote student success, institutional effectiveness, and social mobility, especially for historically marginalized populations.

At CSUSM, Dr. Allen collaborates with university leadership, faculty, staff, and students to implement strategic, systemic, and sustainable DEI initiatives. His leadership philosophy is rooted in a “partner-leader” approach, emphasizing collaboration and shared responsibility. He oversees a team of professional staff, faculty associates, and student assistants, and serves on the President’s Administrative Team, advising on key decisions that shape campus climate and equity efforts.

Before joining CSUSM, Dr. Allen served as the inaugural Chief Diversity Officer at Emporia State University in Kansas, where he played a pivotal role in advancing inclusive excellence across campus and within the broader community. He also held the position of Assistant Dean of Diversity Affairs at the University of Colorado Denver, where he integrated DEI frameworks into academic and administrative strategies. Dr. Allen holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Administration and a Master’s in Student Affairs in Higher Education Administration from Colorado State University. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from the University of Colorado Boulder.

Dr. Allen’s commitment to equity is not only professional but deeply personal. He often acknowledges the legacy of those who have labored for institutional change and remains dedicated to amplifying traditionally marginalized voices in higher education.



Monica Ambrocio
Undergraduate Student, Biotechnology, College of Science,
Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, CSUSM

Monica Ambrocio is a first-generation college student entering her third year studying Biotechnology. As a freshman in the BEARS (Building Early Awareness and Research in Science) Program, she began working alongside Dr. Carlos Luna Lopez studying cytoskeletal dynamics in breast cancer utilizing fluorescence imaging. Over her first two years, Monica participated in the CSUSM REU, presented her research at the CSUSM Summer and Fall Symposium, 2026 Southern Regional CSU Biotechnology Symposium, and was awarded as one of the 2026 Howell-CSUBIOTECH Scholars for her dedication in researching women’s health. Entering

her junior year, she was accepted into the competitive, NIH funded U-Rise program. Beyond her research, Monica aims to build a community on and off campus. She served as the external representative of MEChA de CSUSM during her first two years, an organization that focuses on education, culture immersion, and political discussion that impact the Latinx community. She is the current treasurer of the First-Generation club, where she strives to empower underrepresented students through discussions with first-generation alumni. After graduating, she aims to get a PhD in Bioengineering with a continued focus on women's health.



Yolotzin Aquino

*Undergraduate Student, Psychological Sciences, College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences
Co-Chair, M.E.Ch.A., CSUSM*

Yolotzin Aquino is a current undergraduate student majoring in Psychological Sciences and is expected to graduate Spring 2027. At CSUSM, Yolotzin serves in several student leadership roles, including Co-Chair of M.E.Ch.A de CSUSM and Rapid Response Team Student Representative. Through these positions, she has brought a stronger sense of belonging for students, strengthened the student voice, and brought the community together on and off campus through community events, outreach, and volunteering. Additionally, Yolotzin is a Student Research Assistant at the National Latino Research Center (NLRC) and the Community Well-being & Prevention Research Lab (CWPR Lab), where she is a lead researcher in several projects and contributes to community-based research. Her academic research centers on community-based research, immigrant health and well-being, student psychological well-being, and public health within Hispanic/Latine populations. She is also a TRIO McNair Scholar and plans on applying to graduate schools this upcoming application cycle. As a member of the HSI Summit Planning Committee, Yolotzin hopes to uplift student voices and contribute to programming that reflects the resilience and self-determination of the Hispanic/Latine communities at CSUSM and the larger community as a whole.



Natacha Cesar-Davis, Ph.D.

