



# 24<sup>TH</sup> HISPANIC EDUCATION SUMMIT

Friday, April 5, 2024 @ 7:30 AM



iSI SE PUEDE! iEdúcate! iGradúate!



# 24<sup>TH</sup> HISPANIC EDUCATIONAL SUN



April 5, 2024

#### **¡BIENVENIDOS!**

The North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals (NCSHP) and NC State University extend a warm welcome and heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for joining us at our 24th Hispanic Education Summit.

Our deepest gratitude goes to North Carolina State University-College of Education for graciously hosting and co-presenting this largest educational conference for middle and high school Hispanic students in North Carolina!

Furthermore, we want to express our appreciation to all the teachers and school administrators who have brought their students to the Summit today. Thank you for your dedication to nurturing their growth, encouraging their academic pursuits, and supporting their dreams and aspirations!

#### *IGRACIAS ESTUDIANTES!*

Tu Vida, Tu Futuro, Tu Destino... Es Ahora... ¡Edúcate!¡Gradúate!

¡GRACIAS! to our PATRONS who have made this 24th. Summit a reality:

CO-HOSTED BY



NC STATE College of Education

**PRESENTING EDUCATION PATRONS** 















2:05 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.

# 24<sup>™</sup> HISPANIC EDUCATIONAL SUMMIT

## **AGENDA**

7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Check in / Registration - Lobby
8:15 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Ceremony - Rocio Anderson, NCSHP President Paola Sztajn, Dean of NC State University College of Education
8:35 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.	Special Greetings  Josh Stein, NC Attorney General  Alicea Starr, Manager, Community Impact and Engagement, VERADIGM  Dr. Will Chavis, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Equity, WCPSS
8:55 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Keynote Speaker - Introduction  Dr. MariaRosa Rangel, NCSHP Vice-President
9:00 a.m 9:20 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Irene Godinez Founder and Executive Director of Poder NC Action
9:20 a.m - 9:40 a.m.	Interactive Cultural Experience Johnny Vargas & Paola Acuña, WCPS
9:40 a.m 9:45 a.m.	Conference Logistics Dr. MariaRosa Rangel, NCSHP Vice-President
9:55 a.m 10:40 a.m.	Breakout Sessions I
10:50 a.m 11:35 a.m.	Breakout Sessions II
11:45 a.m 12:30 p.m.	Breakout Sessions III
12:35 p.m 1:20 p.m.	Lunch - Student Performance: Silas Mann, Millbrook HS
1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Univision "Liga de Campeones Scholarship"  Mayra Rodas, Community Relations Coordinator
1:45 p.m 2:05 p.m.	Special Students Performances - Millbrook High School Silas Mann - Musician Cynthia Rubi-Garcia -"The American Dream" Poem

Raffles & Closing Remarks - Dr. MariaRosa Rangel, NCSHP Vice-President



## **PROGRAM**



7:30 - 8:1	5 a.m.	Check in / Registration - Lobby
8:15 - 8:3	5 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Ceremony - Rocio Anderson, NCSHP President Paola Sztajn, Dean of NC State University College of Education
8:35 - 8:5	5 a.m.	Special Greetings Josh Stein, NC Attorney General Alicea Starr, Manager, Community Impact and Engagement, VERADIGM Dr. Will Chavis, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Equity, WCPSS
8:55 - 9:0	0 a.m.	Keynote Speaker - Introduction Dr. MariaRosa Rangel, NCSHP Vice-President
9:00 - 9:2	.0 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Irene Godinez
9:20 - 9:4	0 a.m.	Conference Logistics - Dr. MariaRosa Rangel, NCSHP Vice-President
Session/ Time		BREAKOUT SESSIONS I - 9:55 a.m 10:40 a.m. EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS VISIT - MANDATORY SESSION - ROOM 1AB
HIGH SCHOOL	WakeTech Career Pathways - Maureen Sanchez, WakeTech Community College ROOM 3  Careers at the NC. Department of Transportation -Julie Parenteau, & Natalia Santiago, NCDOT ROOM 5  How to Prepare for a Job Interview - Pam Gales, WCPSS ROOM 7A  Studying abroad - Dual Degree Opportunity (SKEMA/NCSU) -Thomas Ragot, US ROOM 8A  Education Planning (Dual Enrollment, HS Schedule Tips, and exploring Community Colleges) - Flora Calderon-Steck and Hector Mendoza Arias, Forsyth Tech ROOM 8B  Applying to NC School of Science and Mathematics and Beyond - Mattie Gaddy ROOM 9	
MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL	How to	plan for College During HS - Johnny Vargas, WCPSS ROOM 4  od, Bad, and Ugly of Social Media - Eric, Chancy, WCPSS ROOM 6  Unlocking Student's Excellence - Delon B. Fletcher, Agarwal Scholars Program ROOM 7B

