

FAAmilia

National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees



Special Post-Conference Edition



Save the Date!

NHCFAE Annual Training Conference Seattle: August 1-3, 2023



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, Oscar Torres
Vice-President, John Espinosa
Director of Administration, Laurie Ortiz
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Director of Public Affairs, Susie Diaz
Director of Resources, Erik Salazar

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Susie Diaz and Erik Salazar

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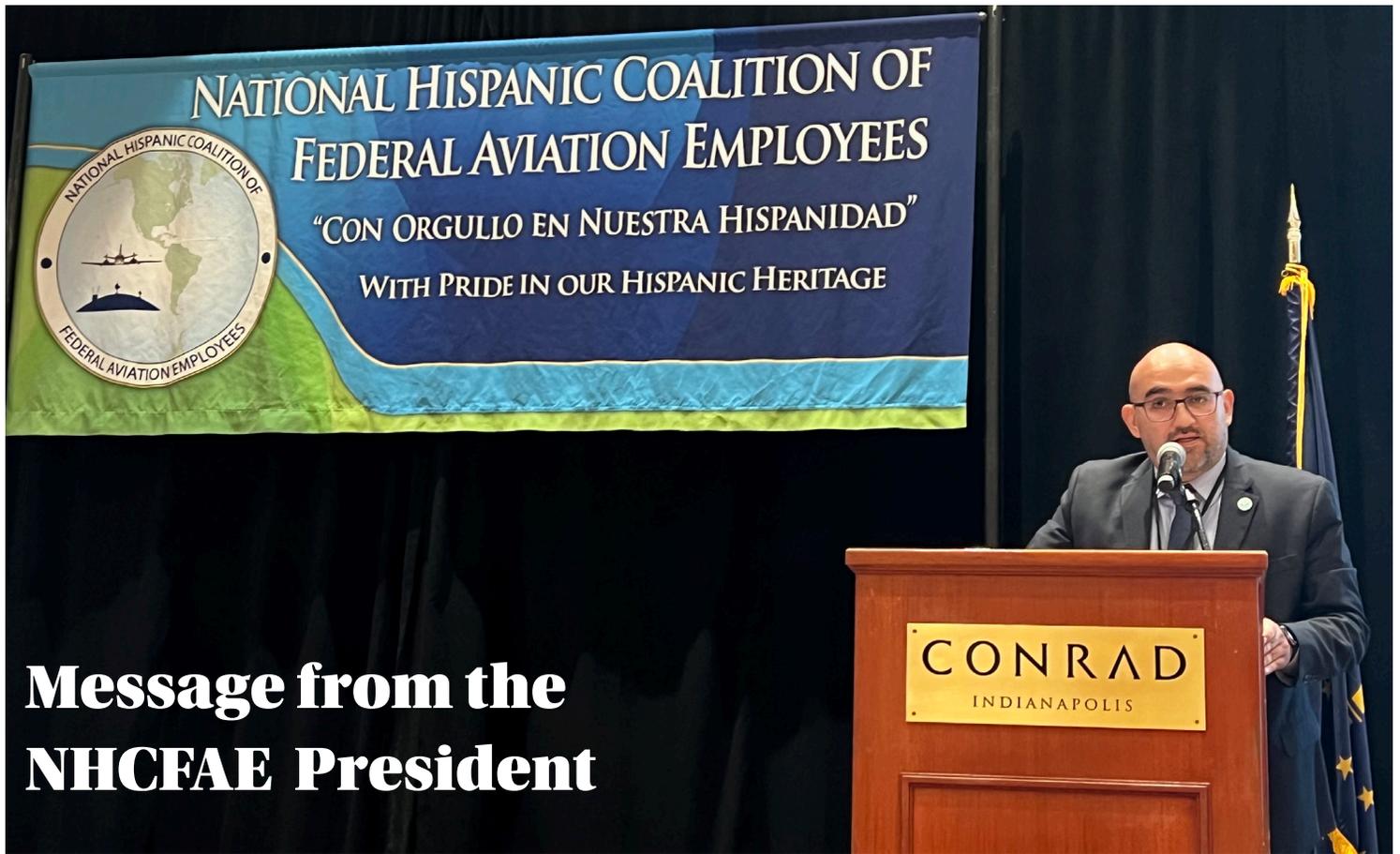
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Message from the NHCFAE President

Saludos FAamilia,

After one postponed conference and a virtual one, we were finally able to reunite and host our Annual Training Conference in person in Indianapolis this past July 2022.

