

# FAAmilia

National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees





# NHCFAE Annual Training Conference Indianapolis: August 4-6, 2020



## National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees "Con Orgullo en Nuestra Hispanidad"

NHCFAE  
PO Box 23276  
Washington, DC 20026-3276  
www.nhcfae.org

### Mission

The National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees is a professional, diverse organization that focuses on advocating career placement and advancement through support, education and alliances.

### History

Established in 1978 in an effort to provide a network for Hispanic employees of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Aviation Industry. It became a national organization in 1983. Today, the Coalition is the chief advocate

for issues affecting Hispanics in the FAA. The Coalition derives its support from membership dues, corporate sponsorships and private donations.

### Officers

President, Bill Fernandez  
Vice-President, Oscar Torres  
Director of Administration, Laurie Ortiz  
Director of Education, Randall Resto  
Director of Public Affairs, Jonathan Eagle  
Director of Resources, Dolores Leyva

### Standing Committees

Historian, Hilda Banda  
Corporate Relations, Kristan Villegas  
Social Media, William "Bear" Velasquez  
Membership, Bernice Merly  
Conference, Ida Marrero  
Outreach, Maritza Miranda  
Legislative, Oralia "Lolly" Martinez  
Elections, David Gonzales  
NHCFAE Foundation, Erik Salazar

### Corporate Sponsors

BlueCross BlueShield FEP  
Starr Wright USA  
Federal Long Term Care  
Livingston Financial  
NATCA  
PASS  
SkyOne

### Editors

Jonathan Eagle, Erik Salazar, Susie Diaz

### Design

Spark Creative

The views expressed herein are solely those of the authors and should not be construed to be the opinion of the FAA or National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees. Suggestions and opinions expressed in FAAmilia magazine are not necessarily endorsed by NHCFAE or FAA. Nothing in those pages is intended to supersede operator's or manufacturer's policies, practices or requirements, or to supersede government regulations.

© 2019 National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees. All Rights Reserved.

# CONTENTS



7



14



28



22



STARR  
WRIGHT  
USA



The **Federal** Long Term  
Care Insurance Program™

[www.LTCFEDS.com](http://www.LTCFEDS.com)

## FAAmilia, Volume 1

5 / Message from the President

6 / Editor's Message

## From Our Members

7 / Puerto Rico Conference Highlights

8 / Don't Hold the Line

10 / 2019 Puerto Rico ACE Camp

11 / Outreach in Puerto Rico

13 / Why Education Matters

14 / Scholarship Recipients

20 / Tuition Reimbursement Recipients

22 / Hispanic Heritage Month Events

27 / Community Outreach

28 / Member Spotlight

31 / Cuban by Heritage, American by Choice

34 / Racing Towards 2020 Conference

36 / Congratulations

37 / Thanksgiving Crossword

38 / We Want to Hear from You!

40 / Membership Update

VISIT US AT THE

# VIRTUAL BENEFITS FAIR



FEDERAL BENEFITS OPEN SEASON

NOVEMBER 11 TO DECEMBER 9, 2019

VISIT THE VIRTUAL BENEFITS FAIR ANYTIME DURING OPEN SEASON. REGISTER AT [LTCFEDS.COM](http://LTCFEDS.COM)



BENEFEDS is administered by Long Term Care Partners, LLC.



The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program is sponsored by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, insured by John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company, and administered by Long Term Care Partners, LLC.

# Message from the NHCFAE President



800  
Independence  
Avenue, SW

U.S. Department of  
Transportation



**¡Hola FAAMILIA!** It is an honor to serve as your president of the National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees. You will always hear me say “Your President” because I sincerely believe that I serve you, the members of the NHCFAE. I am excited about the challenges and opportunities that will face us in the coming years. I am not a complex person, and I have stated previously that my goal as your president will be to keep it simple.

First, I want to be able to find ways that help each of us grow professionally, to improve our educational and training opportunities to help us reach our individual goals and dreams. What this means is that I want to see you achieve YOUR professional goals and aspirations. Make you the best representation of what YOU want.

Each of us is a part of an organization that has a tremendously important mission. Each of us SERVES our country by making this country safer every day. The work we do keeps our skies safe as we prepare this country to move into the future. We do this for ourselves, our families, and ultimately for this country. Our aviation system is the standard-bearer in the world, and each of us makes that happen. Never forget how important your job in the FAA is to this country.

Keeping it simple, the NHCFAE is just a group of people that have organized to help each other and spread the word that aviation is an amazing vocation, and that women, Hispanics, and other minority groups, can do these jobs just as well as anyone!

When I was in Oklahoma City, I had the opportunity to speak to the faculty advisor at Oklahoma City Community College about their Hispanic Organization to Promote Education (HOPE). The faculty advisor told me that many of their students focused on two career paths. They either wanted to be immigration attorneys or nurses, because they didn’t know about any other career opportunities. She said, “they can’t be what they can’t see”. That stood out me and has stuck with me ever since, because I know WE can fill that void.

“They can’t be what they can’t see”, as I hear that, tells me that we need to be visible in our communities. I would like to see our coalition visit more universities, colleges, and schools to simply talk about the amazing things we do for our country. Outreach can be so many things, simply talking to friends and family is outreach. Maybe you can inspire your niece or nephew or even a daughter or son to want a rewarding career in the FAA. It is all outreach.

We need greater outreach to young people to let them know that there are important, fascinating opportunities in aviation, and that they too can be a part of this amazing future. Often times when we talk about outreach, our first thought is about ACE Camps, and those are an important part of outreach, but it is far from the only outreach we can do. We want to continue our contributions to ACE Camps and look for other opportunities to expand ACE Camps, especially for under-represented groups. But outreach can be so much more.

Boeing published its Pilot and Technician Outlook plan.\* It is their respected strategic plan for 2019-2038. It’s projected that over the next 20 years, there will be a need for at least 804,000 new civil aviation pilots, 769,000 new maintenance technicians, and 914,000 new cabin crew needed to fly and maintain the world fleet.

In addition, the FAA is involved with new technologies such as Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and commercial space operations with huge growth potential. We can be an active source of information for young people in our communities to help them identify the opportunities that are open now and in the near future.

*Cont...*

# President's Message Continued...

Let's share with people that there are careers in aviation, careers at the FAA and people like us are doing those jobs. They, too, can be a part of this fascinating aviation career. I am excited to be a part of this amazing group, and I look forward to helping you all achieve your goals!

Gracias!

Bill Fernandez

\* <http://www.boeing.com/commercial/market/pilot-technician-outlook/>

---

## Editor's Message

Saludos a todos,

My name is Jonathan Eagle. I am your editor-in-chief for FAAmilia magazine, and your new Director of Public Affairs. If you have gotten a chance to spend time around me, you know that I'm not much for personal accolades. What I seek instead is to empower our membership. New thoughts and ideas are how we learn, it's how we grow. I challenge all of you to take a step out of the norm and challenge yourselves, whether personally or professionally, to do something different. I know as an air traffic controller editing my first magazine, I certainly am.

With that being said, welcome to the first edition of the newly renamed **FAAmilia** magazine. My hope is to make this a magazine that not only you, our membership, anticipates reading, but your entire familia. We want to hear what you are doing in your communities, how your kids are doing in school, or if a loved one is back from deployment. Anything you are willing to share, we want to know. I am in the unique position that every article submitted is reviewed by me. That means I read every word you write. I appreciate every single article that is submitted. It is a small window into who you are and what you represent. That is what makes this organization special, and why at the end of the day, we are one big FAAmilia.

Enjoy reading, and I look forward to receiving your future submissions.

Besos y Abrazos,

Jonathan Eagle



Follow us on:



# 2019 Puerto Rico Training Conference



# Don't Hold the Line

By: Edith Bowdish, Western-Pacific

Every time I attend a conference I feel reenergized, but this year was especially energizing for me personally. Puerto Rico is such a beautiful place, full of culture we can all connect with, but I had to focus because I was an active participant. When I arrived at the hotel, I immediately stepped in and helped the conference committee. It was a great way to make new connections and friendships.

One of the most important jobs I did was moderating two Fireside Chats, the ATO Fireside Chat and the Hispanic Leaders Fireside Chat. The ATO leadership panel members were Tim Arel, Deputy COO; Jeffrey Planty, VP of Technical Operations; and Glen Martin, VP of Safety and Training. The Hispanic leaders panel members were Nicholas Reyes, Director of the Western Hemisphere, Office of International Affairs; Juan Fuentes, Acting Director for Operational Policy and Implementation for Air Traffic Services; and Oralia “Lolly” Martinez, Manager for the Safety Services Group. These were all impressive leaders in the agency and I was deeply inspired that day on stage. Standing close to them and talking face to face was a big moment for me. As a Hispanic woman, Lolly made me tear up with the important issues she expressed.

I was challenged in various ways that week. Being on stage with everyone watching and listening, I was just praying I didn't make a mistake! It was very challenging not to look or sound as nervous as I was. I knew when I accepted the moderator position that I would be nervous, but I wanted to push myself to get out of my comfort zone and look at this as an opportunity to practice some public speaking skills. It was also a great way to meet the leaders you usually see from a distance or read about in your email.

I also recognized my limits, when I was asked to do the mock interview I agonized about it for a couple days and I just couldn't do it. I wasn't ready to be that vulnerable, but I would like to try it someday. The reason I'm sharing this with you is because we all hold this line of comfort and when that line is questioned we tend to stay on the safe side. I haven't figured out how to cross that line without forcing myself, but when faced with no choice shouldn't we all just go for it and do our best? Like in an interview, I know I have to do it, I hate it like many others, but I do it and then relive it for several days after. I keep thinking and questioning how I performed, what did I miss? What could I have said better? Was I good enough? I know I am hard on myself and it's impossible to be perfect, but what are the things that hold me back? I'm not afraid to get on stage with some of the most important leaders in the agency, but when I am the audience's focus, that's a whole different mind set.

Here is my challenge to you. Find your line and cross it! I will do the same. This is a self-development opportunity for all of us. Look within and be aware of your triggers. Take note of what makes you uncomfortable and figure out the why. I am always looking to my future, thinking about how to improve as a leader. Familia, together we can challenge ourselves and grow.



