

## HSI/International: Mexican Students @ UA

### Panelists: Lessons and Experiences from Navigating the U.S. Higher Education

#### **Justin Dutram, M.Ed.**

Assistant Vice President, Mexico and Latin American Initiatives, UA Global

Justin Dutram is the Assistant Vice President for Mexico and Latin American Initiatives at the University of Arizona. In this role he is responsible for collaboration development with higher education, government, and private sector partners in Mexico and Latin America. The objective of these institutional initiatives is to support the development of new education and research collaborations, facilitate the mobility of faculty and students, and to serve as an institutional liaison with all partners in Mexico. Dutram received his M.Ed. in Bilingual and Multicultural Education from Northern Arizona University in 2003 and his B.S. in Geography from New Mexico State University in 1993.

#### **Yamilett Martínez Briseño, Ph.D.**

General Director, Office of Outreach and International Collaborations, Executive Office, Sonora State Government (UA Alumna)

Yamilett obtained her doctoral degree in Teaching and Teacher Education from the UArizona. She has been the catalyst for growth of many Sonoran programs and bilateral initiatives between Arizona and Sonora. One of the main initiatives that Yamilett coordinates is to create academic and financial opportunities for Sonoran students to pursue a degree or have an international experience abroad. She has also created opportunities to combat crime through binational training and information exchanges, expanded the Chief Science Officers (CSO) Program, and increased gastronomic tourism visits to the area.

#### **Romy Ceron Canche, M.A.**

UA Doctoral Student, Spanish Department

I graduated with a degree in Latin American Literature at the Autonomous University of Yucatan (Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán - UADY). I completed my master's degree in Hispanic American Literature at the University of El Paso Texas (UTEP), where I also had the opportunity to work as a Spanish tutor for undergraduate students, as well as Editorial Assistant for the Journal of Contemporary Mexican Literature (Revista de Literatura Mexicana Contemporánea). I am in the third year of my Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Arizona and I am founder and president of the group The Literary and Cultural Studies Working Group. I currently work as an editorial assistant with Dr. Malcolm Compitello at The Arizona Journal Hispanic and Cultural Studies.

#### **Ivan Gaxiola Camacho, M.S.**

UA PhD Candidate, Arid Lands Resource Sciences (ALRS)

Ivan is an international student from Sinaloa, Mexico. He is pursuing the PhD in Arid Lands Resource Sciences, a Graduate Interdisciplinary Program from the University of Arizona. His research endeavors involve architectural science, environmental design, urban agriculture, outdoor human thermal comfort, remote sensing, and energy use in buildings. Currently, Ivan's work is focused on the effects of urban vegetation at microclimate scale in the city of Tucson Arizona.

## Panelists: Intercultural Communication and Learning in the Classroom

### **Robert Côté, Ph.D.**

Interim Director, Center for English as a Second Language

College of Humanities, University of Arizona

English Language Specialist to Russia, Ukraine, and Brazil, U.S. Department of State

Dr. Robert Côté has worked as an administrator, teacher trainer, and instructor in universities, adult education centers, and high schools around the world. He has volunteered as an editor for LINGUIST List and Arab World English Journal. He works at the University of Arizona, Tucson, serving as past Director of the Writing Skills Improvement Program and current Director at the Center for English as a Second Language. He is also an English Language Specialist for the State Department involved in numerous academic writing, academic integrity, and writing center projects in Russia, Ukraine, and Brazil.

### **Alma Tejada Padron, B.Sc.**

PhD student, Psychology

UA International Student Advisory Council, International Student Services

I was born and raised in Southern Mexico. I did my undergraduate studies on Psychological Science there, and after graduation, worked as a Psychology and Research Methods lecturer. At the UA, my graduate training is focused on social psychology, research methods, health, and college teaching. Through my roles as a student and instructor both in Mexico and the United States, I have become aware of challenges that international students and people with diverse backgrounds may face when studying in the US. Through my research, teaching and service, I strive to help international students and the broad community to feel welcomed, supported and engaged by providing meaningful experiences for their own benefit, and for the benefit of the global community.

### **Sanda Bernal, Ph.D.**

Lecturer, School of Architecture (CAPLA)

Lecturer, Religious Studies and Classics

Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Fellow 2020-2021

Dr. Sandra Bernal, Ph. D., HISF, LEED, GA. Bernal is a social scientist with a background in arid land resource sciences, climate change, architecture, urban planning, and college teaching. Her teaching and research focus in the fields of human health and the built environment, cultural implications in sustainability and online education, among others. Sandra was recently announced as one of the Hispanic Serving Institution Fellows of 2020-2021. The US Green Building Council (USGBC) awarded her as Shero of the month of September in the Women in Green Campaign, and named her twice as person of the year (2017 and 2019). She collaborates with local non-profits and binational organizations bringing educational and research opportunities for partnership to the UArizona.