Session/ Time	BREAKOUT SESSIONS II - 10:50 - 11:35 a.m. EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS VISIT - MANDATORY SESSION		
	Wake Tech Career Pathways Exploration - Maureen Sanchez, WakeTech Community College ROOM 3		
HIGH SCHOOL	How to Create a High School Resume - Denisse Burgos, El Centro Hispano ROOM 7A		
	Studying Abroad - Dual Degree Opportunity (SKEMA/NCSU) ROOM 8A		
MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL	Transitioning to High School ROOM 4  Your Guide to College, Career Planning, and Beyond ROOM 1CD  My Future, Making the Right Choices! ROOM 5  The Good, Bad, and Ugly of Social Media ROOM 6  Key to Unlocking Student's Excellence ROOM 7B  10 Tips to Improve Your Mental Health ROOM 8B  My Inspiring Immigration Journey ROOM 9		
Session/ Time	BREAKOUT SESSIONS III - 11:45 a.m 12:30 p.m. EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS VISIT - MANDATORY SESSION		
HIGH SCHOOL	How to Create a High School Resume ROOM 7A  Education Planning (Dual Enrollment, HS Schedule Tips, and exploring Community Colleges) ROOM 7B  How to Plan for College During HS - Johnny Vargas, WCPSS ROOM 4		
	Transitioning to High School ROOM 3 My Inspiring Immigration Journey ROOM 6		
MIDDLE SCHOOL	Applying to NC School of Science and Mathematics How to Become a Teacher ROOM 8A and Beyond ROOM 9		
& HIGH SCHOOL	Your Guide to College, Career Planning, and Beyond ROOM ICD  10 Tips to Improve Your Mental Health ROOM 8B		
	My Future, Making the Right Choices! ROOM 5		
12:35 - 1:20	LUNCH – Rooms 2 A, B & C p.m. Student Performance – Silas Mann, Millbrook HS		
1:30 - 1:45 <sub> </sub>	Univision "Liga de Campeones Scholarship" p.m. Mayra Rodas, Community Relations Coordinator		
1:45 - 2:05	Special Performances by Millbrook High School Students p.m. Silas Mann – Musician Cynthia Rubi-Garcia –"The American Dream" Poem		
2:05 - 2:: p.m.	20 Raffles & Closing Remarks – Dr. MariaRosa Rangel, NCSHP Vice-President		



## **ROCÍO ANDERSON**



Rocío Anderson holds degrees in Physics, Mathematics, and Business Administration. Rocío is an UPSTREAM USA Regional Director of Partnerships, with a profound commitment to women's health. Rocío ensures that services are tailored to meet individual needs with an equity lens and a life course perspective, rather than focusing solely on episodic or acute care. She actively leads initiatives in organizations such as Upstream USA, the NC Perinatal Health Equity Collective and the NC Preconception Collaborative Innovation and Improvement Networks (CollN) with March of Dimes to ensure equitable access to pre-conception, maternal and child healthcare for ALL.

Rocío's professional accomplishments are pronounced by more than 20 years of experience in the fields of Health Care, Education, Public Health, and Public Safety. Rocío has held many volunteer positions working towards increasing the health and economic impact of diverse communities in North Carolina. She served two terms as Vice-Chair of Governor Roy Cooper's Advisory Council and Chair of the Health and Mental Wellbeing Committee.