*Pictured Left to Right: Nicholas Reyes, Juan Fuentes, Oralia “Lolly” Martinez, Edith Bowdish*

# La Isla del Encanto

By: Nat Perez, Western-Pacific



If you happened to miss this year's National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees Annual Training Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, you missed a great opportunity! This year's training may be one of the greatest conferences I have attended.

From the moment I arrived at the registration desk on the first day there were already familiar faces from over two years greeting me with an enthusiastic smile and you could feel the positive energy around the room. I knew we were in store for some great training.

The training was outstanding. There was something for all lines of business, whether it was the Air Traffic Organization (ATO), Airports (ARP), Aviation Safety (AVS), or Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST). Not only was there beneficial training and networking amongst the different lines of business, but also opportunities for interns all the way to executives. The collaborative and all-inclusive training environment allows everyone to come to the table and have a voice during training in order to learn, ask questions, and better understand

how our lines of businesses affect and rely on each other in order to make a better system for everyone. Without a conference like this, we would remain in the dark about our counterparts in the agency.

The training included open table discussions with labor leaders, administration executives hosting Q&A sessions, and professional development. There was an increased emphasis on employee development this year and I found a great amount of new-found information regarding resume building, career planning, and interview assessment. This is only a miniscule glance into what type of training was available at this conference. It's not only available, it's encouraged and supported by your fellow members!

If you are seeking an environment that is pro-success, you need to join the NHCFAE and attend one of our conferences. I always like to say that in order to advance from your present position you need to take advantage of the opportunities available to you! This is one of them.

Saludos and hope to see you in Indianapolis next year!

# Growing Up Through Resilience

By: Eduard Rodriguez-Valerio, Southern

As soon as I knew that the training conference of the National Hispanic Coalition would be held in my beloved Puerto Rico, I could not be more excited. It not only gave me the opportunity to go back home for a while, but also learn more about this organization that I just recently joined.

My experience began on a night with a clear, full moon. I was invited to a dinner that took place prior to the first day of the training conference and I had the opportunity to meet amazing people. It was there that I started to understand the dynamics of this organization.

Since day one of the event, I realized this training conference was very different from conventions that I previously attended. The warmth of the people was one of the main characteristics that was present at all times, also the sense of being part of a family, clearly reflected the uniqueness of this organization. Other things that were called to my attention were the professional attire of the attendees, the quality and usefulness of the topics presented, and the accessibility of the presenters of the different organizations present. I felt that they went out of their way to make themselves available to offer assistance and listen to my concerns. This definitely distinguished this coalition apart from the other ones.

Throughout the training conference I had the opportunity to meet extraordinary people that love to help each other and it helped encourage me to get involved and help others too. I believe being there for each other should be the main goal of any organization of this kind, and NHCFAE delivered on this.

I am eager to continue growing within this organization and am excited to participate in next year's training conference.



## Puerto Rico ACE Camp

By: Kristan Villegas, Great Lakes

I recently had the honor of being a presenter for the ACE camp in Puerto Rico during the past NHCFAE Annual Training Conference. When I got an email asking for volunteers, I was happy to do my part as a member of the NHCFAE Great Lakes Region and a proud NATCA representative. I understand how essential volunteerism is in our communities, especially as a woman in the field of aviation and specifically an air traffic controller. I am constantly reminded that I am a minority. The percentage of Hispanics in the FAA is underwhelming as well. I was fortunate enough in my youth to have an uncle that became an air traffic controller in the Reagan years. When he came home from Oklahoma City and told the stories of what an air traffic controller does, I was sold. I would never have known about that career field if not for my uncle.

So, what happens to all those children that don't have an uncle, mom or dad in the aviation career field? Who can open that door for them? How can we improve our numbers and diversify our workforce? The answer is both fun and rewarding. Outreach. I have 4 children and they are aware of what I do when I go to work. Well, most of my children, the youngest still thinks I am out on the tarmac waving the orange flashlights. I believe that letting these youth know that there are so many more opportunities available to them is part of our responsibility.

Now back to my original purpose for telling my story. While I was in Puerto Rico, I was able to talk about how I love my job and how rewarding it is to me. I could see the kids light up when they felt my excitement. The best thing about my day during the ACE camp was that even though it was an event geared to the youth in San Juan, Puerto Rico, there were just as many questions from parents that also had never thought about aviation as a potential career field. STEM outreach is critical for all communities, but I have a special place in my heart for any of the communities that fit into the minority groups that are currently lacking in the aviation community. Maybe we can reach out to enough communities now, so that in 25 years there are no groups that are a minority, or at least it's more diverse than it is today. I believe we owe that to ourselves and our futures.

# Outreach in Puerto Rico

By: Bill Fernandez, Capital

The National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees recently held their 2019 National Training Conference in Puerto Rico. The conference location is selected 2 years in advance for logistical purposes. During the selection process, the goal of the Coalition was to reinvigorate the San Juan Chapter, and reach out to one of the largest predominately-Hispanic populations in the FAA. However, on September 16, 2017, things changed when a Category 5 hurricane, named Maria, devastated Puerto Rico.



The NHCFAE never once considered canceling or moving our training conference, rather their focus of why we would be going to Puerto Rico had changed. The NHCFAE will always provide an educational and engaging training to members, but this time it was to also to extend the outreach to help the people on the island as well.

The NHCFAE chose the theme “Strengthening Our Resilience“ as a tribute to the resilient people of Puerto Rico. The NHCFAE worked with the Office of Civil Rights to establish an Aviation Career Education (ACE) camp for elementary and middle school students during our training conference week. In addition, the Office of Civil Rights, along with the NHCFAE, set up two University outreach events for students from The University of Puerto Rico in Bayamón and the Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico in the San Juan area.

However, the NHCFAE members strived to do more, they wanted to give back to the local community. Michelle Dobao, a member in Puerto Rico from San Juan Tower at the Luis Muñoz Marin International Airport, offered to arrange a charitable outreach event. Michelle had worked with a small all-male orphanage, ages 5-18 that had been forced to reduce their housing capacity due to the damage caused by Hurricane Maria.

The orphanage receives limited local government funds, but it is strictly tied to the care of the children and not for the necessary repairs required to fix the facility back to its standards. In order to fix safety railings, showers, security fencing, and repairs to the buildings inside and out, they would have to rely on charitable donations. With the whole island needing recovery help, the orphanage was struggling to make the necessary repairs and be able to return to its capacity.

At the Annual Training Conference Michelle Dobao and Bill Fernandez presented the opportunity for the conference attendees to help this small orphanage. The NHCFAE members did not hesitate to jump in and be part of this opportunity to help. Members, conference attendees and the Air Traffic Controllers at the San Juan Tower were generous in their contributions. Executive representatives of the NHCFAE visited the orphanage on August 9th, 2019, the day after that Annual Training Conference ended, and met with local staff members to present them with over \$2,000 collected.

In addition, two NHCFAE members (who wish to remain anonymous), noticed the picture of the broken washer and dryers during the presentation and they went out and bought the orphanage a brand new Samsung large capacity washer and dryer, with a 4-year extended warranty, and had it delivered and set up, valued at over \$1,400.

The NHCFAE has initiated a fundraiser via gofundme.com to assist this facility speed up the much-needed repairs, get back on their feet, and provide the safe and loving environment that will help guide these boys into adulthood and be contributors to the community. We thank you for those that are generous to donate!

Donations accepted at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/nhcfae-orphanage-support>

# Resiliency in Education!

By: Miguel "Mike" Narvaez, Southern

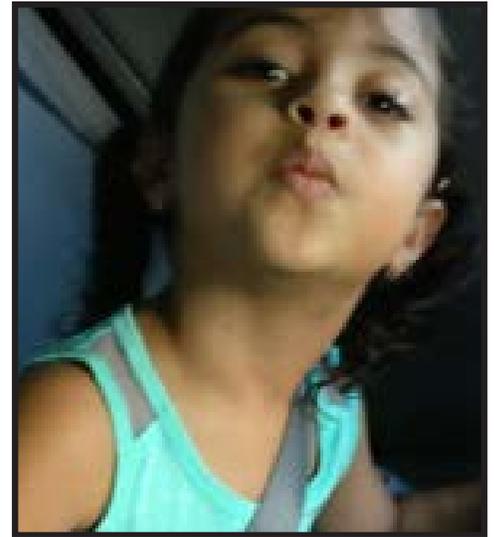
Saludos Familia!

It was the first day of school for many children this August 2019, to include my beautiful granddaughter Liana Santiago Narvaez. All dressed up in her uniform she refused to hold her mother's hand because she said she was a big girl (Una Nena Grande).

My granddaughter Liana is following in the footsteps of many great Hispanic Americans, such as Sonia Sotomayor, Cesar Chavez, and Roberto Clemente. She will have to overcome many obstacles that we as Hispanic Americans have to combat to this day, including under-representation in many places, such as Congress and corporate America.

Some bad news, an increase in bigotry and anti-Hispanic rhetoric has unfortunately filled the airways. These reports cannot be good for the morale and welfare of our children. The recent news reports even show ICE rounding up Hispanic parents that leave children to wonder if they will ever see their parents again. Many of these issues are concerning as they can only have negative side-effects on the mental condition of our children.

The good news, with so many barriers to learning, the NHCFAE has taken charge showing leadership in steadfast commitment to provide scholarship money to those in need, along with support for the education of their members. The NHCFAE has contributed thousands of dollars in 2019, and will increase this amount in the coming year. NHCFAE shows pride in our community with ACE camps, and a great effort to support the government's paid internship program.



This 2019 NHCFAE conference was titled, "Strengthening Our Resilience." I could not agree more. We have to get laser-focused on moving the needle forward to more representation of qualified Hispanics, not only in US Government key leadership positions, but globally. One of the key paths to success is education and aviation awareness programs targeting our future generations. According to 2015 US Census population estimates, Hispanic Americans account for 18.1% of the US, and by 2060 will be close to 119 million of the US population. Nevertheless, pockets of our familia still struggle with poverty and lack of quality education. The NHCFAE has made a great effort to close this gap, but they cannot do it alone. We need the help of every Hispanic, and non-Hispanic, who believes in diversity and inclusion to step forward and fight to strengthen our resiliency through a diverse and well-represented workforce.

