

UnidosUS Affiliate Council Members

CALIFORNIA

Lisa Cuestas, Chief Executive Officer, Casa Familiar (San Ysidro, CA)



Lisa Cuestas is currently Chief Executive Officer of Casa Familiar, a 501(c)(3) non-profit community-based organization in San Ysidro, CA. Lisa is the embodiment of an emerging Latina leader. She is a Fronteriza – raised along the U.S./Mexico border. Lisa has committed her life in service to her communities and this trajectory has led to become the CEO for Casa Familiar, the leading service and community development organization in the community of San Ysidro, providing over 30 bilingual programs and services at 7 different sites in the community. Programs range from Civic Engagement to Health & Social Services, Arts & Culture and Education with a portfolio of 1,300 units of affordable housing set aside for low and very low-income persons in San Diego's South Bay.

Lisa was part of the San Diego Prevention Research Center Advisory Board, SDPD Southern Division Captain Advisory Board and the South Bay Partnership for Youth Health Equity and has developed collaboratives with: San Diego State University, University of California San Diego, San Ysidro Health Center, South Bay Community Services, and other Community Based Organizations. Lisa's leadership is beyond exceptional and while she may wear many hats within the organization, she constantly reminds herself and her staff that serving the community as an advocate and community organizer is the hat that matters most. Lisa holds a bachelor's degree in human services and management from the University of Phoenix.

Luis Sandoval, Executive Director, Building Skills Partnership (Los Angeles, CA)



I have over 20 years of experience in nonprofit management, leading Latino-led and Latino-serving organizations to create, communicate, implement, and sustain strategic initiatives. As the Executive Director of Building Skills Partnership (BSP), I'm responsible for scaling programs aimed to improve the quality of life of property service workers in low-wage industries, as well as their families and communities by increasing their access to education, leadership, and career advancement. Over the years, I have assisted several organizations in a variety of capacities. This includes assisting with strategic planning, board facilitation, fundraising, capacity building and programming as a consultant. As Executive Director, I'm directly responsible for forging new relationships in support of immigrant integration and workforce development initiatives focused on property service workers in Los Angeles, Mountain View, Oakland, Orange County, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Jose.

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FAR WEST

Angeles Ortega, Chief Executive Officer, Mi Casa Resource Center (Denver, CO)



Angeles Ortega joined Mi Casa Resource Center as Chief Executive Officer in February 2021. In her role she oversees the management, funding, and strategic director of the organization. Previously, she served as Director of Advancement at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science ensuring annual and long-term funding for the Museum. In 2012, Ms. Ortega moved from Charlotte NC where she served as Executive Director of the Latin American Coalition, a social service organization serving the needs of the Latino community in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Region. Originally from Mexico, she is studied Languages in Mexico and Nonprofit Management at the University of Nevada-Reno. She holds an MBA from Queens University of Charlotte. She's received many awards including Hero of Democracy from the Charlotte Observer and the Community Service Award from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Ernesto Fonseca, Chief Executive Officer, Hacienda Community Development Corporation (Portland, OR)



Ernesto Fonseca joined Hacienda as CEO in April 2017, bringing his passion for community development and a belief in the power of connecting families to opportunity. Ernesto's own story reflects the potential that can be unleashed by investing in all our community members. Raised in a poor but loving family in central Mexico, Ernesto watched his parents take advantage of educational opportunities and their own initiative to build careers in construction and nursing. They passed on their values of hard work and education to their children, and Ernesto embraced those values to gain a foothold in this country by initially working in kitchens and restaurants as he pursued his educational goals, culminating with a Ph.D from Arizona State University in Environmental Design and Planning. During his time in Phoenix, he spearheaded initiatives to assess the health impacts of community development including gentrification, access to public transportation, and affordable housing, and helped to create the Stardust Center for Affordable Homes & the Family.

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Ernesto believes it is Hacienda's job to help all families access the critical ingredients they need to achieve their goals: a stable, affordable home, a healthy family life that allows youth to learn and grow, opportunities for economic success, and access to affordable health care and healthy neighborhoods. He believes in the power of social enterprise to bring increased investment into breaking the cycle of poverty. He joined Hacienda because he shares the same values and experiences with this community and is eager to empower families to flourish.

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MIDWEST

Veronica Isabel Dahlberg, Executive Director, HOLA Ohio (Ashtabula, OH)



Veronica Isabel Dahlberg, Founding Executive Director of HOLA Ohio, was born in Canton, Ohio, the daughter of Mexican and Hungarian immigrants. She is the Executive Director of HOLA Ohio, the organization she founded in 1999, to advocate for and empower Ohio's farmworkers, immigrants, and Latino families and children. HOLA has received recognition for its groundbreaking advocacy over the course of over 25 years. Recently, under her direction, HOLA Ohio developed a new, \$2 million Hispanic Community Center in Painesville, which opened to the public on Cinco de Mayo, 2022. She was awarded the Cleveland Cavaliers "DIFF Maker" award in 2023, and previously recognized with the Crain's Cleveland Business Woman of Note, and Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan award. She was inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame on October 12, 2023.