## Panelists: Mexican Wildcats and the Sense of Belonging

### **Marla Franco, Ph.D.**

Assistant Vice Provost, Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Initiatives

Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Higher Education

Dr. Marla Franco serves as the Assistant Vice Provost for Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Initiatives at the University of Arizona (UA). She has worked in higher education for nearly 20 years at public universities in California and Arizona, having served in various roles within academic and student affairs to champion greater college access and degree attainment among underserved and minoritized

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students, which strongly informs her work today. Dr. Franco led efforts that resulted in the UA becoming the first four-year public university in the state of Arizona to be federally recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education in April 2018. She is now working across the university to develop a centralized vision for maximizing this designation in a way that truly benefits students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members from diverse backgrounds.

### **Ricky Hernandez, MBA**

Assistant Vice President, Financial Operations

Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Fellow 2018-2019

Ricky serves as Assistant Vice President for the University Alumni & Development Program (UADP) Financial Operations. Previously, he served as Assistant Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Arizona Alumni Association. He is an alumnus of the University of Arizona double majoring in Political Science and Spanish with a Literature Concentration. He earned a Master of Administration with an emphasis in Public Management, with honors, from Northern Arizona University and a Certified Public Manager certification from Arizona State University. Before coming to UA, he was appointed as Deputy County School Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer for the Pima County School Superintendent's Office with primary responsibility as the fiscal agent and fiduciary of all funding for Pima County's 17 school districts – totaling over \$1 billion. He served in that role for 10 years. Ricky is a big proponent of public and community service and has served on various community and non-profit boards. He is a first-generation college graduate and a native of Nogales, AZ.

### **Lucía Cárdenas, M.S.**

UA alumna in Engineering Management

Lucia is an account executive for Triple H Produce who monitors the logistics and sales of Mexican fruits with customers in different areas of the United States. She holds a Master's Degree in Engineering Management from The University of Arizona (UA) and was awarded as SIE outstanding Graduate Student 2015. During her time as a Graduate student at the UA Lucia performed as an active member of the SIE department, volunteering in many UA Science of Baseball events. She also worked enthusiastically for the Latin American Graduate College Initiatives as part of the team coordinating programs with Mexican and Latin American students.

### **Paola Espinoza Martínez, MBA**

UA alumna in Biosystems Engineering

Nursery Manager at Bayer Hawaii

Paola is a Nursery Manager at Bayer's Maui Product Development Center, where she works improving the future generation of corn seed that will be planted by farmers around the world. She graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in Biosystems Engineering in 2013 and with an MBA from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2020. Her day-to-day consists of balancing tight turnarounds of high volumes of projects, leveraging genetic data, logistics and agricultural operations. Paola has worked with some of Hawaii's most notable STEM organizations like the Maui Economic Development Board, Women in Technology and Girls Scouts of Hawaii. Most recently, she was awarded a Top Performance Award for her work leading Bayer Hawaii's employee engagement efforts and creating operational efficiencies for Bayer's Corn Breeding Pipeline.

## Guest Speakers

### **Marla Franco, Ph.D.**

Assistant Vice Provost, Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Initiatives

Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Higher Education

<https://hsi.arizona.edu/person/dr-marla-franco>

**Cónsul Rafael Barceló Durazo**

Consulate of Mexico in Tucson

<https://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/tucson/index.php/consulado/consul-titular>

**Lisa Elfring, Ph.D.**

Associate Vice Provost, Instruction and Assessment

Associate Specialist, Molecular and Cellular Biology

<https://profiles.arizona.edu/person/elfring>

**Judy Marquez Kiyama, Ph.D.**

Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Development

<https://provost.arizona.edu/person/judy-marquez-kiyama>

## Moderators

**Nadia Mexia Alvarez, Ph.D.**

Director of Mexico Programs, Mexico Initiatives, UA Global

Assistant Professor of Practice, TLS, College of Education

Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Fellow 2018-2019

Academic Leadership Institute (ALI) Fellow 2020-2021

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Dr. Nadia Alvarez Mexia was born and raised in Mexico. She has worked in higher education for more than 20 years in Mexico and the U.S. and devoted her professional and teaching career to creating collaborations that link people and institutions, nourishing the extraordinary beauty of diverse and inclusive communities. Fueled by a strong commitment to serve others, Nadia creates safe learning spaces and remarkable academic experiences that have brought recognition from the University of Arizona, as well as from NAFSA in the U.S. and HEI's in Mexico. She has cultivated a strong network of colleges, units, offices, groups, and colleagues. Through her leading-edge work with faculty, staff and students, Nadia has helped amplify the voices of young women, first generation, indigenous from Mexico, international and minority populations.

**Mascha N. Gemein, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Practice, Instruction and Assessment

Co-Coordinator of the Certificate in College Teaching

Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Fellow 2018-2019

Inclusive Leadership Certificate Cohort (ILCC) Mentor, 2019-2021

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Originally from Germany, Dr. Mascha N. Gemein moved to the Sonoran Desert and obtained a Ph.D. in Native American Studies from the University of Arizona (UA). Since 2014, she has worked as an educational developer and Assistant Professor of Practice at the UA's teaching center, the Office of Instruction and Assessment. She teaches graduate courses, facilitates professional development programs, and offers consultations focused on evidence-based, inclusive, and culturally-responsive teaching practices. Combined with her dedication to networking and supporting emerging leaders, her work directly translates into multiplying the number of people who practice and promote inclusive teaching excellence in higher education.