*Miguel "Mike" Narvaez is an IT Specialist for the Program Management Office-AJM in Miami, Florida, and unyielding supporter of the NHCFAE for many years. Miguel is completing his degree in Information Security from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, and plans to enroll in University of Miami's Cybersecurity Program this coming year.*



## Why Education Matters to an Air Traffic Controller

By: Rachel Cruz, Eastern/New England

I remember the first time I spoke to a coworker about pursuing my Masters. I was working as a Certified Professional Controller at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey, and I brought up the idea of pursuing my secondary education. When I mentioned to this person that I was thinking about signing up for school again, the response I received was, “Why? You are already a controller! You don’t need school anymore! Why does a controller need a Masters?”

That was a VERY good question! One that I did not have a response for! I had let my dream go. At the time, my life was a little too hectic for school anyways. I just had a newborn child and a 3-year-old at home. I allowed my coworker to talk me out of pursuing my education then, but I couldn’t stay away from the idea, and years later I decided to pursue it after all. I have always had a love of learning and although I couldn’t place my finger on the reason, pursuing my master’s degree seemed like a really good idea, as I have always found education to be valuable.

It was when I started the learning process, I uncovered why it is a really good idea for air traffic controllers to pursue their bachelors or masters. When the movie “Back to the Future” first came out, at the time that movie was cutting-edge. The graphics and special effects seemed ahead of their time. Now imagine that is the last movie you ever see. You never got to see “Jurassic Park” or “Avatar” or any of the really cool Disney movies, like the newest “Lion King” (“Wreck it Ralph” and “Moana” are two personal favorites in our home). That is what being a controller is like without an education. Most of us work in towers that are much older than us, with technology that matches. Although the airspace is being updated, there is still much room for growth within the agency.

What is unique about air traffic controllers in the United States is that we work the most complex airspace in the world, hands down, and while other countries have been slowly growing in capacity, we have been working our extreme levels for decades. We lack the updated technology that other controllers have access to in other countries. For example, the National Air Traffic Services (NATS) is pioneering air traffic management in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Asia Pacific region. This is significant because the Asia Pacific market is expected to become the global leader in the next 20 years in air traffic operations and passenger enplanements. Every year their reach in implementing new technologies for air traffic services grow further and further.

Why does all of this matter to air traffic controllers? Imagine what we have seen, the complex situations that we have resolved and marrying that to the kind of technology used in Asia. We are in the position to help improve the efficiency of our airspace because of our invaluable experience. Furthermore, with the technological savviness of this generation, today’s controllers are empowered with the ability to help improve both the training and implementation of new technologies to the NAS. However, if the last movie we have seen is “Back to the Future”, then how can we envision a future for us? Therefore, education is paramount to today’s controllers. By knowing what is being done, we can create what will be. The best athletes in their fields study other athletes in different sports to learn different ways to improve their game, and we should be doing the same.



# SCHOLARSHIPS

## 2019 NHCFAE Scholarship Program

### NHCFAE Charitable Foundation Scholarship Recipients



My name is **Isabella Garcia**. I am currently a senior at the University of California, San Diego, pursuing a B.A. in Anthropology, with a concentration in Archaeological studies. Within the scope of archaeology, I am focusing on environmental archaeology, specifically looking at the relationship past populations had with their environment and food sources. I believe environmental change is very important and learning from the past is a vital way to help learn about our future. I will be graduating from UCSD in the Spring of 2020 and will be attending one or more archaeological field schools over the course of the 2020-2021 academic school year. I am attending these field schools in order to learn proper excavation procedures and techniques necessary for executing ethical research. While attending these schools, I will also be applying to various archaeological graduate programs, specifically Ph.D. programs, for Fall 2021 admission. I plan on attending graduate school to conduct research and obtain my Ph.D. in order to pursue a career in teaching at the university level. I am extremely thankful to the NHCFAE Foundation for awarding me this scholarship

because I plan to use it to help pay for one of UCSD's field schools offered over Summer 2020. It means a lot to me to be receiving this award because it will help me to gain knowledge and experience by working within the archaeological field before I continue onto my graduate studies.

My name is **Sophia Marquez**. This fall quarter I will be attending UC Davis studying computer science. After graduating I hope to work in the cyber security field to protect our nation from cyber-attacks in the future. I hope to use this scholarship for the many expenses that come with studying in a four-year university. I would like to thank Thomas Marquez, the frontline manager at the San Diego FSDO for being my sponsor in this scholarship program. Thank you to the NHCFAE Foundation for this opportunity.



# Rene Matos Scholarship Recipients



Hello, my name is **Ambar Castillo** and I was born in Brooklyn, New York, but raised in Queens. I am obsessed with the role of creative communications in empowering LatinX and other underserved communities. As a 2017 Pulitzer Center student fellow, I investigated how community-based organizations create culturally adaptive health prevention programs for transmittable diseases, non-communicable illnesses, and basic hygiene campaigns in the slums of Gujarat, India. Through a 2018-2019 Fulbright research scholarship, I studied the effectiveness of theatre-based interventions on women's health and gender sensitization among men in Mysore, India. As a Spanish-language journalism student at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY, I am excited about reporting on creative solutions to major issues facing LatinX communities. I also plan to help bridge differences between LatinX communities and other people from the Global South by demystifying mutual misconceptions. I am so grateful to the NHCFAE for helping me further engage in such creative approaches to problems our communities face. This scholarship will help alleviate some of my financial stress while working and pursuing a path in solutions journalism. It

means so much to me to be sponsored by an organization that honors Rene Matos, who was such a role model and advocate for other LatinX people. I am a daughter of two hard-working Dominican immigrants, and I hope to honor my heritage by harnessing my expressive commitment to the community, and work ethic--all embodied by Rene Matos--to empower myself and others. ¡Muchisimas gracias, NHCFAE! Shukriyah!

Hello, my name is **Analisa Mayo-Ramos**. I currently reside in Texas, but I grew up in several different states due to my father's career in the military, including Alaska and Hawaii. In high school, I played the violin in my school band, had an internship with a civil engineer, and was a member of the National Honor Society. I am currently an incoming freshman at the University of Texas at San Antonio. I have an analytical mind and innate sense of curiosity and am planning on majoring in Physics. I also plan to join several organizations on campus, such as Women in Physics and the College of Science Dean's Student Board. After receiving my Bachelor's, I plan to continue my studies in order to receive my Master's in Particle Physics. My goal in life is to become a civilian research physicist for the U.S Department of Defense. I would like to thank the National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees for selecting me for this scholarship and all the donors that made this possible.



My name is **Andrew Alday**. I am honored to be selected as a Rene Matos Scholar. Thank you so much for your generous donation. This scholarship will help to fuel the journey to complete my Aerospace Engineering undergraduate degree at Cal Poly Pomona by May 2021. With hopes to maintain my current GPA of 3.93, I will continue to persevere and start the 2019-2020 academic year with a high cadence. As I have progressed in my studies, I have come to develop a real fascination with the physical explanations of natural phenomena. Understanding these concepts opened up my mind to push through the limits of science and technology. As the years continue to go by, the human civilization continues to develop cutting edge technology and one of my goals is to be at the tip of that spear. After completing an internship with Rockwell Collins (now Collins Aerospace) in 2018 and Northrop Grumman in 2019, I believe I have made significant progress to achieve that goal. Along with being able to develop technology, I believe it is also important to give back to the community. In the future, I plan on becoming an educator for aspiring STEM students. I hope to inspire them to develop a passion for knowledge just as I was inspired. Once again, thank you for this honor. I deeply appreciate it.

## Rene Matos Scholarship Recipients



My name is **Victoria Aparicio**, and I am honored to be one of this year's recipients of the Rene Matos Scholarship. It is because of the generosity of the National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees that I am able to continue my education at California State University, Fullerton. This award is not only meaningful financially, but is also of great emotional significance to my family and I. Consequently, NHCFAE has strengthened my belief in myself. This fall I transferred from Fullerton College to CSUF as a junior. My dedication and passion for business administration has allowed me to succeed academically, while balancing two part time jobs. I am currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Business Analytics with a minor in Economics. After I complete my bachelor's degree, it is my goal to pursue my master's degree in Finance at USC or UCLA. Earning my master's degree will help support my dream career as a financial analyst. This scholarship has allowed me to pursue my education and free up my time to obtain professional experience through internships offered on campus. Additionally, I am able to get more involved within the Latino Business Student Association of CSUF. I am currently applying to the Hispanic 100 mentor-

ship program to help further my dream of become a financial analyst into a reality. My educational pursuits would not have been possible without the support of the National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees for blessing me with the Rene Matos Scholarship. Thank you NHCFAE for enabling me to reach my fullest personal and professional potential.

Hi, my name is **Daisy Cabañas** and I'm an 18-year old Mexican-American from Vero Beach, Florida. I'm currently a freshman at the University of North Florida and am dual-majoring in Communications and Political Science. Upon graduation, my goal is to work for the U.S. State Department as an ambassador. Thanks to your support from the Rene Matos Scholarship, I will be able to support my post-secondary education, continue my participation on the debate team, and achieve my dream of being the first in my family to graduate from college. I support the mission of the Hispanic Coalition and even though aviation is not my focus, I will continue to support my fellow Hispanics both domestically and abroad throughout my career and encourage pride in our heritage and familia.



My name is **Desiree Morales**. I am a minority in a small town in Nebraska. Growing up there has made achieving my goals more difficult than someone from a more culturally diverse city. I can honestly say that it is only because of my family and God's grace that I have made it this far in life. A lot of obstacles started for me my freshman year of high school when I transferred from a small private school. I didn't know anyone and struggled with making new friends. There were a lot of difficult learning moments in my four years of high school. Those moments made me stronger and I pushed myself to step out of my comfort zone and work for what I wanted. Now, as a freshman at the University of Texas at Austin, I can see my growth as a person and feel very blessed for the people, opportunities, and challenges in life that have helped me get here. Here at UT, I am studying Bilingual Education in hopes of becoming a junior high or high school teacher who encourages my students to believe in themselves. Thankfully, scholarships like these make my dream more of a reality day after day.