Senior Director, Student Life Cycle, CSUSM

Dr. Natacha Cesar-Davis is a distinguished academic and seasoned practitioner, embodying a wealth of experience across diverse post-secondary roles on both the East and West coasts. Her unwavering commitment to student success is evident in her dynamic collaborations with faculty, staff, and administrators, fostering research-practice partnerships that amplify student learning and retention. Dr. Cesar-Davis has delved into the intricate dynamics of students' intersectional identities, illuminating the path to vocational identity development. Her research explores faculty pedagogies shaping student engagement, the pivotal role of services like financial aid in fostering student belonging, and how faculty life histories enrich students' navigational and social capital. Holding Bachelor's in Art

History and History and Master's in Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College and a second Master's in Higher Education and Organizational Change and Ph.D. in Education from UCLA, she has worked as a full-time tenure track faculty at two community colleges, counselor and advisor at both public and private universities, Director of an HSI grant and most recently as Assistant Dean of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and Black Life at UCLA's School of Education and Information Studies. Currently, she serves as the Inaugural Senior Director of the Student Life Cycle at California State University San Marcos, reporting to both the VP of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, overseeing the strategic planning and coordination of success and retention initiatives. Natacha was born in Argentina and spent her childhood in this country.



Viridiana Diaz, Ed.D.

Vice President for Student Affairs, CSUSM

Dr. Viridiana Diaz is the Vice President for Student Affairs at California State University San Marcos, bringing over 25 years of experience in higher education. A proud first-generation college graduate, she is deeply committed to advancing student success by closing opportunity gaps, fostering belonging, and promoting retention and graduation.

Her leadership spans a wide range of student affairs areas, including enrollment management, student life, well-being, Title IX/DHR, and student conduct. At CSUSM, she has led a division-wide reimagination initiative, launched a new 2025–2030 strategic plan, and co-led the university's strategic enrollment plan.

Dr. Diaz holds a doctorate in educational leadership and policy and multiple advanced degrees in communication, Latin American literature, and history. She is also a graduate of executive leadership programs at UC Berkeley, Stanford, and Harvard.



Lucio Lira, Ed.D.

*Pride Center Counselor Coordinator
San Diego Mesa College*

Dr. Lucio (he/they/él) is an experienced educational practitioner who has worked as a multicultural, gender-affirming, and academic counselor in community colleges for over five years. Lucio is known for his leadership in creating inclusive environments and transformational healing spaces supporting the educational journey of LGBTQIA+ students, such as affinity spaces and academic learning communities.

Lucio grew up in Tijuana and is a first-generation student/professional. As a transborder student, Lucio crossed the border daily to attend school. As a proud product of the community college system, Lucio's persistence led him to earn his

AA in Psychology from Southwestern College, BA in Psychology from UC Davis, and MS in Multicultural Counseling from SDSU. Lucio completed his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from the joint doctoral program at UCSD and CSUSM, where he researched the role of queer-focused student support programs in transforming queer students' sense of belonging in California Community Colleges.



Konane Martinez, Ph.D.

Professor, Anthropology, CSUSM

Faculty Director, National Latino Research Center

Dr. Martinez is an applied anthropologist with over 20 years of experience working with Latino immigrant communities in the U.S. Mexico Border Region. Her areas of expertise include transnationalism, critical medical anthropology, border health, health disparities, disaster preparedness for vulnerable communities, and culturally and linguistically appropriate services in health care. Dr. Martinez completed her Ph.D. at UC Riverside under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Kearney. As a graduate student she studied transnational communities with a focus on Mixtec communities from the Southern Mexican state of Oaxaca. In 1999 she was part of the first health needs assessment of agricultural workers in the state of California. Her dissertation research took her to the Mixteca Baja region of the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca where she studied the clinical health care experience of a transnational community.

Prior to her position as faculty Dr. Martinez served as health projects coordinator at the National Latino Research Center at CSUSM. She is a founding member of the Farmworker CARE Coalition a collaborative of over 40 agencies dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of farmworkers and their families in San Diego California. Dr. Martinez collaborated in an assessment of the experience of farmworker and migrant communities during the wildfires that raged through southern California in October of 2007. Dr. Martinez joined the department of Anthropology 2007. In 2017 she was appointed to the California Department of Public Health's Advisory group for the Office of Binational Border Health. Her research examines how immigrant and transnational communities navigate the structures of health and social service agencies in California. She is currently researching the impact of shifting policies related to immigrant health in California. In 2023 she began a new research project investigating the history and cultural significance of "La Virgen de las Nieves," celebrated in Southern Mexico.

She is currently the Faculty Director at the National Latino Research Center on campus and teaches courses in general anthropology as well as in specialized areas including immigrant and farmworker health, health disparities, and health equity.



Carmen Nava, Ph.D.