### DEAN PAOLA SZTAJN



Paola Sztajn began serving as dean of NC State's College of Education on April 1, 2022. She is a professor of mathematics education who previously served the college as associate dean for research and innovation, as head of the Department of Teacher Education and Learning Sciences, and as interim dean (from Oct. 5, 2021–March 31, 2022).

She has also worked at NC State as a special assistant fo faculty research and development with the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost and the Office of Research and Innovation and as NC State's interim associate vice provost for academic personnel and policy.

Sztajn is originally from Brazil. She earned a bachelor's and a master's in physics. While working with the Suruí people in the

Amazon jungle as part of an ethnomathematics research project, she became passionate about early mathematics and eventually came to focus her work and research on teachers of elementary mathematics. "Teachers are the biggest school-based factor impacting student learning," she says. "And so, because I wanted more kids to learn math, I started working with teachers."

After earning a Ph.D. in mathematics education at Indiana University, Sztajn returned to work in academia in Rio, Brazil, before joining the faculty at the University of Georgia and then becoming a program officer with the National Science Foundation. She joined the faculty at NC State's College of Education in 2008 and helped establish its STEM-focused elementary education program — the first and only one of its kind in North Carolina and one of the few in the nation.

## **IRENE GODINEZ**



Irene Godínez is a North Carolinian of proud Mexican heritage. Irene is the Founder and Co-Executive Director of Poder NC Action, a values-based 501(c)(4) organization. Poder is running one of the most robust Latinx voter outreach programs in the south and has distinguished itself with its innovative mail program. Irene was previously the Co-Executive Director at LEAD NC Institute where she sought, encouraged and cultivated a new generation of community and civic leaders for North Carolina. In 2016, Irene served as the North Carolina Latino Vote Director with the Hillary for America Campaign. Irene's work at issue-based nonprofits, coupled with her campaign experience crystallized her mission--to seek equitable political representation for underserved communities and to create a civic leadership pipeline of Black and brown youth.

Irene has 20 years experience in nonprofit management, community mobilization and engagement, lobbying, coalition-building, advocacy, media relations, and strategic communications. Irene has worked for local, state, and national organizations on advancing immigrant and reproductive rights, from El Pueblo, Inc. and New American Leaders and Planned Parenthood Health Systems (now Planned Parenthood of the South Atlantic). Irene is an active volunteer and has served on various boards and committees, including: the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina, ABC-11 Minority Affair Committee, and Student Action with Farmworkers, to name a few. Irene experiences deep joy when she is baking something decadent, opens a new packet of pens, or is doing skincare with her vivacious child, Emerald.

## DR. MARIAROSA RANGEL



Dr. MariaRosa Rangel has over 27 years of experience in education and holds an undergraduate degree in Bilingual/Bicultural and Elementary Education from Northeastern University in Chicago, Illinois, as well as a master's degree in School Administration and a Doctoral degree in Education from North Carolina State University. Throughout her career, Dr. Rangel has held several notable positions, including third-grade Bilingual teacher, GED instructor, Spanish/ESL teacher, Assistant Principal, district-wide LEP/Dual Language Coordinator, and Senior Administrator for Latino Outreach.

Dr. Rangel is currently the Director of Family and Community Engagement at Wake County Public School District (WCPSS). Her main role is to develop and coordinate activities, events, and programs that involve families and the community to improve the academic performance of students district-wide. She also coaches schools on evidence-based techniques to engage families and supervises the District Family Academy, which offers free workshops and educational events to WCPSS families at various schools and community sites within Wake County.

## **DAY NGUYEN**



My name is Day Nguyen. Originally a refugee from Vietnam, my family and I arrived in the United States in 1982, seeking a new beginning and opportunities for a better life.

