SUCCEEDING IN TODAY’S WORKFORCE

NOELIA SANCHEZ, NOTEWORTHY LAB

Noelia Sanchez transforms the way busy professionals market, brand, and communicate their genius. She is a Branding and Digital Strategist who specializes in working with women looking to grow their thought leadership. Noelia holds a BA in Linguistics from UC Santa Barbara and is a certified Body Language Trainer with the Science of People. When she is not working with thought leaders and change agents, you can find her indulging in her fabric obsession. As a self-taught seamstress, she loves to make her own clothes and teaches the occasional dressmaking workshop in her neighborhood.

BE KIND TO YOUR MIND: EXPLORING LATINA MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

LAUREN SALAIZ, YOUTH PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, HOPE

Lauren Salaiz serves as Youth Program Associate for Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE). She supports the organization’s youth initiatives, including the high school and college leadership programs which aim to connect first-gen Latinas with resources and support to succeed in college and the workforce. Prior to HOPE, Lauren worked as the first Youth Advisor for The County of San Diego’s Youth Sector, where she co-led the development of a year-long leadership and professional development program that creates opportunities for young people to educate and organize around youth needs in the community. Lauren received her bachelor’s degree in Political Science from UCLA in 2021 and is a HCLP alumna. She is passionate about community engagement and development, education, and uplifting marginalized communities.

JESSICA ARCOS, UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT, UCLA

Jessica Arcos is a first-generation Mexican American from Bakersfield, CA. She is a second-year student at the University of California, Los Angeles. Jessica is pursuing a B.S. in Human Biology and Society and plans on minoring in Brain and Behavioral Health. She is an HYLP alumna who, with her group, presented on the mental health issues surrounding her high school. Jessica also worked for HOPE in 2021 as an intern in collaboration with the Hope, Health, and Healing Collective (H3C), where she participated in mental health listening sessions and contributed to a report on mental health reform. Her involvement strengthened her interest in the brain and the human body, and she aspires to become a pediatrician or dermatologist.

NATALY ROCHA, MSW STUDENT, UCLA

Nataly Rocha earned her bachelor’s degree in Social Welfare and Spanish from UC Berkeley and her master’s degree in Education from Loyola Marymount University. She proudly taught in East and South LA schools for over 7 years. As field deputy, she led the implementation of equitable policies and community engagement at the Los Angeles Board of Education. Nataly has seen the dire need for mental health supports for families in schools and decided to make a career change. She is now in her first year at UCLA’s MSW program with a focus on mental health.
Diana Guardado is an empowering catalyst for progressive change. In 2022 she became HOPE’s Future History Maker honoree as she has been involved in civic engagement projects to advance academic opportunities. For instance, currently, Diana has partnered with ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, a national voter registration project, to increase nonpartisan civic learning, political engagement, and voter participation at Menlo College. As a community development leader, she actively collaborates with students to develop sustainable and equitable opportunities for historically marginalized groups. As the first to major in Political Science and Public Policy at Menlo College, Diana analyzes and reforms models to harness innovation, enhance humanitarian outcomes, and empower community-centered approaches. Diana aspires to enter philanthropy and international development as a proponent of equitable and culturally responsive solutions.

Within LUL Vero is a life and business coach, manages company financials, the newsletter and blog, and assists with podcast production. She helps clients find confidence to change their narratives and design the life they want. She gained her professional experience working in management and business operations at top 500 companies. This is where she realized the lack of support and professional guidance for Latinas, inspiring her to become a coach. Vero is a wife and Mami of 4 under 5. She is an advocate for getting outdoors and unplugging from the grind. Proud UCSB alumna c/o 2004. @leveluplatina

Diana Amaya serves as Director Programs for HOPE, where she oversees the leadership development training of over 200 Latinas nationwide annually. Diana has served on state advisory boards since she was 24 years old. She is an alumna of the CORO Women in Leadership Program and the Center for Creative Leadership’s Leadership Development Program. Diana earned a B.A. in Political Science and Chicano/Latino Studies from the University of California at Berkeley and a certificate from UC Berkeley’s Haas School of Business’ BASE Program. She is working towards a master’s degree in Political Science at CSU Los Angeles. Her areas of interest are American Politics and the Latino electorate.