It was a wonderful conference supported by FAA leadership across all lines of businesses. Our members came from all over the country to take part, and we are truly grateful to all of them for taking the time from their busy schedules to attend. For three days we held an informative, interactive and productive agenda filled with networking and engagement among our members, our sponsors, presenters and FAA executives and managers.

I would like to extend my sincere thank you to the entire team who helped to produce a seamless conference. Special thanks to Kristan Villegas for all her hard work and planning that made for a spectacular conference during and after our daily sessions. Thank you, Kristan!

I'm sure most of you have seen some of the pictures that have been posted on our NHCFAE social media pages, but we wanted to take it a step further and provide all of you who could not attend with additional photos and articles from first time participants and members who took part in our event. With the work of our Director of Public Affairs, Susie Diaz, and her team, we are bringing you this special post-conference volume of FAamilia magazine. We hope you really enjoy this volume and if you could not make it to Indy this year, we hope to see you in Seattle on August 1-3, 2023 and be a part of that post-conference FAamilia volume next year.

Gracias a todos,

Oscar Torres
NHCFAE President

Editor's Message

Hola Mi FAAmilia!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer!

Welcome to our special post-conference volume of FAAmilia magazine.

For those that were able to attend the conference, I truly hope you had a great time and felt welcomed by the warmth of our FAAmilia. If you missed the 2022 annual training conference, I hope you save the date to meet us in Seattle from August 1-3, 2023.

Being from Western-Pacific, I can give you a tiny sneak peek... we have a great team and have already begun planning lots of exciting events for the 2023 training conference. I'm excited that for the first time ever, Western-Pacific and Northwest Mountain chapters are partnering as one to host the annual training conference. Believe me when I say you will be missing out if you don't plan to come to Seattle.

In this post-conference volume, you will catch up on a few of our members' testimonies and some great photos that were taken during our conference. Learn who received scholarships (you will read more about them in the next volume of FAAmilia magazine) and who received the 2022 NHCFAE national awards.

ENJOY!

You will hear more from me in our next volume of FAAmilia magazine.

Abrazos,

Susie Diaz
Director of Public Affairs



Follow us on:



2022 NHCFAE National Awards



Nick Reyes
Executive of the Year



Hilda Banda
Member of the Year



Kristan Villegas
Presidential Award



John Espinosa
Officer of the Year



Western Pacific
Chapter of the Year



Erik Salazar
Thank You Award



Karen Perez
Thank You Award



Bill Fernandez
Thank You Award



Ida Marrero
Manager of the Year

2022 NHCFAE Election Results



The following Executive Board national positions were up for election this year: Vice President, Director of Education, and Director of Resources. There were no candidates for Director of Resources, so the Executive Committee appointed a Director effective October 1, 2022. Each officer will serve for two years.

NHCFAE National Vice President

John Espinosa



NHCFAE National Director of Education

Hilda Banda

NHCFAE National Director of Resources - Appointed

Erik Salazar



Conference Reflections

Racing to Indy

Bill Fernandez, Capital Chapter Member

What a wonderful training conference! To start, the hotel was just beautiful, and the downtown Indy area was very nice. The service at the hotel was great and the food was good too.

But it was the FAAMILIA that made it special. It would have been great to have more of our hermanas and hermanos there, but we got some great training and had fun too!

Shout out to Kristan and Brendan Villegas, they hosted a first class event...even if it did take a couple of years to do it.

Also a nice shout out to our MC, Mr. David Williams!

It was great to have Dr. McClinton back, he is always informative and the speed mentoring was very interesting. Thanks to Dave Spero, the new PASS President, for an informative PASS presentation. That first day was a bit of a blur, but the evening ended with the presidential reception “Bet on Education” casino night raising almost \$1,000 for the Charitable Foundation. And it was a lot of fun too!