I pursued my education diligently, earning a Bachelor's degree in Information Management Systems from St. John Fisher University. Keen to advance my knowledge and skills, I furthered my education at the prestigious Rochester Institute of Technology, where I completed a Master's degree in Information Technology.

My professional journey began at Xerox Corporation, where I started as a Computer Operator, gradually transitioning into the role of Programmer/System Analyst over a six-year tenure.

With a knack for leadership and problem-solving, I then joined Electronic Data Systems as a Team Lead, honing my management abilities.

My most significant career chapter unfolded at the IT division of the Department of State Treasurer, where I dedicated 12 years as an IT Project Manager. Here, I spearheaded various projects, leveraging technology to streamline operations and enhance efficiency.

## **DELON FLETCHER**



Delon Fletcher is a dynamic and influential figure in the educational sector, dedicated to fostering excellence across school districts, private industries, and municipalities. As a provider of Integrated Student Support services, he has significantly enhanced the outcomes of the Agarwal Scholars Program, demonstrating an exceptional ability to surpass expectations.

His expertise in team-building and extensive professional experience are pivotal in achieving remarkable success. Delon currently holds the pivotal role of Programming Director and co-creator of the Agarwal Scholars Program.

This innovative academic case management program, based in Southeast Raleigh, NC, offers mentoring and coaching to at-promise youth, guiding them towards brighter futures. Renowned for his achievements, Delon is a highly sought-after speaker and trainer, specializing in educational equity. His insights on Community Engagement and efforts to eradicate educational disparities in K-12 and post-secondary communities are widely respected and valued. Delon's passion for educational excellence makes him a beacon of inspiration and a leader in shaping the future of education.

## **JOHNNY VARGAS**



Johnny Vargas, was born in Colombia, South America, and has lived and taught Spanish in the United States for the past 19 years. He graduated from Universidad Libre in Colombia, and has a bachelor's degree in Philology and languages.

Johnny also taught in Colombia with experience in English and Spanish language education, translation, and language program coordination. He is a National Board-Certified Teacher in World Languages and licensed to teach Spanish and English as a Second Language (ESL) for K-12 in North Carolina.

He enjoys working with the Hispanic community. He currently serves as a presenter and parent trainer for the family Academy, an initiative of the office of equity affair of Wake County public school system. Johnny comes from a family of teachers with strong values and respect for education, and teaching is my number one passion.

## **PAOLA ACUÑA**



Paola Acuña was born in Colombia; South America and has been living and teaching in the United States for the past 9 years. She graduated from Universidad Pedagógica Nacional in Bogotá, Colombia and has a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Foreign languages and a Master's degree in Bilingual Education. Paola taught Spanish and Literature and English as a Second Language in Colombia for 15 years. She is licensed to teach Spanish, French and English as a Second Language (ESL) for K-12 in North Carolina.

I have been teaching Spanish as a Second Language at Apex Friendship High School in Wake County for 5 years and I love it! This is my dream job and I do it with passion and dedication.

## **ERIC CHANEY**



Eric Chancy was born and raised in Miami, Florida, earned his bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with an English concentration in 1993, and completed his master's degree in K-12 School Counseling in 1996. Eric moved to North Carolina in 1999, working as a high school counselor until 2013, at which time he began working with the WCPSS Office of Student Assignment, overseeing the transfer of students to and from 39 schools within the Wake County Public School System. Eric has also authored "The Mechanics of School Counseling Workbook", a guide to help counselors acclimate to new counseling positions, and speaks with school and community groups about the proliferation of and

cautions necessary when engaging in social media. Eric frequently seeks to learn about and share information on how technology is affecting our culture, and in turn how that technology is affecting relationships with students.

## **JUANES**



Juan Esteban Ramirez "JuanEs" serves as a State Representative for Spanish Services at the College Foundation of North Carolina. JuanEs earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Business and Spanish from Lenoir-Rhyne College, completed a Master of Science from Mountain State University as well as an educational specialist degree in higher education with emphasis in adult learners and a doctoral degree in Education Leadership & Administration from Appalachian State University.