Professor, History, College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences, CSUSM

Carmen Nava joined the Department of History at California State University San Marcos in 1996. She came to CSUSM after graduating from California State University Northridge with a B.A in History summa cum laude and earning her M.A. and Ph. D in Latin American History at UCLA. She recently completed a term as Associate Dean of Curriculum, Academic Programs and Students Success in the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences. As Professor in the Department of History, she teaches the history of Latin America, Brazil, gender and the Chicana experience.



Ellen Neufeldt, Ed.D.

President, CSUSM

Since becoming the fourth president of California State University in July 2019, Dr. Ellen Neufeldt has focused on engaging, interacting, listening, and building relationships with students, faculty, staff, alumni and community constituents. A champion of innovation and entrepreneurship, President Neufeldt oversaw the opening of CSUSM's Innovation Hub, an on-campus home for meeting societal needs, less than a year into her tenure in March 2020. But her commitment to innovation goes beyond a physical space, encompassing an entire ecosystem that includes a critical focus on social innovation. Dr. Neufeldt is also firmly committed to ensuring that Cal State San Marcos is a diverse, inclusive and welcome home for students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members. Focusing throughout her career on student success and student social mobility, she cares deeply about being part of the solution to creating pathways for students to achieve their dreams.



Jose Padilla

*Director of Student Equity and Success Programs
CSU East Bay*

Jose Padilla is a first-generation college graduate and transformative higher education leader who believes opportunity can change the trajectory of a life. As Director of Student Equity and Success Programs at California State University, East Bay, he has dedicated more than a decade to removing barriers and empowering students to recognize their potential. Shaped by his own first-generation journey, Jose leads with purpose—transforming systems, cultivating belonging, and creating pathways for future generations to thrive, lead, and redefine what is possible.

**Audrey D. Paredes, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership and Administration
School of Education, College of Education, Health and Human
Services, CSUSM*

Dr. Paredes is an Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Administration in the School of Education at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM). Her scholarly work is deeply informed by her experiences as the daughter of Guatemalan immigrants, a first-generation college student, former student affairs practitioner, and proud product of California public education from Kindergarten through her Ph.D. As a higher education scholar, Dr. Paredes uses critical approaches to examine how colleges and universities, particularly Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) and Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), can become more equitable and responsive environments where systemically marginalized students and communities can thrive.

She is a proud member of the CSU HSI Action Research Network, the national HSI Research Colectiva, and a recent American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) Faculty Fellow. Prior to joining CSUSM, she served as the lead research associate for the University of California's HSI Initiative and contributed to research with UCLA's Center for Critical Race Studies in Education and the UndocuScholars Project. Dr. Paredes earned her Ph.D. in Education with a specialization in Race and Ethnic Studies and M.A. in Education from UCLA, and her B.A. in Gender, Ethnicity, and Multicultural Studies with a concentration in Chicana/o Studies from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

**Erik Ramirez, Ed.D.**

*Director of Divisional Initiatives & Partnerships
Office of Student Affairs, CSUSM*

Dr. Ramirez joined Cal State San Marcos in April 2024 and leads high-impact initiatives that advance student success, strengthen institutional capacity, and further the university's mission as a Hispanic-Serving Institution. He manages a federal grant focused on Latinx and first-generation student achievement, coordinates the annual HSI Summit, and serves as one of the campus leads for the Seal of Excelencia—a national recognition for institutions that intentionally serve Latinx students.

His portfolio also includes building cross-divisional and community partnerships, guiding divisional projects such as the Student Affairs Strategic Plan, and leading efforts that expand resources and support for immigration-impacted communities.

Grounded in his background as an immigrant and first-generation college graduate, Dr. Ramirez approaches his work with a deep commitment to equity, belonging, and social mobility, centering students and the diverse communities they represent.



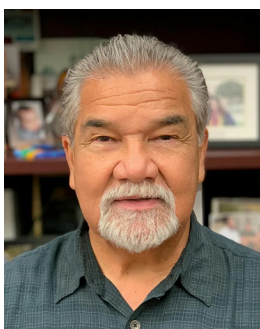
Germán Reyes

Undergraduate Student, History Single Subject and Political Science, College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences, CSUSM

Germán Reyes is a first-generation Chicano entering the third year of his undergraduate career. After starting as a CAMP Student in Fall 2024, he immediately felt welcomed into an inclusive, understanding, and supportive community.