I was really pleased to see the acting Assistant Administrator for Human Resources, Ms. Angelia Neal, at our conference. She was there for the most part of two whole days of the conference and took the time to talk to many members about their concerns. We also had the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Civil Rights, Mr. Anthony Cummings, speak. Then we had Jodi Baker join us as well from Aviation Safety (my parent organization).



Then we had our old friend Mr. Claudio Manno, the Associate Administrator for the Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety. Claudio has been a regular at our training conferences over the years and he didn't disappoint this year. For my breakout session, I was able to learn how to sleep better with Wendy Wollner from Magellan. It was some interesting information, but I don't know if it would all work for me. But it was interesting!

Some interesting tidbits from our membership meetings, we passed a new budget for next year without much fanfare. Hopefully you already know that you can get that information if you ask for it. We also elected a new (current) Vice President, Mr. John Espinosa, and now we have a new Director of Education, Ms. Hilda Banda, and I think she is going to hit the ground running!

The Charitable Foundation, in agreement with the NHCFAE Executive Committee, agreed to apply the donations it received on behalf of Fanny Rivera, who passed this year, to the Rene Matos Scholarship recipients, along with additional funds available in the foundation. This means that each of the 12 Rene Matos recipients this year will receive \$1,500 instead of the normal \$1,000.

Wednesday night, we were able to go on a bicycle bar tour of downtown Indy...and what a great time that was! We explored some great areas, played our music way too loud and just enjoyed each other's company! Downtown Indy knows the NHCFAE was in town!!!

Thursday started with our friend Nick Reyes, who flew in directly from the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico to join us! That is what a friend does! Nick talked about both leadership and the FAA International Program, since he is the Director of the Western Hemisphere International Affairs Office. Great briefing.

For my breakout session on Thursday, I went to hear Michael Livingston from Livingston Financial speak. Michael has been coming to our conference for as long as I can remember. He has really helped me with my Thrift Saving Plan (TSP) and I learned a little to try and better prepare for my retirement. Michael is a great guy!



Conference Reflections

Racing to Indy continued...

After another great lunch, Ruth Hurtado, from ATO Employee Development, who has volunteered to serve as our new Outreach Chair, talked about Personal Resilience. I think Ruth will be a valuable addition to our NHCFAE FAamilia!

After Ruth, we had our Labor-Management Roundtable with Rich Santa from NATCA, Elizabeth Barcus from FAAMA, and Carlos Aguirre from PASS. This is always a lively discussion, and this year was no exception. And always informative.

The last session was Hispanic Leaders with some familiar faces, Nick Reyes, Augie Casado from Flight Standards, and our former Director of Administration, Ms. Misty Peña. It was almost like a chat with friends. We got some great advice and just real down to earth discussion.

The banquet, like always, was wonderful. We had a really good time. Even got Brendan on the dance floor a couple of times. It was a lot of fun. We stayed until they turned off the music! It was so great to see so many members of our FAamilia, and even more to meet the newest members, ¡FAamilia siempre!

It was funny, normally after the conference I get a little depressed since I think it will be so long before I see everyone again. I remember at my second conference in Washington, DC sitting in the Baltimore airport alone and I wrote an article for “La Palabra” about how down I felt to be leaving my new family behind. But this year was a bit different! As I walked out of the hotel to get my Uber, I ran into Alan Raffo, who I had seen in the conference but didn’t really get a chance to talk to him. He was there filming Ruth’s briefing. I found out he was on the same flight as I was going back to DC, so we shared an Uber to the airport. As we talked in the Uber on the way to the airport, he volunteered to help us with our Latinas in Aviation Global Festival. When Alan and I got to our gate there were 5 or 6 other people from the conference on our plane (and it was one of those smaller planes) including my friend Karen Perez, who was at that second conference with me in DC eleven years ago. We also saw another group from the conference who were on their way to catch a flight to California, so it wasn’t quite the same feeling this time!

And next year we will be in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, Seattle, Washington! I can’t wait to see my FAamilia again. I am sure we will have some great training and enjoy everything Seattle has to offer.

See you next year!