Beto Lopez, President & CEO, Guadalupe Centers (Kansas City, MO)



Beto Lopez is currently the President and CEO of the Guadalupe Centers (GC). He joined GC in 2017 as Chief Operating Officer after spending over 25 years in commercial real estate brokerage - development and banking. Beto earned his undergraduate degree from Rockhurst College (1991) and a Master of Business Administration from Baker University (1994). He began his professional career as a business development specialist at the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City upon graduation from Rockhurst College in 1991. He joined Cohen-Esrey Real Estate Co, and earned the firm's "rookie of the year" award as the top new sales agent in 1995. He then moved on to small business and commercial lending at various financial institutions that included, US Bank, Arvest Bank, and Community America Credit Union. Prior to joining GC, he was a partner with ARO Real Estate Development Company. In 2017 Beto was successfully elected as a city council member in the city of Lee's Summit and was appointed as Mayor Pro-Tempore. He was re-elected for a second term in April of 2022. Throughout his professional career, Beto has felt a duty to give back to the community and has served on numerous volunteer boards and commissions.

UnidosUS Affiliate Council Members

NORTHEAST

Angelica Perez Delgado, President & CEO, Ibero-American Action League Inc. (Rochester, NY)



In 2018, Angelica Perez-Delgado was named the seventh President and CEO in the 50-year history of the Ibero-American Action League. Angelica had previously worked at the Villa of Hope, where she served as Chief Administrative Officer. While there her responsibilities included: executive oversight of all behavioral health services and the administration of compliance; quality; organizational development; human resources; information technology; facility operations and enterprise-wide strategic initiatives. She has over 25 years of experience in not-for-profit and began her career as a substance abuse therapist before transitioning into administration. Angelica was raised in Puerto Rico and came to the United States as a teenager. Even though she experienced poverty, trauma and dropped out of high school, she was able to turn her life around through the services she leads today. Her personal experience of failed systems as a young teenage mother prepared Angelica for her

return to her roots and her current position.

Angelica has her M.S. in Health Administration from Roberts Wesleyan College and her B.S. in Community and Human Services from Empire State College. She is a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Counselor and a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. She participates in various advisory groups and sits on numerous boards throughout the community. Angelica is a very active and well-known grassroots Latino community organizer in the city of Rochester. In her spare time, she enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends as well as riding motorcycles with her motorcycle club.

Ramon Peguero, President & CEO, The Committee for Hispanic Children & Families (New York, NY)



Ramon Peguero, Esq. Ramon Peguero, Esq. is currently the President & CEO of the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families. He has over 30 years of experience working in grassroots organizations that tackled the most challenging issues facing low-income residents in New York: HIV and AIDS awareness, child and substance abuse, child development issues, housing, and senior health and nutrition education.

Mr. Peguero serves on several Boards of organizations that work to enhance the lives of New Yorkers. Recently named to *City & State New York's* Power 100 list for Latino influences, Peguero is a Mayoral appointee to the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, Board Member of the Early Care Learning Council, and Board Chair of Nuestros Ninos Preschool Center. He sits on the Strategic Planning Council for the Human Services Council and is on the Advisory Board for Weill Cornell Medicine. He was formerly a Board Member of Brooklyn Legal Services Corp A., a former City Council appointee to the Civilian Complaint Review Board and served as the first

President of the Community Education Council (formerly the School Board) of which he was a member of for eleven (11) years. Besides his professional dedication to underserved communities, Ramon uses his free time to continue to assist and support those in need. He has a B.A. from Stony Brook University, an M.P.A. from Metropolitan College and a law degree from CUNY School of Law, Queens College.

UnidosUS Affiliate Council Members

SOUTHEAST

Claudia Caballero, President & CEO, Centro Hispano de East Tennessee (Knoxville, TN)



Claudia Caballero is President & CEO of Centro Hispano de East Tennessee, a nonprofit that empowers the Latino community through education, workforce development, youth, and family engagement, and resource referral services. During her five-year tenure at Centro Hispano, she has increased the organization's annual income tenfold and expanded its staff from one employee to over 30 full and part-time team members. Raised between Honduras and the United States, Caballero is bicultural and bilingual. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the Catholic University of Honduras and is pursuing her master's degree from Vanderbilt University. In addition to her work at Centro Hispano, Caballero mentors three young Latinos and serves on numerous boards and committees, including those of the East Tennessee Foundation, Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, Greater Knoxville Advisory Board for Johnson University, and Roane State Foundation. In 2021 Caballero was the first Latina to join KUB's board. She is a member of Conexión Américas' Mosaic Fellowship class of 2018, the 2019 Leadership Knoxville class, and the VII of Leadership Tennessee. She is the recipient of the YWCA Emerging Leader Award, the Young Professionals of Knoxville Outstanding Young Professional Award, and was named to the 2019 Knox.biz list of 40 Under 40 and VIP Knoxville's 2020 list of VIP Women. Caballero is currently pursuing her Executive MBA from Vanderbilt.

Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) (Washington, D.C.)



Mr. Núñez migrated from El Salvador to the United States with his family in 1979 and grew up in the District of Columbia. Mr. Núñez has a Bachelor's of Business Administration from Hofstra University. Before he moved to Chicago, he worked in D.C. for the Latino Civil Rights Center. From 1998 to 2000, he was also on the staff of CARECEN serving first as its Citizenship and Civic Participation Project Coordinator and later as its Deputy Director. Mr. Núñez' volunteerism reflects his lifelong pursuit of justice and empowerment for immigrants in the U.S. He served as Co-President of Organization of the Northeast (ONE), a nonprofit agency that aims to build a successful multi-ethnic, mixed-economic community on Chicago's northeast side. He worked tirelessly with city and state coalitions to pass the Illinois Dream Act.

Nationally, Mr. Núñez has co-founded the DC-MD-VA Coalition in Support of Children Fleeing Violence which responded to the incoming wave of unaccompanied children in the summer of 2013. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Alianza Americas, serves on the Community Advisory Board of Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Science (GHUCCTS) and is serves in the DC Access to Justice Commission that was created by the D.C. Court of Appeals in 2005 to help improve the ability of low and moderate income residents to access the civil justice system. In 2017 Mr. Núñez received the Georgetown University's John Thompson, Jr. Legacy of a Dream Award, the Hispanic Bar Association of DC Hugh A. Johnson Jr. Memorial Award, and the Social Enterprise Scholarship Award from the Harvard Business School Club of Washington DC. In 2018 he received the Salvadoran American Chamber of Commerce. In 2020 he received the Life Time Award for Service from the DC Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs in Washington DC.

UnidosUS Affiliate Council Members

TEXAS

Laura Ponce, Executive Director Project Bravo, Inc. (El Paso, TX)



Project BRAVO, a Community Action Program that serves a borderland community, was established in 1965 and annually serves over 20,000 low-income people with programs that financially stabilize households, support job training and workforce development, financially educate and empower individuals, and connect families to resources that address many of the causes of poverty. Laura is the youngest of eight daughters and migrated from Mexico to the United States when she was a child. Laura has worked in the social service and non-profit sector for almost thirty years. Laura graduated Cum Laude from Harvard University and has a Master's in public administration from the University of Texas at El Paso. Laura is currently serving her second term as the President of the board of directors for the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies. Laura sits on the board of directors for UnidosUS. She also serves as the Chair for the UnidosUS Affiliate Council, which represents 297 organizations serving Latinos across the United States and its Territories. Laura also is on the board of directors for the Executive Forum, an organization that supports women leaders in her community. As a member of the National Community Action Partnership, Laura serves on the National Energy Taskforce and on the National Equity & Economic Mobility Commission.

Laura is the recipient of the Outstanding Service Award from the American Association for Public Administration's South and West Texas Chapter. Project BRAVO received the 2020 UnidosUS Capital Award for Public Service for the organization's response to the migrant crisis and the 2019 mass shooting at a local Wal-Mart that killed 23 people. In both her work and volunteer endeavors, Laura strives to co-create a healthy, empowered, and equitable community.

Gabriel Q. Velasquez, President & CEO, Avenida Guadalupe Association (San Antonio, TX)



Gabriel Quintero Velasquez earned a Bachelor of Science in Architecture (UTSA). He trained in community-based leadership initiatives (Mind Science Foundation, Common Enterprise, Willie Velasquez Leadership Institute, Institute of Cultural Affairs) and served as Director of the Inner-City Advocates under Albert A. Pena, Jr., coordinating the San Antonio Cesar Chavez March for Justice for 20-years. He is recognized bi-nationally as an immigration-rights activist and was a delegate to the United Mexican States: Primer Parlamento De Lideres Mexicanos Que Viven En El Extranjero.

Velasquez served as a Capacity Builder for the Annie E. Casey Foundation, mobilizing neighborhood transformation efforts. Velasquez was awarded the City of San Antonio Diez y Seis de Septiembre Commission Award for Cultural Leadership. In 2014, Baltimore based Marguerite Casey Foundation's included Velasquez on its list of 50 people making grassroots progress, receiving national recognition as "a servant leader in the community". In 2018, he received the prestigious HOPE Award (Hispanic Organization for Public Employees). A founding organizer of Luminaria San Antonio, he mobilized the ten-year creative economy initiative, "Una Noche en La Gloria". Velasquez served on the San Antonio Cultural Arts Board; Higher Education Authority; Board of Adjustment; Housing Commission; and currently serves on the Historic Design & Review Commission and the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee charged with citizen oversight of ecosystem restoration of Alazan, Apache, Martinez, and San Pedro Creeks. Gabriel Q. Velasquez is President/CEO of the community development corporation - Avenida Guadalupe Association, Avenida Guadalupe Zarzamora Senior Homes, Inc., and Avenida Guadalupe Development, Inc. concurrently.