JuanEs was born in Medellín, Colombia and settled in the foothills

JuanEs was born in Medellín, Colombia and settled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in Western North Carolina in the year 2000. As a newcomer he experienced first-hand the contradictions and ambiguities attached to certain groups in the United States,

including a crucial moment of realization of belonging to the Latinx/Hispanic community. His research interest lies in the intersection of race/ethnicity and education. His mission has been sharing across the state the transformative power of education. JuanEs advocates for the inclusion of all lived experiences, crafting intentional spaces in which we are teachers and learners, and bringing to attention the great cultural wealth that immigrant communities bring to their spaces.

## **DENISSE BURGOS GONZALEZ**



Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Denisse grew up loving her beautiful island. Mom of two children, a 17 year old daughter and a 16 year old son. She did her undergraduate studies at the University of Puerto Rico, obtaining her Bachelors degree of Arts in Secondary Education, with a major in Recreational Services Administration. She worked for the Department of Sports and Recreation in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for thirteen years.

After Hurricane Maria in 2017, she decided to move to the MainLand with her two children looking for a better life and education opportunities for them.

In February 2018, arrived in North Carolina and worked as a PreSchool Teacher until the Pandemic started in 2020.

Began working in El Centro Hispano in 2021 and found her passion serving and working with the Latino and Hispanic community. Since then, she has worked hard to advance the access to programs and services while reducing social determinants of health.

She is a Community Specialist working with the Youth Program Jovenes Lideres en Accion and a month ago was promoted to be the manager of the Civic & Community Participation Department.

## **GADDY-PARKS**



Mattie Gaddy-Parks is a member of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics' Enrollment Services Department, with her primary focus since 2005 being the school's Admissions Department. She currently serves as the Director of Admissions, where she oversees admissions for all three campuses; Durham, Morganton, and Online, in addition to the Financial Assistance program, and retention programs. Prior to this role, she served as the Associate Director of Admissions and as an admissions counselor covering most of eastern North Carolina and the state's metropolitan areas.

Since coming to NCSSM, she has served on various committees, including Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Campus Security and Safety, Native American Advisory Board, Admissions Advisory Council, Staff Senate, and Strategic Planning.

In addition, she has developed and co-developed several J-Term courses, including explorations of Paris, New York, and Puerto Rico. While at NCSSM, Mattie has collaborated with some of the most brilliant and creative young people by serving as club sponsor for NIA, Legacy, Hope, and Africa Fest. She is passionate about empowering young people to see their true potential, and can do that each day in her current role. Mattie holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Fayetteville State University and a master's degree in public administration from North Carolina Central University. She enjoys spending her free time with her family.

## **HEIDY GOMEZ**



HEIDY GOMEZ, Venezuelan lawyer, accountant, and immigrant, with more than 20 years in this country, community leader and speaker, with more than 11 years of experience working in the Mental Health area, Co-founder, Business Operating Manager as well as outreach coordinator for Butterfly Family Center, a multicultural center for mental health, special education, and family wellness with special focus on immigrant families and other minorities.

Hispanic Representative of Parents for Education Freedom in North Carolina (PEFNC) for more than 10 years, guiding, advocating, and educating Hispanic families about their school choices and special education alternatives, as well as promoting college education for Hispanic students.

Hispanic ambassador of the American Federation for Children, who recognized her with the "Making the Difference" award as a Hispanic leader in education at the national level. As well as other recognitions. But her best reward is being a mother of 3 children Mafer, Naty, and Eddie who are in college and the youngest is still in HS. They know from a very young age the importance of family values and working for the community also the difference between one immigrant and another is the education they can have.

## **MATY FERRER- HOPPMANN**



Maty Ferrer- Hoppmann was born and raised in Veracruz, Mexico where she studied Physical Education and obtained her Master's Degree in Physical Culture from the Pedagogical University of Veracruz. In 2008, Maty moved to the United States where she began her career with non-profit organizations, where her passion is serving the community and especially the most vulnerable populations. She has worked at the Consulate of Mexico, El Pueblo Inc, Urban Ministries of Wake County and currently she is the Director of the Hispanic Family Center of Catholic Charities since 2015, president of ALPES (Latino Alliance pro Education and Health) and member of the Board of Directors of Wake County Health and Human Services. She serves on various committees in the County and was a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic Affairs in 2016.