Alexandra Leal Silva is a proud first-generation American with a passion for serving her community. Alexandra is the Southern California Fellow for IGNITE National, a nonpartisan, non-profit dedicated to igniting the political fire in every young woman. As a fellow, Alexandra organizes events for the Southern California regions and works to create & sustain college chapters throughout the southland. Aside from being an IGNITE Fellow, Alexandra is the Operations & Development Associate at California Common Cause. From organizing workshops and seminars for a variety of communities including the Spanish-speaking community to helping oversee a mini-grant program, Alexandra wanted to ensure that community voices were heard in every step of the vital Redistricting process. Within this role, she also created two new student programs to continuously engage students and assisted in organizing the Election Protection program that sent over 500 volunteers throughout Southern California. One of her proudest accomplishments is co-creating and hosting “Democracy Is”, a podcast dedicated to exploring Democracy issues throughout California and how it affects communities. She holds a bachelor’s degree in History of Public Policy & Law from the University of California, Santa Barbara. During her time at UCSB, she served as the co-chair of Lobby Corp, mobilizing hundreds of students in advocacy & lobbying campaigns. Her team assisted in passing California Senate Bill 24, which ensured access to reproductive healthcare for all CA university students. She also worked as a Basic Needs organizer and managed to raise $20,000 for COVID relief during the start of the pandemic.
Luz Murillo is a second-year law student at UCLA School of Law where she is working towards a specialization in Critical Race Studies. She graduated from UC Berkeley in 2017 with a B.A. in Sociology. After college she worked as a capital defense investigator in San Francisco for four years. She fell in love with indigent criminal defense and is now an aspiring public defense attorney. This past summer she clerked for the Contra Costa Public Defenders Office, and she will be clerking next summer at the Los Angeles Public Defenders Office. As a first-generation college graduate it’s incredibly important to her that she support and uplift other women of color on their journey towards higher education. You can follow her law school journey on Instagram @luzandlaw.

Guadalupe “Lupe” Lazaro is the Communications & Development Coordinator for Hispanics Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) where she coordinates HOPE’s communication, branding, and database management. Lupe is currently a graduate student at the University of Southern California (USC) majoring in Communication Management. She completed her undergraduate studies in Communications at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She resides in Los Angeles, hobbies include hiking and exploring new coffee places.

Brittney is a second-year Doctoral Student at UC Santa Cruz’s Latin American and Latino Studies Program. She has a background in Ethnic Studies and received her master’s degree from CSU Northridge in Chicana/o/x Studies. Her master’s thesis focused on youth organizing in the San Fernando Valley, specifically how youth become involved in community organizations. Her current research looks at Chicana youth organizing, social movements, and the role of social media in building solidarities. She is a previous participant in HOPE’s HCLP Program and a 2019 HOPE Future History Maker Award Recipient. After completing her Ph.D. Brittney hopes to become a Professor of Ethnic Studies and serve as a mentor for other first generation students.

Luz Murillo is a second-year law student at UCLA School of Law where she is working towards a specialization in Critical Race Studies. She graduated from UC Berkeley in 2017 with a B.A. in Sociology. After college she worked as a capital defense investigator in San Francisco for four years. She fell in love with indigent criminal defense and is now an aspiring public defense attorney. This past summer she clerked for the Contra Costa Public Defenders Office, and she will be clerking next summer at the Los Angeles Public Defenders Office. As a first-generation college graduate it’s incredibly important to her that she support and uplift other women of color on their journey towards higher education. You can follow her law school journey on Instagram @luzandlaw.

Rocio Perez is a second-year Master of Public Policy student at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, graduating in 2023. She is a first-generation Latina, born and raised in the Westlake McArthur Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. Prior to graduate school, Rocio interned for the Center for American Progress and was an Emerson Hunger Fellow for the California Association of Food Banks and Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), where she conducted research on immigration and health policy. Rocio has previous experience across the policy-making process, including staffing a bill aimed at protecting low-income workers under CalFresh and CalWORKs and contributing to detention research with the California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice (CCIJ) to successfully secure $4.7 million in state funding for legal defense services. Most recently, Rocio authored and led a legislative briefing on her report, “Pandemic EBT in California: Lessons and Opportunities to End Childhood Hunger,” which analyzed the impact of P-EBT on recipient families including public charge concerns, the role of schools as trusted messengers, and P-EBT customer service. Moreover, Rocio has been published in the Harvard Kennedy Journal of Hispanic Policy and LA Times where she shares her family’s story navigating the pandemic to urge policy makers to protect immigrant workers and families. Rocio is currently a LPPI Fellow with the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative where she is researching Latino integration in education, health, housing among other issue areas across 14 states. After completing her MPP, Rocio plans to return to Washington D.C to pursue a policy analyst role researching immigration policy issues including immigrant detention, health access, and asylum.
CAREER FORUM SPEAKERS

BUSINESS- BANKING

*LIZBETH ZEPEDA, UNION BANK

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

*MARIEL MOSCOSO, DIVERSITY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST, ABC7/KABC-TV LOS ANGELES

GOVERNMENT

*ANGIE ARAMAYO, DIRECTOR OF AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT, CITY OF LA

GRADUATE SCHOOL

*LUPE LAZARO, HOPE, MASTERS STUDENT, USC

HIGHER EDUCATION

*BERNARDETTE PINETTA, PHD STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

HUMAN RESOURCES

*YENI TREJO, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT HR, FX NETWORKS

JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION

*FABI DIAZ, MEDIA PLANNER, DISNEY XD, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WILDLIFE FOR DISNEY BRANDED TELEVISION

NONPROFIT

*DIANA AMAYA, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS, HOPE

POLICY & POLITICS

*ARCELIA ARCE, SOUTHERN CA EDISON

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

*JANNETH FUERTE, ANALYTICS & INSIGHTS ANALYST, DISNEY CONSUMER PRODUCTS