Conference Reflections

My First Conference

Ivan Gutierrez, Western-Pacific Chapter Member

I had the great opportunity to attend the NHCFAE 2022 Annual Training Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. This was my first time attending this event, and I am happy to share that it was a phenomenal experience. First, I would like to thank Faviola Garcia, who is the acting Western-Pacific Deputy Regional Administrator and a former President of the NHCFAE, for opening the door and introducing me to the coalition. At first, I had some apprehension about joining, but after speaking to some of the members of the Western-Pacific chapter, I decided to give it a chance. I now know that joining the coalition has been one of the best choices that I've made. I would also like to thank my Western-Pacific Airports Division leadership, who supported my attendance at the training conference.



The training conference allowed me to engage with other professionals from the FAA and supporting organizations. Being in a room with people that share a similar story to mine helped me feel at ease. Learning that some of those same people hold many leadership positions across the agency opened my eyes to the potential possibilities in my future. Another aspect I truly enjoyed about the training conference was that there were not only Hispanics, but all employees of the FAA are invited to participate in the coalition. What was shared at the training conference would benefit every FAA employee at any career level.

The training sessions are developed to be engaging with everyone present. There are opportunities during concurrent sessions where professionals can choose which track they would like to learn more about, such as Career, Leadership, and Work-Life Balance. The training conference also included leaders from the FAA's upper echelons, which allowed the participants to learn, ask questions, and engage with these leaders.

During a session, there was training called "Speed Mentoring". In this training, leaders across the FAA went from table to table, providing mentoring and answering focused questions about their careers. A significant takeaway for me was that the leaders present were not only willing, but also eager to share and help us further develop to reach our full potential. More often than not, I heard from leaders that they wanted to lift up leaders from within the FAA ranks, and there was a buzz of excitement within that hall that the 90 minutes allotted for that session flew by. I hope there are more opportunities like that in the future.

The leaders of NHCFAE also did a great job of conducting events after the sessions closed for the day that would allow participants to further engage with each other. This allowed me to create new meaningful friendships with other FAA professionals. I now feel obligated to speak to others about the opportunities and great value of the training conference and the coalition itself. Hopefully, the next person will be less apprehensive than I was to participate.

The 2022 NHCFAE Training Conference has energized me with positivity and allowed me to recalibrate my career path. I want to give special thanks to those who attended the training conference, because I genuinely felt connected with those present. I look forward to participating in the next NHCFAE Annual Training Conference in 2023, which will be held in Seattle, Washington.



Conference Reflections

Life-Changing Opportunity

Valeria Rodriguez, Intern, Office of International Affairs

During the NHCFAE training conference, I got the opportunity to interact with senior leaders, managers, and employees from different professional backgrounds. The conference helped me gain skills that are pertinent to my professional growth. Many of the skills I gained are leadership, resilience, and professionalism. I am currently an Intern for the Office of International Affairs. Being able to attend to the NHCFAE conference allowed me to expand my network. I admire the courage every person in the room gave me during different sessions. It was a life-changing opportunity for me.



A Conference to Remember

Hilda Banda, Southwest Chapter Member

¡Saludos from Houston, Texas! This summer has been one to remember, full of new and amazing experiences that I would like to share with you. I traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana from July 26-28, 2022, to attend our NHCFAE Annual Training Conference. The three-day training conference was packed full of different events, discussions and trainings with our leadership. Some of the topics included: Civil Rights, ATO Space Operations, FAA International Program Leadership and my personal favorite, Speed Mentoring. On top of this, attendees were also able to participate in a variety of breakout sessions involving career, leadership and work/life balance subject matters. The conference offered a great deal of diverse, attention-grabbing topics. It made many of us, at times, find it difficult to choose which breakout session to attend. Furthermore, members were even given the opportunity to have one-on-one discussions with leadership that provided guidance and mentorship on how to become a more successful leader.