Germán comes from the small city of Calexico, where he mentored elementary and middle school students. This eye-opening experience influenced his decision to become a Community Advisor on campus in Fall 2025, a role in which he helps incoming freshmen feel accepted and supported. Now in his second year serving as a Community Advisor, Germán strives to empower incoming freshmen, including members of his Hispanic community, by creating learning opportunities that foster tech fluency, career preparation, leadership skills, and healthy living.

Through this role, Germán has developed essential skills, including public speaking and community building, that will support his future career in local politics and his ultimate goal of becoming a state senator. He is grateful for the family members, mentors, and others who have supported him throughout his journey, and he appreciates the opportunity to share his experiences with everyone today.



Daniel G. Solorzano, Ph.D.

*Distinguished Professor, Education
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)*

Daniel Solórzano is a Distinguished Professor of Social Science and Comparative Education, and Chicana/o and Central American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is also the Director of the Center for Critical Race Studies in Education at UCLA. His teaching and research interests include critical race theory in education; racial microaggressions; racial microaffirmations; and critical race spatial analysis. Dr. Solorzano has authored more than 100 research articles, book chapters, and books on issues related to educational access and equity for underrepresented student populations and communities in the United States. In 2007, Professor Solorzano received the UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award. In 2012, Solorzano was awarded the Critical Race Studies in Education Association Derrick A. Bell Legacy Award. In 2014, Solorzano was elected a Fellow of the American Education Research Association. Professor Solorzano received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Claremont Graduate University in 2020. Also, in 2020, Solorzano was elected to the National Academy of Education.



Hazel Soriano

Graduate Student, Social Work, College of Education, Health and Human Services, CSUSM

Hazel Soriano is a first-generation Chicana in the final year of her Master of Social Work program. She joined the CSUSM community in Fall 2025 after earning her bachelor's degree in Clinical Psychology from UC San Diego.

Driven by her interest in community organizing, Hazel joined the CSUSM Committee for Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (CIDE), where she contributes to creating safe spaces in which students feel welcomed and supported. She also serves the CSUSM community as a Peer Health Specialist with the HOPE & Wellness Team, creating opportunities that support students' overall well-being.

Hazel is currently completing her practicum at TrueCare and looks forward to continuing her growth as a Behavioral Health Intern. She feels privileged and grateful to be in a position where she can increase access to resources and empower others, especially those from historically underserved communities. Hazel is grateful for the opportunity to share this space with everyone today.



Ariel Stevenson

*Deputy Chief Diversity Officer
Office of Inclusive Excellence, CSUSM*

Ariel Stevenson is a higher education professional with over 20 years of experience advancing student success, institutional effectiveness, and inclusive practices. Currently serving at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM), she has dedicated her career to supporting diverse student populations through student-centered leadership, program development, and strategic collaboration. She is a current student in the Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership (EPOL) program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), where she is deepening her expertise in education policy, systems change, and leadership. Her scholarly work reflects a strong commitment to connecting theory and practice to improve institutional structures and student outcomes. As an equity practitioner, she believes that equity work must be collaborative to be effective. Ariel is an advocate of cross-functional partnerships that engage stakeholders across departments to create sustainable, meaningful change. She leads with approaches that center data-informed decision-making, shared responsibility, and a focus on historically marginalized student communities. Through both professional practice and continued study, Ariel remains committed to fostering environments where all students can thrive. Her work is grounded in collaboration, authenticity, and a clear vision for advancing equity in higher education.



Maria Venegas Escobedo, M.A.

