LATINA EMPOWERMENT DAY

BAKERSFIELD SPEAKERS

BELINDA BARRAGAN

Director of Community Engagement, HOPE

Ms. Belinda Barragan is part of the Executive Team and serves as the Director of Community Engagement for Hispanics Organized for Political Equality (HOPE). She is responsible for directing HOPE’s community engagement team in executing community outreach events that build relationships with HOPE’s key stakeholders, non-profit organizations, and local, state and federal elected officials and community members. Her team executes HOPE’s flagship conference Latina History Day and the regional Latina Empowerment Days. She is an accomplished non-profit Director, public affairs and political management professional, with over 25 years of experience working with government entities, Community Based Organizations, corporations and grassroots organizations. A lifelong resident of the San Fernando Valley, Ms. Barragan received her undergraduate degree in Business Finance from the University of San Francisco.

THE HONORABLE ANDRAE GONZALES

Bakersfield Ward 2 Councilmember

Councilman Andrae Gonzales was elected to represent Bakersfield Ward 2 in November 2016. Known as the “Downtown ward,” Ward 2 encompasses central Bakersfield from Oleander to 34th Street, and East Bakersfield to Quailwood. Born and raised in the Central Valley, Councilman Gonzales’ life has been shaped by a deep commitment to public service and care for others - especially the most vulnerable. He is a proud graduate of East Bakersfield High School and UC Berkeley. Before his election to the Bakersfield City Council, Councilman Gonzales served as a trustee on the Bakersfield City School District Board of Education (December 2010 to December 2016), the largest elementary school district in the State of California, with more than 30,000 students.

ASHLEY ROSE QUEZADA

District Manager for the 99 Corridor District, Wells Fargo

Ashley has proudly served Wells Fargo for 17 years. She has held numerous positions in Community Banking. She began as a teller in 2005 promoting to a CSSR, Personal Banker, Customer Service Manager 1 Branch Manager and is currently the District Manager for the 99 Corridor District where she leads a team of 119 employees across 10 branches. The entire district encompasses Kern, Tulare, Fresno, and Kings Counties. Ashley was born and raised in Bakersfield, California. Ashley earned her bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice, Minor in Social Work from San Diego State University.

GABRIELA GONZALEZ

President, Latina Leaders of Kern County

HLI Class of 2016

Gaby Gonzales is the External Affairs Advisor for California Resources Corporation. Her role affords her a firsthand view of the needs of the community and has helped her effectively establish key partnerships with internal and external stakeholders to move CRC’s priorities forward. Gabriela was born in Los Angeles but her family moved to Bakersfield when she was four years old. Gabriela is the President of Latina Leaders of Kern County, a local non-profit that helps Latinas in Kern County become leaders among their schools, families & communities. Gabriela is a HOPE Alum, Class of 2016. Ms. Gonzales has worked for various elected officials including Congressman David Valadao and State Senator Andy Vidak.
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CHANTAL CAMARILLO
Vice President, Mortgage Retail Program Consultant, Wells Fargo

Chantal Camarillo joined Wells Fargo in May of 2018, as the Senior Mortgage Program Consultant, where she is part of a Union Plus national team dedicated to helping 13.1 million union members. She works directly with labor unions and other large member-based organizations to educate members about the home-buying process and exclusive union benefits. Chantal is a proven sales leader, who provides business development opportunities, and training for the internal sales team and implements result-oriented strategies for the regions she covers.

IVETTE KUYATEH, ESQ.
Founder & Managing Partner, Kuyateh Law Group
HLI CLASS OF 2016

Ivette Kuyateh, Esq. (HLI Class of 2016) is a highly sought after wealth preservation attorney who ensures every client’s short and long term goals are at the forefront of the asset protection strategies she provides. Also known as, Kingdomsherolawyerinheels™, Ivette is a devoted Christian, wife, mom and trailblazing attorney focused on empowering others with solid financial and wealth preservation tools to protect their assets and peace of mind. Ivette is a former prosecutor, experienced litigator and zealous advocate often referred to as a “Wonder Woman” both in and out of the courtroom for her passion for standing strong as a voice for the voiceless and advocating for the rights of others in her community by also serving victims of abuse and trauma and training their service providers on financial abuse.

JOSIE GUILLEN
Early College Counselor, Bakersfield College

Josie worked at CSU, Bakersfield for fourteen years; seven years serving as an Admissions Evaluator and seven years as an Academic Advisor. In 2014, she accepted a position as an Educational Advisor at Bakersfield College in the Office of Outreach and School Relations. In 2020, Josie earned her Master’s of Science degree in Counseling, Student Affairs. Shortly after, she was promoted as a Counselor for the Early College Program at Bakersfield College.

JOHANNA I. BONILLO
Director of Administration, HOPE

Johanna Bonillo serves as the Director of Administration for HOPE, leading the organizations HR, finance, grant management, and staff development initiatives. Johanna is a first-generation college graduate and daughter of an immigrant single mother. A native Angeleno, she has a passion for diversity, inclusion, and women’s empowerment. She brings with her over 15 years of non-profit administrative experience having served as the former Director of Operations for the American Red Cross Los Angeles Region. Outside of HOPE, Johanna serves on the Master of Science for Public Administration Advisory Board of her alma matter, California State University Los Angeles. She is a former Environmental Commissioner for the City of Monterey Park. Johanna enjoys most spending time with her two sons, Christoff, 18, and Andreas, 6.
EMELLY VILLA

Community Engagement Coordinator, HOPE

Emelly Villa serves as a Community Engagement Coordinator for Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE). She supports the community engagement team in executing HOPE’s events and conferences such as Latina History Day and regional Latina Empowerment Days. She is responsible for executing community outreach strategies alongside her team to build strong partnerships with community leaders, HOPE alumnae, and elected officials. Emelly is a recent college graduate, receiving a degree in International Development Studies from UCLA.

GENESIS DISCUA

Community Engagement Coordinator, HOPE

Genesis Discua works alongside Hispanas Organized for Political Equality’s (HOPE) Community Engagement team to bring conferences, roundtables, and other programming to the Latina community in efforts to further pursue HOPE’s mission of creating political and economic parity for Latinas. She is responsible for various community outreach efforts, maintaining relationships with the HOPE’s Leadership Institute Alumna, fostering relationships with elected official offices, and assists with event logistics and planning. Genesis is a proud product of the California Community Colleges and recently received a degree in Political Science from CSUN.

SUPERVISOR LETICIA PEREZ

Kern County Supervisor 5th District

Leticia Perez is a third generation Bakersfield resident. She attended local public schools and graduated from Highland High School. Leticia went on to earn her Bachelor’s Degree from U.C. Santa Barbara in “Law and Society” before journeying to Indiana to fulfill her dream of obtaining a Juris Doctorate. Leticia is Governor Brown’s appointed member of the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), and is making history by currently serving as the First Latina President of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). Leticia’s mother was a Vietnam era Army Nurse and she comes from a family of veterans. In fact, it is because of her marriage to her husband Fernando that Leticia has become an avid proponent of mental health support for combat veterans and shadow warriors, who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Above all else, Leticia and Fernando are most proud of being the parents of seven year old Jude and baby Noah.