## Rene Matos Scholarship Recipients



My name is **Jennifer Hernández** and I currently attend the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho. I am working towards a B.S. degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Before being a student at the university, I attended Mountain View High School in Meridian, Idaho from 2015 through 2019. All throughout high school, I am proud to say that I took only honors and AP classes. All of the extra work and late nights paid off and resulted in graduating with a total of 41 college credits. In addition, I graduated in the top 11% in my class of about 453 students with a 3.9 unweighted GPA. Not only did I put a vast amount of time and dedication into my studies, but I also never missed a day of school. Even though I was busy with my studies, I still found time to do extracurricular activities, like cross-country and ultimate frisbee. During my senior year, I decided to take advantage of the early release program. I used my time wisely, and instead of choosing the option of going home and possibly taking a nap, I used the hour and a half every other day to work on scholarships in the career center. I will be forever grateful to have an organization such as the National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees help me be able to pay off all of my tuition,

books, and housing costs without having to take out a loan. I am enrolled as a full-time student with 19 credits this semester. I have also gotten involved in the Ultimate Frisbee team here and have joined some engineering clubs, such as the Society of Women Engineers, to begin networking. My goal while attending the university is to graduate with either little or no debt. Preferably not exceeding \$5,000, if possible. I believe I can truly do it. I know that by accomplishing my goals I am taking the first steps in inspiring women and other minorities against social norms.

My name is **Katiria Lugo Martínez** and I am a senior pursuing a bachelor's in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Materials Science and Engineering. I chose this field because of my passion for chemistry in nanotechnology and the large-scale social impact an engineer has in the world. My dedication and passion for this field have allowed me to achieve a GPA of 3.72. In addition to my academic pursuits, I am a member of Phi Lambda Upsilon and Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). In these organizations, and others, I have been able to grow as a professional and serve as a volunteer to my community by participating in events such as animal shelter visits, high school outreach events to promote STEM fields, and student-to-student mentoring programs. Recently, I was able to participate in undergraduate research at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana; where I worked in a multidisciplinary environment creating computer-human trachea models, and 3D printing them to study the unknown fluid dynamics of the human trachea. In the future, I intend to pursue a higher degree and become a mentor for future peers. I am very grateful to NHCFAE to have selected me as a recipient of this scholarship, and a special thank you to Rene Matos to have inspired this scholarship. It is because of this generosity that I can focus on and achieve my educational goals at the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez Campus.



**SCHOLARSHIPS**

## Rene Matos Scholarship Recipients



Hello my name is **Mayra Guzman**, and my experiences and studies in genetics have allowed me to reach one goal: to become a research veterinarian and focus on animal models of disease to contribute to animal and human health alike. As an undergraduate student in the Reproductive Science Complex at Texas A&M University, I assisted in research projects with various animals in their facility. In this laboratory, I saw the potential of biotechnology: goats with antigens in their milk to use as malaria vaccines, swine for models of obesity, and projects to enhance the immune system of livestock to fight disease. I was able to contribute to the latter two projects by doing benchwork, in which countless trials are needed before moving on to the use of animals, and writing a thesis which was published. As a minority student, I hope to represent my culture well in the field of medicine and science as my education to be a doctor of veterinary medicine continues. I was shocked and excited when I received the call that I was a recipient for the Rene Matos Scholarship and I am extremely grateful to have received it because it provides great help towards making my dreams a reality! I have been able to see how the world can be changed with small, persistent, dedicated efforts, and I plan to continue this in my future education and research endeavors. Thank you, NHCFAE!

My name is **José Leonardo Sánchez**. It was the afternoon of August 18th, 2019, when I received the call from the NHCFAE Director of Education, Randall Resto, congratulating me for being one of the recipients for the 2019 Rene Matos Scholarship. Earlier that day, and even though I was already enrolled at AADA, I was still discussing with my parents how I was going to be able to afford school the upcoming fall, since I didn't have enough funds. I remember being desperate and conflicted. An amazing opportunity to learn and grow as an artist and as a human was waiting for me, in "the city of dreams", but I was afraid I wasn't going to be able to attend. I had a lot on my mind: "How many people have had their dreams crushed because of financial issues?" "Why does education have to be so expensive?" "Why does capitalism have to exist?" "Should I risk everything and go, even though I might end up broke and alone in New York, far away from home?" I considering giving up, but then thankfully I received the call. When Randall heard my accent, he switched immediately from English to Spanish, since we are both Puerto Ricans, and proceed to congratulate me. I couldn't help but to cry. Then he asked me if I was okay and I couldn't help but to cry a little more. You may say that it's only a few dollars, but for me it's a lot more than a \$1,000 scholarship. This scholarship is a sign, a sign to go after my dreams and never give up on them. It's a sign that even though education might be expensive, it's the right path of what I should seek. I keep praying that one day people won't have to be financially restricted to a higher education and everyone will finally be able to study freely. I know that going to New York might be hard, but it's where my future is. Also, with this aid, I'm going to be able to keep growing as an artist and hopefully give all the knowledge I've learned back to the world through art. As I'm writing this, I only have a few days left before I fly out to New York. I carry a fervent desire to learn and grow, a heart full of joy and wonder, and the conviction that every sacrifice ahead will be worth it. This award from the NHCFAE, for which I'm endlessly grateful, is just the beginning.



## Rene Matos Scholarship Recipients



My name is **Vanessa Brooke Martin** and I was born and raised in a small town in San Diego, California. I moved to New York City after I graduated from El Capitan High School with an honors diploma and got accepted to New York University (NYU) for Biochemistry. I plan to take a forensics route at NYU so I can work for the government in a federal lab with a Master's degree after my bachelor's. In high school I was editor-in-chief for the small yearbook program, president of international club, and a V-Crew leader that welcomed and took care of incoming freshman throughout the year. This year I am a cultural photographer for Washington Square News at NYU. I also plan to train to become a resident assistant (RA) so I can continue creating a welcoming environment for everyone coming from anywhere in my residence hall. In the future I plan on using my degree to seek employment working for the FBI. Thanks to NHCFAE for helping me achieve my goal.

Hello my name is **Zoe Carrasco** and I was born and raised under the hot sunrays of the Central Valley in Modesto, CA. I graduated from Cal State East Bay with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science and Community Health. After graduating, I was committed to working with the Latino community. I worked three years in East Oakland's community health clinics. I fell in love with women's and prenatal health while working at La Clinica de La Raza San Antonio Neighborhood Center as a Health Educator. My passion for equitable health care was affirmed during my time volunteering as a doula at San Francisco General Hospital, as well as being a community advisory member of the UCSF Preterm Birth Initiative. I am passionate about birth and reproductive health justice, and I believe in many ways it's the root of social justice and health equity. Currently, I am enrolled at the University of California, San Francisco, where I hope to immerse myself with all that is nursing and midwifery practice. As an aspiring midwife I plan to apply this wealth of knowledge towards empowering birthing and reproductive people, especially amongst Latinas. Being first generation Mexican-American, I share Rene Matos' resiliency to adversity and determination to seek the impossible. I am very grateful and proud to be part of the Rene Matos Scholarship, and I hope to mirror Rene Matos' ethos of helping others as I continue my higher education.



My name is **Daniela Rizo** and I live in Austin, Minnesota. My academic accomplishments include being part of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and being on the Honor Roll. I also graduated high school as Salutatorian (I ranked second highest in my graduating class). I am currently attending Bethany Lutheran College, in Mankato, Minnesota. Although I have just started my collegiate academic journey, I am very thankful for the support of the NHCFAE organization and its members for helping to make my dream of attending college come true.

# Tuition Reimbursement Recipients



My name is **Claudia Benson** and I started my higher education path almost two decades ago, but was never able to achieve a degree due to military duties, deployments, and personal reasons. I took many classes, some successfully and some not so much, but I never reached that goal of a degree until I finally decided that I needed to get myself together and go for it. I signed up for Community College in Fort Worth, Texas, and a year later I had my Associates degree. I have not stopped my pursuit for higher education, and I am currently in my second to last semester of my Bachelor of Science degree in psychology. I plan on entering a master's degree program shortly after obtaining my initial degree. Thank you all for helping me fund my education through the member tuition reimbursement program. I've finally found the peace of mind and freedom to pursue my life-long dream and I'm very grateful.

My name is **Ana Peña** and I work for the Office of Civil Rights as an EEO Specialist. I am the data analyst for our National Civil Rights Team. I have been with the FAA for three years now. I started as an intern in ACR. Then, I took a temporary appointment to continue identifying strategies and making recommendations regarding EEO to improve diversity and inclusion efforts, as well as continuing coordinating information sessions and outreach events nationwide. While working full time, I have been pursuing my master's degree at Pennsylvania State University. I am enrolled in the master's program for Data and Business Analytics and am looking forward to finishing my program in December. As a first-generation college student, this is going to be one of my greatest accomplishments, and I want to thank the NHCFAE for supporting me in completing my masters. I am genuinely grateful for being part of the Member Tuition Reimbursement Program. Thank you, Familia!



My name is **Hector Gonzaga**. Thanks to the generous support of the NHCFAE and member tuition reimbursement program, it has allowed me to continue to pursue my educational goal of a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) at San Diego State University. I am currently in my last semester with an expected graduation of December 2019. I began my career with the FAA in Burbank SSC as an Airway Transportation System Specialist. Later I became a NAS Area Specialist at the Los Angeles SOC. This MPA program has continued to help me grow both professionally and personally. In addition, the skills that I have learned have been invaluable to becoming a more effective and efficient team member. Words cannot express my gratitude to the members of the NHCFAE and your continued support.