*Interim Director of Prevention & Education for the Office of Title IX/
DHR & CAMP Director, CSUSM*

As of January 2026, Maria Venegas Escobedo serves as the Interim Director of Prevention & Education in the Office of Title IX and Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM), while continuing to serve as Director of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), a role she has held since 2020. Since joining CSUSM in 2013, Maria's work has evolved from direct student support to institution-wide leadership focused on advancing equitable, inclusive, and safe campus environments. With nearly 20 years of experience in higher education and federally funded programs, Maria brings expertise in program development, outreach and training, curriculum design, strategic planning, and regulatory compliance. She holds a bachelor's degree in Human Development from CSUSM and a master's degree in Postsecondary Educational Leadership, with a specialization in Student Affairs, from San Diego State University. As a proud CAMP and first-generation CSUSM alumna, Maria's leadership is shaped by lived experience and a commitment to student voice, belonging, and opportunity. She is known for building meaningful cross-campus partnerships, identifying opportunities for systems improvement, and translating ideas into sustainable practices. Her approach centers accountability and care while creating pathways that recognize students' lived experiences, strengthen institutional support, and advance social mobility.



Fernando Vasquez Rendon

*Graduate Student, Social Work, College of Education, Health and
Human Services
M.E.Ch.A Communications Chair, CSUSM*

Fernando Vasquez Rendon is a Research Assistant with the National Latino Research Center (NLRC) and a current Master of Social Work student at California State University San Marcos. His academic and professional work centers on community-engaged research, immigrant health, and culturally grounded approaches to student well-being. At CSUSM, Fernando serves in multiple student leadership roles, including Peer Ambassador with the Cougar Care Network, Rapid Response Team Student Representative, and Communications Officer for M.E.Ch.A. Through these positions, he supports students navigating basic needs, crisis response, and campus belonging, while strengthening partnerships with community organizations across North County San Diego. Fernando's research experience includes contributing to the Community Wellbeing & Prevention Research Lab, where he supports qualitative and quantitative data collection focused on the lived experiences of mixed-status and immigrant families. He is committed to bridging academic inquiry with community knowledge, elevating student voice, and expanding culturally responsive support systems within higher education institutions. As a member of the HSI Summit Planning Committee, Fernando hopes

to uplift student perspectives, strengthen cross-campus collaboration, and contribute to programming that reflects the resilience, and diversity of Latinx communities at CSUSM and community.



Arely Villalobos Ayala

*Administrative Support Coordinator
Library, CSUSM*

Arely Villalobos Ayala is a proud graduate of California State University San Marcos, where she earned dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Criminal Justice Studies and Sociology. She currently serves in the CSUSM Library as an Administrative Support Coordinator, where she focuses on facilities and personnel strategy. Arely is also pursuing dual master's degrees in Public Administration and Latin American Studies blending policy and cultural studies to create systemic change. Her research explores educational inequities and centers the voices of immigrants, with a particular focus on breaking down bureaucracies of the education system. Guided by her passion for social justice, equity, and access to higher education, Arely would like to help build a future where access and representation in education are not the exception, but the rule.

HSI SUMMIT PLANNING *Committee*

Erik Ramirez

Director of Divisional Initiatives and Partnerships
Student Affairs

Audrey D. Paredes

Assistant Professor
School of Education, College of Education, Health, and Human Services

Yolotzin Aquino

Undergraduate Student, Psychological Sciences, College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral, and Social Sciences
Co-Chair, M.E.Ch.A de CSUSM

Konane Martinez

Professor, Anthropology, College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral, and Social Sciences
Faculty Director, National Latino Research Center

Carmen Nava

Professor, History, College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral, and Social Sciences, CSUSM

Rosalinda Padron

Executive Assistant to the Vice President
Student Affairs

Ariel Stevenson

Deputy Chief Diversity Office
Office of Inclusive Excellence

Fernando Vasquez Rendon

Graduate Student, Social Work, College of Education, Health, and Human Services
Research Assistant, National Latino Research Center

Maria Venegas Escobedo

Interim Director of Prevention & Education for the Office of Title IX/DHR, CSUSM
CAMP Director, CSUSM

Arely Villalobos Ayala

Facilities and Personnel Coordinator
Library

THANK YOU TO OUR *HST Week Collaborators*

Alumni Engagement

Career Center

Chicanx/Latinx Studies

Dra. Erika Diaz Almeyda, Biology

Latine Staff Action Team

The Latinx Center

M.E.Ch.A de CSUSM

The Milpa Project & Student Club

National Latino Research Center

Office of Graduate Studies and Research

Office of Inclusive Excellence



CSUSM