I thoroughly enjoyed being able to reconnect with members I have met in the past, and meeting and creating relationships with newer participants. During the conference, it came to my surprise to receive the 2022

Member of the Year award, while also being introduced as the newly elected Director of Education. Moments like these really allow me to reflect on how grateful and honored I am to be a part of something so special. The NHCFAE truly values the hard work and dedication of its members. Attending the 2022 conference was just the beginning. After speaking and learning from so many of our attendees, it gave me additional energy and excitement for what lies ahead. I want to continue to develop not only myself as a leader, but continue advocating for our Hispanic community within the agency. Overall, the NHCFAE conference was a huge success and I cannot wait to continue on this journey with each and every one of you. More exciting things to come in 2023, and I hope to see all our members at next year's conference in Seattle, Washington!



“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

- Edward Everett Hale

Conference Reflections

Amazing Conference

Ruth Hurtado, Capital Chapter Member

In July of 2022, I had the privilege of attending my first NHCFAE Annual Training Conference. I did not know what to expect since I didn't know many individuals from the organization, however my goal and hope was to meet and connect with others in the NHCFAE familia and learn as much as I could.

I was very excited on my way to Indy and was fortunate to have shared the same flight with Mr. Jeffrey Vincent, NHCFAE's Executive Sponsor. We spoke for a few brief moments before boarding our flight.

When I arrived at the Conrad Hotel, I was greeted by my 2 colleagues, Jess Robinson and Alan Raffo, from ATO's Employee Development Group. We worked together as a team to set up ATO's career booth.

I then was greeted by Mr. Oscar Torres, President, and John Espinosa, Vice President, with a warm welcome.

The first day of the conference was amazing. I not only met new people across FAA and the NHCFAE, but I learned about various components that I didn't even know existed.

Each workshop was filled with so much useful information that I was happy to soak it in and looked forward to sharing with others when I returned to work.

It was so nice having an amazing intern, Valeria Rodriguez, sit by me most of the conference. We had great talks and I was inspired by hearing her share her thoughts and comments throughout the week. It reminded me of my earlier days as a Hispanic Association of Colleges and University (HACU) Intern starting my career in the federal government.

I was honored to present my workshop on Personal Resilience to the group, which sparked a great interactive discussion on topics including self-care, problem solving, maintaining a positive outlook, meaning and purpose and the importance of a social support system. I ended the workshop with a brief meditation exercise that the audience seemed to enjoy.

Visiting each exhibitor's booth allowed me to not only pick up some nice "freebies", but I met some pretty great people as well who shared a wealth of knowledge on topics related to banking, health insurance and retirement planning.

The most fun bonding event was the peddling activity that we all did riding through the streets of Indy listening to great music and making pit stops at some of the city's most famous landmarks.

Overall, my experience was extremely positive and I look forward to working more closely with the organization and contributing as much as I can! I can't wait until next year in Seattle!



Stepping Outside My Comfort Zone

Javier Quinones, MMAC Chapter Director



I can tell you that my experience at the conference this year was extraordinary. The idea of doing something that I have never done before, serving as Sergeant at Arms and a panel moderator, and then getting kudos from others for doing it, was simply extraordinary. Meeting so many people from all around the US and from so many different lines of business, and having enough time to have conversations with them, is the coolest part of the conference. Getting trained by the major players of the agency and then having one-on-one conversations with them is simply outstanding. I am so excited for the future of our NHCFAE.

Scholarships

Congratulations to all the 2022 Scholarship Recipients

Look forward to reading more about these recipients in the next FAamilia magazine

Rene Matos Scholarship Recipients

Alyssa Zapata
Ximena Gonzalez
Mayra Zamudio
Maria Bolanos
Alejandro Maunoz
Isiat Alvrado
Diana Soza
Katherine Morales
Hailey Domiguez
Raef Makrai
Maritza Jauregui-Perez
Sophia Arguello
Elizabeth Herrera
Mia Yopez

Danny Gutierrez Scholarship Recipient

Ejaaz Karem

Cynthia Garcia Memorial Education Reimbursement Program

Dolores Spriggs
Antonio Altamirano

NHCFAE Foundation FAamilia Scholarship Program

Stephan D. Deluna
James D. Falcon
Katie J. May
Andrew J. Metcalf
Jeyra L. Resto
Genesis Rivera

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See you in Seattle in 2023!

Karla Valdez, Northwest Mountain Chapter Director

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Chapter Director