# STARR WRIGHT USA

## Welcome to Our Familia!

By: Raquel Ysasi-Huerta, Great Lakes

I'm excited to announce a new sponsorship relationship with Starr Wright USA, the nation's leading provider of Federal Employee and Contractor Professional Liability Insurance. In today's challenging environment we all know that claims don't need to be justified to disrupt your career, lifestyle and retirement. For that reason, we've teamed up with industry leading Starr Wright USA to bring you special value in this critical protection. Starr Wright USA invented Federal Employee Professional Liability Insurance back in 1965. Today they insure more Feds than all of the competitors combined.

As a part of this new sponsorship, Starr Wright USA is offering NHCFAE members an extra 10% discount. NHCFAE members can secure \$1,000,000 of Professional Liability coverage for as little as \$11 per pay period. Further, Congress requires agencies to reimburse qualified employees up to 50% of professional liability premiums. I encourage you to take a look at the additional information, either through the online link or at the toll-free telephone number below.

*Website:* [e-wrightusa.com/p/20SG-DD6/nhcfae](http://e-wrightusa.com/p/20SG-DD6/nhcfae)

*Phone Number:* 1-800-424-9801

It is through the support of our sponsors that we are able to continue to bring outstanding training to our NHCFAE members. I sincerely hope that you take time to reach out to Starr Wright, and all our other sponsors, to see the services that they can offer you.

I look forward to seeing you all in Indianapolis in 2020.



STARR  
WRIGHT  
USA



PROUD SPONSOR OF

# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

## Southwest Region Hispanic Heritage Month Event

By: Raul Garza Jr., Southwest

The Southwest Region kicked off the 2019 National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations at the Regional Office by hosting an event that included City of Fort Worth Council-member, Carlos E. Flores, as the keynote speaker. Mr. Flores gave an inspirational speech that captured the true essence of the celebration and what it means to be an American of Latino heritage. Additional speakers were Southwest RCD, Lydia Gomez-Martinez, and Acting Southwest Regional Administrator, Rob Lowe. The National Anthem and background music were provided by Northside High School's mariachi band, Espuelas de Plata.

A special gracias goes to Michael Livingston, of Livingston Financial Services, for providing the appetizers and beverages for the event.



## Aeronautical Center Chapter Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By: Veronica Salazar, Aeronautical Center

On October 3, 2019, the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center Chapter held a recruitment event at 1492, a local Latin cuisine restaurant in Oklahoma City, to Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. This was a time for us to invite potential members, see some of our current members, and meet their families. In attendance was Pam Selbe, Erik Salazar, Esteban Herrera with his wife and two boys, and Veronica Salazar.

We all discussed having similar plans for vacation or work travel in the following weeks. We also talked about the conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Everyone that attended the recruitment event also attended this year's conference. We all agreed that it was the #bestconference2019. It is not often that we get together to discuss subjects outside of work, but it is always nice to see good friends that have turned into our NHCFAE family.



# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



## Celebrando Nuestra Hispanidad

By: Susie Diaz, Western-Pacific

The Western-Pacific Chapter in the Los Angeles, CA area commemorated Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 – October 15. Throughout the month, we had a display table out in the main lobby of the regional office. On display were books from different famous Latin actors. We also showed a small biography of them and displayed different artifacts, including the Mexican game of “Loteria”. Loteria is like Bingo, except there are pictures instead of numbers. We also had NHCFAE goodies out for employees to take, as well as a raffle for visiting the display table. Throughout the month on Wednesdays, I sent out FAA broadcast email messages to the employees in the regional office for awareness of Hispanic Heritage Month.

On October 10, 2019, we hosted a Hispanic Heritage Month awareness lunch. The chapter provided different types of tamales, empanadas, and a few Cuban pastries, along with Mexican candy. We had more than 60 employees that took the time to come down to show their support. They all enjoyed the food and sat down to enjoy each other’s company. They also took the time to share a little about themselves. Everyone that stopped by was entered into a raffle and we had two winners! I was excited to hear from some employees that came back to ask me more questions about how to join the coalition. I was happy to talk to them and inform them about NHCFAE.

Thank you to Ofelia Medina, Cyndy Bradfisch, Veronica Jimenez and Veronica Sanchez, and all the rest of the chapter members that stopped by to show your support and for all your help!

# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

## Eastern/New England Region Hispanic Heritage Month

By: Maritza Miranda, Eastern/New England

During National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) we recognize the contributions and important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States, and celebrate their heritage and culture.

Fellow Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs within our communities.

Hispanic Heritage Month, whose roots go back to 1968, begins each year on September 15, the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

In the Eastern/New England chapter, we wanted to share in this special annual tribute by learning and celebrating the generations of Hispanic and Latino Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society. Our chapter held three events this year to recognize and celebrate five amazing Latino Leaders who believe in the importance of community outreach and service.

On October 1st, we had the pleasure of sponsoring a tour at JFK air traffic control tower with Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Congressman Adriano Espaillat. Also in attendance was JFK Air Traffic Manager David Siewert, JFK Operations Manager Claude Vieira, JFK Front Line Manager Yahay Obeid and District Manager of Support Felicia Miller-Brown. The tour, led by the Air Traffic Manager, allowed us to see the air traffic control training simulator and the operations area, where we were given an overview of the airport operations.



Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez often referred to by her initials, AOC, is an American politician and activist who serves as the U.S. Representative for New York's 14th congressional district. The district includes the eastern part of the Bronx and portions of north-central Queens in New York City.

Congressman Espaillat is a Dominican-American politician. He is the U.S. Representative for New York's 13th congressional district and the first formerly illegal immigrant to ever serve in Congress. Previously, he served as a member of the New York State Senate and as a member of the New York State Assembly.

On October 9th, we sponsored a similar tour at JFK ATCT with Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

Assemblywoman Fernandez is a Democrat and currently represents the New York State Assembly's 80th District. Her district is in the Bronx and includes Allerton, Pelham Gardens, and Morris Park, among other areas. Her father immigrated to the United States from Cuba and her mother immigrated from Colombia.

Bronx Borough President Díaz was elected in April 2009 and reelected in 2013 and 2017. He previously served in the New York State Assembly. Díaz was elected to the Assembly at the age of twenty-three, which made him the youngest person

# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

elected to the legislative body since Theodore Roosevelt. He is well known for advocating on behalf of Amadou Diallo, a young African immigrant who was killed by four New York City police officers who fired 41 unanswered rounds at him on February 4, 1999. Since the shooting occurred in his South Bronx district, Díaz became an advocate and organizer for the Diallo family. Through a series of public appearances, hearings, press conferences and massive public demonstrations, Díaz led a citywide protest which drew national media attention. Díaz marched together with Rev. Al Sharpton, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, actress Susan Sarandon, dozens of rabbis and other clergy, and was arrested for his peaceful protest. As a result, Díaz became known for his support of civil and human rights.



On October 15th, at the AEA Regional Office, we hosted a Keynote address by JetBlue Pilot, First Officer Camila Turrieta, who flies the Airbus 320/321. First Officer Turrieta holds a variety of FAA certifications, including an Airline Transport Certificate with Type Ratings on the Airbus 320, Boeing 737 and Embraer 170/190. She is also a Certified Flight Instructor, Aircraft Dispatcher and Unmanned Aerial Systems Pilot. Camila pursued her undergraduate studies at Vaughn College, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree specializing in Aircraft operations. Camila also holds a Master's Degree from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University with specializations in Aircraft Accident Investigation and Human Factors. She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education degree focusing on Higher Education and Adult

Learning from Walden University. She is an active volunteer with a variety of aviation organizations such as Women in Aviation, Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP), and the Latino Pilots Association. Her mission within these organizations are to mentor the future leaders of the aviation industry. Camila is also a member of the Airline Pilots Association, serving as a member of the Critical Incident Response Program and the Professional Standards Committee. Camila's efforts in her community and volunteerism have been recognized nationally, and she has been a two-time recipient of the President's Call to Service Award. This award is given to an individual who has completed over 4,000 hours of community service in their lifetime.



The first time I learned about Hispanic Heritage Month was in elementary school. When we celebrated, our teachers told to dress up in costume representative of our cultural background. Today, we celebrate by honoring those Latino leaders that have come to America and made changes for the Latino community. We continue to show the world how varied we are, and how much we've done and continue to do. It's important to celebrate the fact that we have this incredible array of cultures with so much flavor and to educate younger people in our community about how far our communities have grown. In addition, how incredible their bloodlines are, and how much they can achieve because they are part of a resilient, beautiful community.

# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

## Indy Center Hispanic Heritage Month Gathering

By: Kristan Villegas, Great Lakes

Hispanic Heritage Month originally was a week of acknowledgement of how the Hispanic culture influenced our great nation. It was later expanded to encompass an entire month from September 15th to October 15th each year. It is an important time to show how the Hispanic culture is deep-rooted in family. There's no better way to get a sense of family than to sit down and have a traditional tamale lunch. I know what you are thinking... Indy and tamales? But yes, there is a local restaurant here that makes some of the best tamales I have ever eaten.

Indy ARTCC celebrated its 3rd annual tamale luncheon this year, sponsored by the NHCFAE and NATCA. It is an event that offers a free tamale lunch to everyone in the facility, and all we ask is that you sit down, eat, drink and meet new people. We worked hard to make the event have a welcoming feel and hoped to see people taking the time to enjoy each other's company and the food. This year we planned the event for October 14th to coincide with the NHCFAE Executive Board meetings. We had a great showing with over 60 people finishing off 200 tamales, a full tray of rice and about half a tray of black beans. We also had a mountain of chips, salsa and guacamole that were nearly gone.

When the event was over, we did have a few stragglers show up late and we had to apologize for running out of tamales. It was a great event that highlighted just how important bringing a group of people together remains to all our employee associations. At the end of the day, we are a community of workers all aimed at supporting each other and that is a vital benefit. We hope to see all of the same faces next year and hopefully some new ones for another delicious lunch.





## Adelante Men's Conference

By: Tony Garcia, Western-Pacific

The 2019 Adelante Conference at Pasadena City College was an excellent setting for both young students and adult professionals to learn and share about possible career and educational paths to explore after graduating high school. Personally, I enjoyed sharing my own career, educational experience and journey, as well as sharing what I do today for the Federal Aviation Administration. I encouraged all that listened to my story to pursue higher education, make the most of opportunities, and be determined to succeed no matter what. I definitely look forward to doing this again if given the opportunity to do so next year.