During the Pandemic, Maty was recognized as one of twelve women making difference in Wake County by Midtown Magazine. She also has a passion to serve and inspire women and is the cofounder of Mujer Preparate, a group that organizes women's conferences for latino women. She is a devoted Christian and lives happily in Raleigh with her family.

## **MAUREEN SANCHEZ**



Maureen Sanchez wears her passion for education like a badge of honor. Originally from Costa Rica, she is a proud alumna of Wake Tech Community College. As a first-generation college student, she embodies the spirit of perseverance and determination. Having graduated from the transfer program at ECU, Maureen's experiences bridging different cultures and educational systems shaped her into her into a compassionate advocate.

In her current role as the Associate Director at Career and Professional Development at Wake Tech, Maureen focuses on helping fellow North Carolinians—especially those who need

extra support—navigate their educational paths. She's not just about degrees; she's about finding that elusive spark—the career passion—that aligns perfectly with each student's journey.

Maureen's legacy is one of empowerment, resilience, and unwavering commitment.

## **CYNTHIA RUBI**



Cynthia Rubi is a sophomore at Millbrook High School. She was born and raised in Raleigh and comes from two Honduran parents. Cynthia is involved in several communities at her school, including the Heritage program, where she wrote her poem "The American Dream".

## **SILAS MANN**



Silas Mann is a senior at Millbrook High school in Raleigh. He is an aspiring musician and producer and plans on majoring in Audio Engineering at Belmont University starting this fall. Silas has been an active member of the Hispanic heritage program at his school for three years.

## **PAMELA GALES**



Pamela Gales has spent over 20 years of her career in Local and State government.

She is currently employed with Wake County Public School System as the Director of Supplier Diversity and Inclusion. She received her bachelor's degree in business administration from American Intercontinental University. She is a Certified Local Government Purchasing Officer (CLGPO), Executive Certified Master Compliance Administrator (ECMCA), Certified Economic Inclusion Officer (CEIO), and a Certified Supplier Diversity Professional (CSDP).

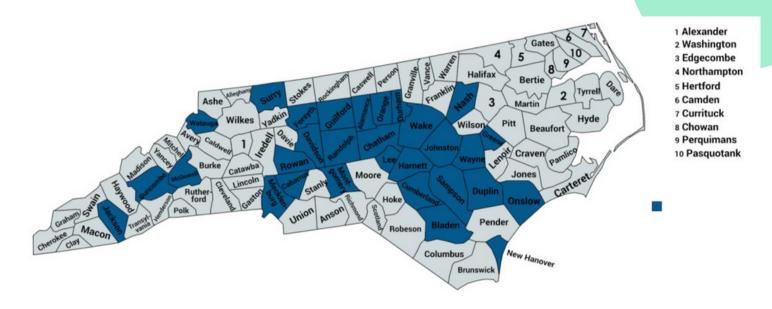
She was President of the North Carolina MWBE Coordinators' Network (NCCN) for four (4) years, and Secretary for three (3) years, and has served as an At Large member Board Member for three (3) years.

Pamela served as Programming Committee Chair for the Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce (GDBCC), and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the NC Society of Hispanic Professionals. She is a member of the American Contract Compliance Association (ACCA), the Carolina Association of Government Purchasing (CAGP), and the National Notary Association.

Pamela has spent countless hours at small business fairs and expos and supports other partner agencies with her energy and commitment to the mission of educating, supporting, and assisting the minority and women community. She has received several honors for her work in supplier diversity and advocacy. She most recently received the 2023 Andrea Harris MBE Award for her outstanding achievements in advocacy for businesses across the State of NC.



## PROVIDING PATHWAYS TO HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA!



THANK YOU! ¡GRACIAS!

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