## NAMI Walk

By: Lydia Gomez-Martinez, Southwest

On October 5th, the Southwest Chapter participated in the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk. We support this great organization every year to help bring healing to stigma for mental illnesses. Real changes are starting to come, and people will get care sooner with better recovery in the battle for mental illnesses. We had a great group this year! Thank you for coming out and supporting NAMI!



# Member Spotlight

## Latina Leaders: Misty King Peña

By: Focus FAA



*The following story featuring NHCFAE member, Misty King Peña, was originally published by Focus FAA during Hispanic Heritage Month.*

My name is Misty King Peña. I am an Assistant Manager in the Office of Aviation Safety, Flight Standards Service, General Aviation Safety Assurance, Special Emphasis Investi-

gations Team (SEIT), located in Fort Worth, Texas. I have been a federal employee for 30 years, of which 23 years has been with the Federal Aviation Administration and 7 years with Department of Labor.

In 1989, I was a 16-year-old junior in High School, and I needed a job because I had a one-year old daughter to support. I was hired as a Student Aide in the Labor Relations Branch. Over the next 30 years, I have been blessed to work in an array of offices - Human Resources, Airway Facilities (now Tech Ops), Aviation Medical, Security, and Flight Standards. There were many challenges over the years – but the hardest was being a Student-Aide and a single-mom, with the condition of employment being to remain in school. As a parent, we do what we have to do for our children, so I did what I had to do – working full-time and taking college courses in the evening. Back in the day, the “old” civil service examination was still offered and after taking the exam in 1993, I was hired as a Clerk in Airway Facilities, Employee Relations Branch. While there was relief that I no longer was “required” to continue to go to school, I still pursued my higher education.

**When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? How did your upbringing, your education, and your community influence your career path?**

As a child, I dreamed of being a police officer. My grandfather retired as a Detective for the Fort Worth Police Department and I had memories of him coming home in his police uniform – and how that uniform meant something. As I got older and witnessed the direct effects of gang activity and violence in my community, I realized the impact of grandpa’s uniform – to protect and serve.

**Who are your professional or personal influences?**

I think every day we have the ability to be influenced by others. Over my 30 years of government service, I had a multitude of people in my life that influenced me. I grew up in this agency so I got a lot of parenting (I mean, mentoring) from Lynda Coleman, Roger Trevino, Lina Ortiz, and then at DOL - Roger Hilburn.

When I was 20 years old, Lynda instilled in me the value of a college education and when she hired me as a permanent Clerk, she asked that I promised to continue to go to college and graduate. A promise is a promise and our word is our word. I kept my promise – graduating with a Bachelor of Science - Criminal Justice (Law Enforcement Option) from California State University – East Bay. My degree afforded me an opportunity to work in the field I dreamed of and I eventually left the FAA, accepting a position as a Federal Investigator with the DOL – Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). It was through the guidance and influence of Roger Hilburn who mentored me to learn the ropes of financial investigations to “see what cannot be seen”. His direction and patience provided me the experience to being promoted to a Senior Federal Investigator.

Influences can come into our life in different aspects. I grew up across the street from The Salvation Army Community Center. I spent a lot of time there and I was influenced by the willingness of others to always offer a helping hand – to always give back in some way. At a very young age, I was fortunate enough to be a part of The Salvation Army’s Angel Tree program when it first started in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. A group of us helped with the program by organizing

# Member Spotlight

and preparing gifts for distribution at the old Tandy Center in downtown Fort Worth. The influence The Salvation Army gave me in life was very humbling and has been a reminder of how important it is to give back and help our community.

**With regard to your specific area, where do you see the aviation industry headed? Where do you see you have the potential to make an impact?**

I see the industry capitalizing on modern technology and developing sophisticated, groundbreaking ways in providing air transportation. The office I work in will continue to do our part in aviation safety by investigating and enforcing the federal regulations that protect the flying public, ensuring

safe operations within the National Air Space.

**What advice would you give to a young person who is deciding their future career path?**

My advice to our youth is “never quit on yourself.” As a teenage mother, I was destined to be a high school dropout and live in poverty. Because the odds were stacked against me, it would have been very easy to quit on myself, but when finding an inner strength and determination, it is possible to overcome any struggle, any challenge, any obstacle, and of course, any statistic. One of my favorite quotes that I live by is, “With strength and determination, I am.”

---

## Life and Leadership Advice: My Way! by Colonel Casado

By: Focus FAA

*The following story featuring NHCFAE member, Augie Casado, was originally published by Focus FAA during the 2019 Independence Day holiday.*

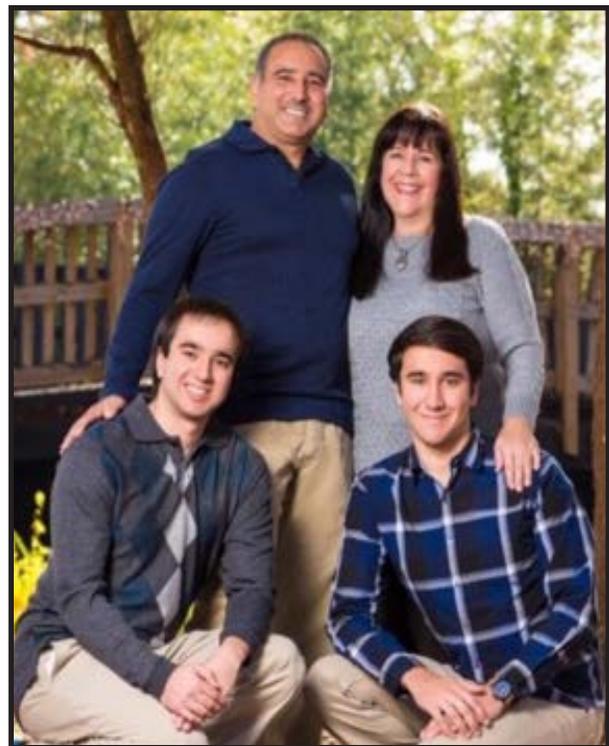
What started off as daily emails of advice to his two teenage sons became a book on leadership and life, with a few observations on the world thrown in.

Colonel Augusto “Augie” Casado, Division Manager of Flight Standards Strategic Planning and Financial Services Division, AFB-200 and author of *My Way! Daily Words of Wisdom*, described its near non-existence: “At first, [the emails] kind of annoyed my wife a little bit. But when I asked the boys, they said, ‘Yeah, keep sending them.’ So I thought, ‘I am onto something.’”

365 emails and a little publication magic later, *My Way! Daily Words of Wisdom* now sits on his desk. The musings and advice are only a few sentences each, direct, transportable counsels on leadership and motivation, life lessons and fatherly snippets.

At the time of publication, Col. Casado had 36 years of military and civilian leadership experience. But his role as a father is what led to the book.

“The boys were really busy and I traveled quite a bit as well,



## My Way! cont....

so I was looking for a way to connect with them, to let them know I love them and was thinking about them. And I love to set goals for myself, and I thought, ‘Well, this might be cool,’” said Casado. He wrote about family, his day, even becoming a movie critic at one point.

“It was a hodgepodge of different topics, but they all seemed to migrate back to what I know: leadership and safety and motivating people. I drew from my knowledge and my experiences, the school of hard knocks, and I just had a little bit of fun with it,” Col. Casado said.

Some of these hodgepodge pieces of advice fit well into anyone’s daily routine, with such excerpts as:

“Listening is vital to effectiveness in all aspects of life.”  
(From: Listening, #7)

“When you do have the hard talk, make your point, but try to be constructive, not destructive. Be compassionate but critical and to the point. Focus on the issue, clarity, and solutions.” (From: The Hard Day, #15)

“[W]hen you think you really know what you are doing, understand the threat—your own complacency, overconfidence, and arrogance. Follow the rules, use the checklist, study the book, observe the warnings and cautions, listen to your coach, teacher, or boss, and most importantly, stick to the basics and trust your gut.” (From: Do You Know? #30)

“Hope the SATs went well today. It’s amazing how much impact one test can have on a person’s future. Never take things lightly when it comes to your future and personal growth.” (From: Over-Prepare, #23)

“I was trying to coach my sons,” said Casado. “These were basic things that young and old alike can benefit from. One of my sons wanted to be the captain of the cross-country track team, and I gave him some ideas of how to get there.”

At the time, his sons were in peak mid-teen form.

“I got zero feedback. Those boys were in their own world,” said Casado. While these several-liners were always directed toward his sons, Col. Casado also wrote them for anyone. “I love helping young leaders develop and grow. And this stuff applies to any leader.”

One such elegant piece of advice: “If you really want to become a great leader, lead volunteers because they don’t have to be there. What you get is a great laboratory for how to motivate, inspire and get people to do things. It helps develop great leaders,” said Col. Casado.

“A lot of it is just common sense. Talking to people and explaining what you’re doing and why you’re doing it. You

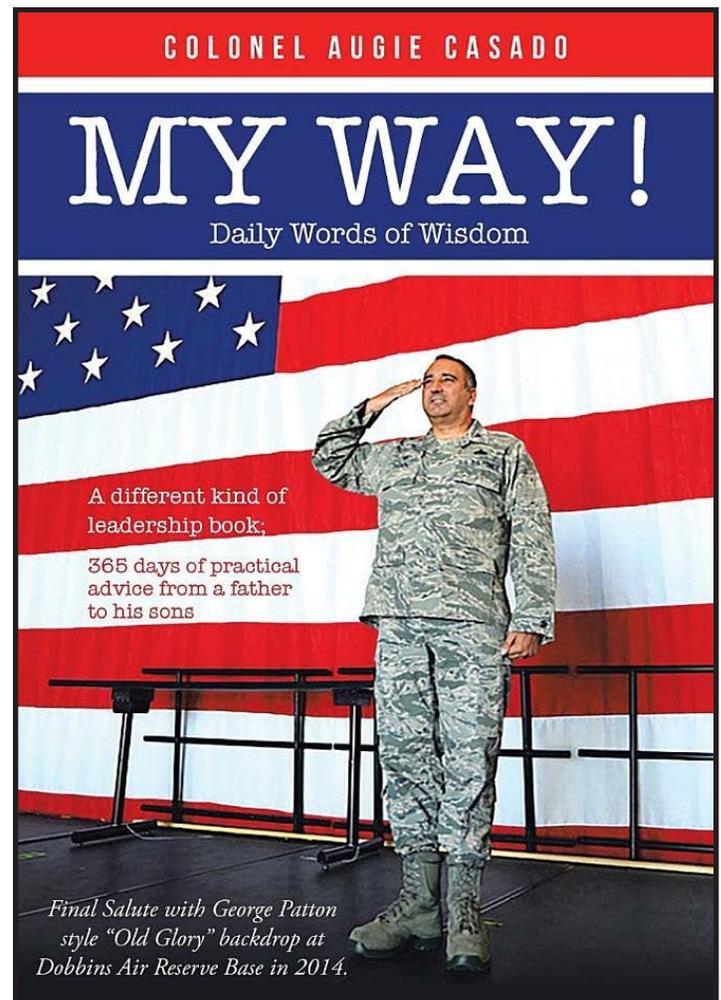
hear a lot of ‘what’s in it for me?’ I’m a big believer in ‘what’s in it for us?’” added Col. Casado.

“One of my former colleagues from the Air Force used it in one of his leadership training classes at the Defense Contract Management Agency.” And a Navy SEAL friend of his brought the book with him to the Philippines to share at that country’s war college.

“I kind of really miss the daily writing. It was very therapeutic and it was fun and it was engaging. So I love the fact that it is out there. I love the fact that it is helping people,” Col. Casado said.

“A lot of things happen in 365 days: some of them are good, and some of them are not so good. But the book is geared toward the motivational and inspiring. How to deal with life’s really powerful moments and turn those things into learning experiences, into something you can use to comfort yourself or others.”

Although his sons remain very busy in college, they have read the book and they are both proud of their father. And Col. Casado says that sometimes he hears that maybe, just maybe, his advice is sticking.



# Cuban by Heritage, American by Choice

By: Focus FAA



*The following story featuring NHCFAE member, Adolfo Urrutia, was originally published by FocusFAA during the 2019 Independence Day holiday.*

Nine-year-old Adolfo Urrutia stood alone by a tree off to the side of the schoolyard playground watching his classmates playing. One of them ran over to him, slapped him on the arm and yelled, “Tag, you’re it.”

“Those were the first [English] words I actually learned,” recalled Adolfo, “When finally someone came to talk to me, that’s what they said, ‘Tag, you’re it.’”

As Independence Day approaches, Adolfo, now the manager of the Mission Support Services Aeronautical Data Team at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, shared his immigrant story with Focus FAA. His story might vary in details, but it follows the same journey to freedom and opportunity as countless other immigrants who have come to the United States.

Adolfo and his family had arrived in Miami, Fla., from Cuba via Puerto Rico. Like so many Cuban families, the Urrutias fled Fidel Castro’s Communist rule in 1962. Adolfo was only two when his family departed Cuba, but he later heard the horror stories from his father, Jose Urrutia. Jose was a banker with a military background when the Communists took over the island and he trained resistance fighters in his bank at night until a spy turned him in.

During Jose’s nine months in jail, he was subject to the psychological torture of guards shooting randomly into the cells. Eventually, somebody paid his guards off to release him along with a batch of non-political prisoners. He went into hiding at his mother’s house, and later at his aunt’s house.

In 1962, the family escaped with false papers and arrived in the United States. The family first settled in Puerto Rico to wait out the fall of Fidel Castro. They felt comfortable in Puerto Rico, where all the locals spoke the same language – Spanish. And besides, “They thought Castro would only last a couple of years,” said Adolfo.

By 1969, the family realized Castro would be in power longer than they had initially believed. So, Adolfo, his brother Guillermo, mother Isabel, and father Jose, moved to Florida to seek better opportunities. In Miami, the family initially lived with Jose’s mother – who had fled Cuba before them – until they got an apartment next door to Isabel’s sister.

Jose left his wife to raise their three children, appearing only occasionally in their lives. “He was living his life one day at a time every day after that,” said Adolfo. “One of the things my dad used to do when he was around was to take us to the

airport to watch the planes,” he said. “I was never interested in the planes. I just liked to look at the tower. I liked the shape of the tower. I thought it would be a really cool place to work. Being a controller; I thought it would be cool to be that guy.”



*Isabel and Jose Urrutia on their wedding day in Havana, Cuba*

“My mom’s biggest accomplishment in life, other than citizenship, was she bought a trailer for the family to live in,” he added. He lived there until he graduated from high school. Adolfo passed up a number of sports scholarships for college. “I wasn’t the kid that cared too much about school,” he admitted. “I missed a lot of days of school. I just wanted to play football and be with my girlfriend.”

Still, he didn’t want to be a burden on his mother. When a U.S. Air Force recruiter spoke to him, Adolfo saw his opportunity. “I found someone who would feed me and clothe me and give me a place to live,” he reasoned. His mother was delighted. “She was very proud to call herself an American citizen,” he said. As a consequence, his enlistment, he said, “was the proudest day of her life.”

Besides room and board, Urrutia also viewed his enlistment as an opportunity to pursue his dream of being an air traffic controller.

His past caught up with him however when the military discovered he wasn’t naturalized. “They asked if I was a citizen. I said ‘I don’t think so.’” He and his family had entered the country with green cards. Adolfo needed a secret clearance to work in a tower. But the only way to get a clearance was to become a citizen. “I couldn’t do it at 18 because both parents had to be there and dad was missing,” he explained. For three years he worked as a crew chief on AWACS surveillance aircraft. “I had to be signed in every day,” he chuckled. That lasted until 1981 when Urrutia was sworn in as an American citizen at the Murrah building in Oklahoma City.

Being just a young boy when he came to this country, Adolfo admits to a certain naiveté about his situation. That changed in 1980 with the Cuban Boat Lift, a mass exodus of Cubans to America. A number had been in jail or in mental health facilities. More were families on their own journey to freedom. The boat lift was widely report and the subject of nightly national newscasts.

Isabel worked several jobs at the same time to keep her family housed and fed. Working was a given, not just for Isabel but for Guillermo and Adolfo. They cleaned businesses at night right next to their mother.

“We had very little,” said Adolfo. “The weird part about it all was ... I thought everybody was in the same boat. As a child, you take life as it comes and you assume that’s normal. My family’s feeding me, I go to school, and I play with the kids outside.”

“We used to move at two in the morning, the types of moves you make when you don’t have money for rent,” he explained. They moved so often he remembered attending three middle schools in one year. The only circumstance he bridled at were the free lunches provided by the school system to disadvantaged kids. “I never ate lunch at school,” he said. “I was too embarrassed.”



*Adolfo with his proud mother, Isabel, in 1981*

## Cuban cont...

Adolfo, stationed in Oklahoma City, realized at the time he was getting looks from people. “I met some new people here in Oklahoma. When I mentioned where I was from, I saw some of them check their wallets.” That’s when he realized some were grouping him with the recent immigrants from Cuba. “Maybe what they saw in the news was that a bunch of criminals were coming here,” he reflected. “I saw how [the Cuban boat lift participants] were being treated and what they were going through. I thought that could have been me, or that probably was me and I just didn’t realize it.” He also started meeting people from other countries who didn’t have asylum status when they arrived. “I realized how lucky we were.”

Adolfo originally planned a 4-year stint in the U.S. Air Force; it lasted 20. In 2001, he joined the FAA, working in the Tami-am Flight Service Office in Florida, before transferring to Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City in 2005. He worked with the Instrument Flight Procedures Team, before moving into several production and maintenance management positions.

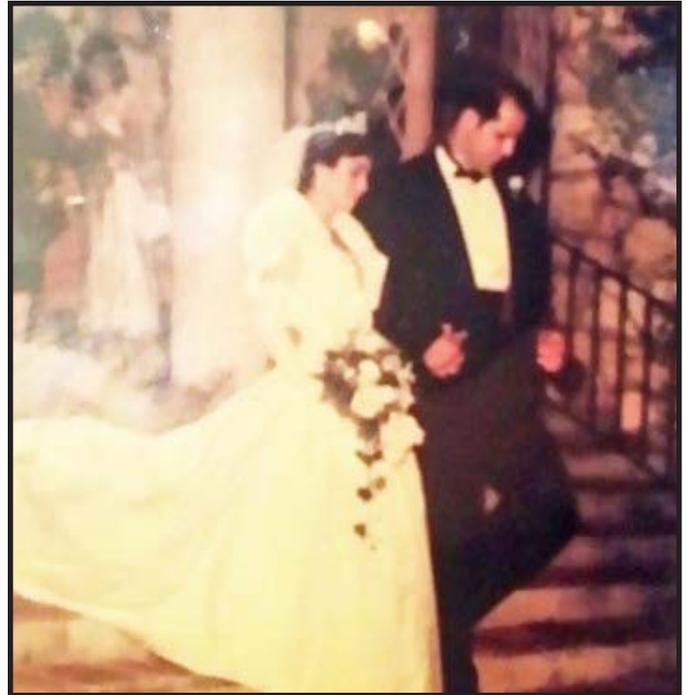
It was while working for the FAA in Florida that Adolfo met his future wife, Margarita, herself an immigrant from Cuba. “I don’t know if the exile gave us a tighter bond, but our families are a lot alike,” he observed. “We have the same belief systems, the way we grew up. We both came from Havana. Our families know the same people. When they talk about Cuba, we all understand what they’re talking about,” he added. Although his Cuban heritage is still all around him, “I feel more American than anything else. The more detached you are from it, the more American you feel, and the more you realize what your family has lost.”

People ask Adolfo when he will he go back to visit Cuba. “I say I won’t go back to Cuba now because I still have family who would be very offended if I went. If I were my parents and lost everything I worked for, there is no way I could ever go back to Cuba based on that.”

Adolfo now offers his insight to other immigrants through events organized by the National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees. “I spoke to college kids at Oklahoma Christian University. I was able to share my experiences with them. I told them you can do anything you want in this country; don’t let the haters get you down.”

With the 4th of July approaching, Adolfo isn’t sure how he’ll celebrate. Maybe barbeque, attend a parade, watch fireworks. Definitely be with friends and family. For someone who went from a young boy in Cuba to a United States citizen, what could be more American than that?

“I felt I did owe something to this country,” he said. “I’m very proud to have served my country as a military member and continue to serve as a civil servant. I thank GOD every day for the blessings that provided freedom to my family by allowing us to seek refuge in this great country.”



*Maggie and Adolfo on their wedding day, 11/23/85, in Miami*



Email your member  
spotlight stories to  
[dopa@nhcfae.org](mailto:dopa@nhcfae.org)



## Speeding Towards the 2020 Conference in Indianapolis

By: Laurie Ortiz and Jonathan Eagle, NHCFAE Executive Board

We are proud to announce our venue for the upcoming annual training conference will be the Conrad Indianapolis from August 4-6, 2020. The Conrad Indianapolis, a Hilton luxury property, is located in the part of city known as the Circle Centre. Many restaurants and other attractions are within walking distance to the Conrad. The Conrad is also connected to a shopping center via skywalk for those rainy or hot days in August. As far as the hotel itself, it is a 5-star, 23-story refined hotel that offers a modern spa, wine bar, and an art gallery. In US News and World Report, it is the number one rated hotel in all of Indianapolis. Local residents of Indianapolis describe the Conrad as the finest hotel in the city, and they are proud that the Hilton family has made Indianapolis a place to call home.

As far as things to do in the city, there are many. For those who enjoy outdoor activities, the Canal Walk is only a few blocks away. For those interested in sports, Victory Field is accessible via the skywalk, where you can enjoy minor league baseball. Additionally, for those bringing children, the Indianapolis Zoo is a short Uber ride from the hotel for your enjoyment. For those interested in nightlife events, Mass Ave is the place for you. A brisk walk or short Uber will allow you to enjoy the restaurants and bars in that area. If you are looking to stay in the immediate area, there are still many venues that surround Monument Circle and are within a half-mile radius of the hotel that are available for you to enjoy.

Indianapolis has been host to a Super Bowl, the yearly NFL combine, multiple Final Fours, Gen Con (the largest gamers convention), and of course, the Indianapolis 500. The airport in Indianapolis is one of the cleanest, most efficient airports that we have been to. When making your plans for summer vacation, please consider making the Indy conference one of those destinations. For more information on Indianapolis check out [visitindy.com](http://visitindy.com). We look forward for seeing you there this coming summer.

## First Quarter Executive Board Meeting

By: Laurie Ortiz and Jonathan Eagle, NHCFAE Executive Board

As your new officers on the Executive Board, we wanted to give you a perspective on how the first quarter meeting in Indianapolis went. We met on a Sunday at Indy center and we took the opportunity to discuss several ideas that our President, Bill Fernandez, sees for the organization going forward. After a long day, we reconvened on Indigenous People's Day to continue our briefings. During lunch we were able to meet with some of the employees at the center over a tamale lunch. Those tamales were absolutely delicious and you must try them when you come out for the conference in August in Indianapolis.

On the third day we were joined by conference coordinators, Kristan Villegas and Ida Marrero, for hotel tours. We visited 4 locations, 3 downtown and one east of the city. Each venue had its uniqueness, but only one stood out as the best. We all agreed that the Conrad in Indianapolis was our hands-down choice. Look for our follow up article on Indianapolis and the Conrad Hotel for more details.

We were pleasantly surprised and impressed with Indianapolis. We believe that we have gracious hosts there and it will be just as enjoyable as our last conference in Puerto Rico.





# Face your future with confidence

knowing you've planned ahead to protect it.

No matter where you are in your career, consider including the **Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP)** as part of your financial plan.

Designed specifically for the federal family, the FLTCIP may be a smart way to help protect your savings and assets and remain financially independent should you ever need long term care. Plus, as part of your federal benefits, your qualified relatives are eligible to apply for FLTCIP coverage, even if you don't.

## Plan Ahead Today

1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-582-3337) TTY 1-800-843-3557

[LTCFEDS.com/facemyfuture](https://LTCFEDS.com/facemyfuture)



The **Federal** Long Term Care Insurance Program™

The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program is sponsored by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, insured by John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company, and administered by Long Term Care Partners, LLC.

FLTCIP10499



**OPM.GOV**

# CONGRATULATIONS

## **Congrats, Alberto Cruz!**

**By: Faviola Garcia, Western-Pacific**

I am pleased to announce the selection of Alberto Cruz as Assistant Manager of the San Francisco Airports District Office!

Alberto has had an extensive career in aviation where he began as a project manager at San Francisco International Airport in 1996. In 2006, he worked as an airport engineering consultant helping airports with planning, design and construction projects. He has worked in different business capacities with extensive knowledge in consultant business development, office, staff, and airport client management, as well as stakeholder engagement.

He joined the FAA's Western Pacific Region in May 2016 serving as Regional Lead Engineer. In this capacity, he served as the subject matter expert for airport design, pavement, and construction standards.

Alberto is a California Registered Professional Civil Engineer, Certified Member of the American Association of Airport Executives, and a director at-large for the local ASCE's Air Transportation Technical Group. He has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Santa Clara University. Being born and raised in the San Francisco area, he supports the San Francisco Giants, 49ers, and the Warriors.

Please join me in congratulating Alberto in his new position!

## **Southern Region Welcomes New Regional Chapter Director**

**By: Yami Gonzalez, Southern**



I began my career in the Federal Aviation Administration in November 2001. Throughout the first fifteen years in the agency, I spent most as a Flight Data Communications Specialist and I learned the scope of Air Traffic Operations by working with other departments. I became involved with procedures and policy changes as well as assisting the restructuring of the facility operations handbook. At the same time, I became actively involved with my union and the National Hispanic Coalition on a local and regional level. During this time, through hard work and dedication, I completed my Bachelor's degree in Public Administration with a minor in Criminal Justice at Florida International University.

Shortly thereafter, I was involved in the Air Traffic Safety Action Program (ATSAP) as an Event Review Committee Member and Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Representative, which increased my awareness of aviation safety.

By the end of 2016, I was afforded a great opportunity at the Flight Standards District Office as an Aviation Safety Assistant (ASA). A year later, I was promoted to an Aviation Safety Technician (AST). As I continued to expand my learning of Aviation Safety, my dedication and hard work was once again recognized when I was presented with a Star Quality Award for superior efforts on behalf of the Flight Standards mission.

In September of this year, once again an exciting opportunity presented itself as a Drug and Alcohol Compliance Inspector for the Drug Abatement Division. A thrilling new challenge to my career once again learning new regulations and acquiring more experience. Additionally, I am passing the torch as Membership Chair to better suit my responsibilities as the Southern Regional Chapter Director (RCD). I look forward to seeing you in upcoming events and the next training conference!



# HAPPY Thanksgiving

## CROSSWORD Thanksgiving day

1 N  
A  
T  
I  
V  
E

2  
5  
2

3

4

6

7

8

9

10

11

answer:

M  
H  
A  
T  
P  
L  
O  
W  
P  
I  
L  
G  
R  
I  
M  
S  
C  
O  
R  
N  
G  
R  
A  
N  
B  
E  
R  
R  
I  
E  
S  
N  
A  
T  
I  
V  
E  
P  
U  
M  
P  
K  
I  
N  
S  
C  
A  
R  
E  
C  
R  
O  
W  
H  
A  
R  
V  
E  
S  
T  
A  
T



# We want to hear from you!

**We want to feature YOU in the next FAAmilia magazine!**

**Tell us about your hobbies and interests, your successes,  
your families, or anything else you would like to share!**

**Send us your holiday photos, too!**

**Email Jonathan at [dopa@nhcfae.org](mailto:dopa@nhcfae.org)**



**Happy Holidays from your NHCFEAE Executive Board!**

# FEARLESS IS UNLOCKING YOUR POTENTIAL.

With the right tools, anything is possible. That's why your MyBlue® account gives you 24/7 access to tools that put you in control of your health, like our Blue Health Assessment and Personal Health Record. No one does more to help federal employees get healthy, save money and live fearless.

**Learn more about our healthy benefits and tools**  
**Visit [fepblue.org/covered](https://fepblue.org/covered)**

# Membership Updates

**By: Yami Gonzalez, Membership Chair**  
**June 2019 – September 2019**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Recruited By</b>
Dina Jimenez-Earl	WP	SkyOne Credit Union	
Kay Ellen Gonzales	SW	NOM	Isaac Salcido
Julius Tarick Betancourt	GL	Aviation Safety Inspector	Hugo Villanueva
Miguel A. Vaquez Ortiz	GL	Aviation Safety Inspector	Hugo Villanueva
Lisa A. Mitchell	WA		
Jose R. Agosto-Marrero	WP	Air Traffic Control Specialist	Jonathan Eagle
Anita Brewster	SO	Mgr. Employment Svcs. Branch	Faviola Garcia
Augusto Casado	SO	AFB-200 Division Manager	Janette Ramos
Altha McDermott	WA	Manager 340	Conference
Akua A. Pipim	EA	Foreign Affairs Specialist	Lolita Worthy
Louisa Ocasio	EA	AT Operations Supervisor	Lolly Martinez
Nicholas Reyes	SW	Dir. Western Hemisphere API	J. Ramos/A. Casado
Abigail Smith	WA	Dir. Technical Training	D. Irizarry/R. Resto
Mary Alice Oaks	WP	Aviation Safety Technician	Yami Gonzalez
Michael T. Herndon	NM	Airway Transp Syst Spec.	Yami Gonzalez
Ashley Cioffi	WP	Airway Transp Syst Spec.	Yami Gonzalez
Eliam Sandoval Pagan	SO		Sonia Quinones
Omar Laboy Pinto	SO		Sonia Quinones
Arturo M. Alcantara	SO		
Dominic Ross	SW	Air Traffic Control Specialist	
Melissa Y Rivera	SO	ATO	