

FAAmilia

National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees



Volume 9 | January 2023



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.

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Message from the NHCFAE President



Saludos FAamilia,

2022 has come and gone, and we look back and reflect on all that has happened in our NHCFAE. I do hope you have been able to stay connected through our social media platforms and monthly updates to see all our activities unfold.

It has been a busy year, and the leadership team would not want to have it any other way. This year has been full of outreach, collaboration, networking and gatherings among our members, which is at the core of our NHCFAE. We were, and will continue to have, a seat at the table in meetings with FAA leadership to ensure that the interests of our members are being heard. Along with that, we continue to focus on having a presence in our communities and be the conduit of FAA opportunities to them.

With all these activities, we have been able to connect with FAA colleagues around the country and speak to many of them about our coalition, our mission and initiatives. This has resulted in many new members to our NHCFAE FAamilia, and as we continue to grow, so does our responsibility to continue carrying on the mission of our coalition. For this to happen in 2023, you can expect to see more opportunities and solicitations for members to get involved in the inner workings of our organization. For all those that show interest, they will receive the necessary training and experience to step up and become a leader, not just in our NHCFAE, but in the FAA overall. This will include shadowing opportunities in our Executive Board and Committee positions, and invitations to join us in our meetings with NHCFAE leadership.

I am excited for what this new year will bring. There will be more outreach to promote our careers in our communities and inspire more youngsters with AVSED and STEM events. There will be more collaboration with the agency as we continue to have a voice on FAA policy. There will be more networking with our corporate partners, academic institutions and other employee associations. And there will be more gatherings with our members to personally thank you for your support to our NHCFAE and to hear your ideas, concerns and suggestions to make our coalition better.

To conclude, I want you to know that you have a very motivated and committed leadership team and we will continue to carry this positive momentum for as long as we hold office. Beyond that, we will need your help to carry it on for many years to come. I am confident you will.

On behalf of the entire team, we wish you all a wonderful new year and we can't wait to see you in a city near you.

Gracias a todos,

Oscar Torres

Editor's Message

Hola FAamilia!

This volume of FAamilia magazine marks the ending of 2022 and the beginning of 2023. With that said, I would like to wish you Felices Fiestas. Wishing you and your loved ones a healthy and blessed new year! I hope this last year brought everyone wonderful blessings. I want to take this opportunity as your Director of Public Affairs to thank you for all the wonderful articles you have submitted. I thank you for the confidence you have given me as your DOPA. I look forward to receiving many more in the new year. Remember, you are the ones that help me accomplish every FAamilia magazine. Thank you to our magazine designer, Spark Creative, for always helping us put together all the wonderful stories to make every volume a successful and professional magazine.

Also, a big shout out goes to all the hard-working RCDs. I appreciate every one of you. I know I'm always hassling everyone for articles. Every single of you are doing your best to help our organization be a great one. I know we all have our day-time jobs and families to take care of; your involvement and contribution means a lot. If you do not know who the Regional Chapter Director in your area is, below are the names. If you would like to become involved, please reach out to any of us. Eastern/New England Chapter is looking to fill their vacant RCD position. I encourage you to get involved.

I've loved that over the past few months since the conference, we have all been very busy and motivated. We had a lot of different events all over the regions. In this magazine, you will read some of the great events the regions have been hosting.

Read about all the scholarship recipients for 2022. Remember, scholarship applications are open each year from February through May. Our new Director of Education, Hilda Banda, is here to help. Please take advantage of all these wonderful opportunities.

I hope you all are making plans to join us for our 2023 Annual Training Conference from August 1-3 at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Seattle.

Mil Abrazos. A todos Feliz Año Nuevo!

Susie Diaz

Director of Public Affairs



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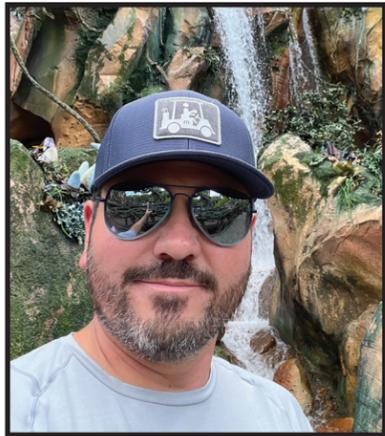
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A Message from the NHCFAE Vice President



Hello members,

I want to begin by thanking everyone for their support and electing me to the Office of National Vice President. It was a pleasure to serve as your Director of Education and Interim Vice President the past two years. I have learned a tremendous amount about our coalition and was very excited to get the Office of Director of Education filled by Ms. Hilda Banda. I also want to acknowledge Jonathan Eagle and Jean Droz for running. It takes a big commitment for individuals to run for our Executive Board and Executive Committee positions. It is the sign of a successful organization when you have multiple candidates running for our Coalition offices. Leadership runs deep in our organization, and I would encourage anyone who has an interest about what the various Executive Committee positions do, to reach out to me or any of the past incumbents.

Now, as we concluded the first quarter meeting with the Executive Board in Seattle in November, there is a lot to talk about. We stayed at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel, the location of our 2023 National Training Conference, that will take place August 1-3, 2023. The registration website is being worked as I type this and should be ready soon. Be on the lookout out for some videos and Facebook Lives from the venue. I am very excited for the conference to return to our Northwest Mountain and Western-Pacific Chapters. Karla, Nat and their conference committee team have been working very hard to deliver the best training conference yet.

Another thing that we have been discussing is increasing the communication to YOU, our FAAmilia. A couple things in the works are the revamping of our NHCFAE website, for it to be easier to navigate and more mobile friendly. Another thing is expanding our social media presence. If you are not a member of our Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or LinkedIn accounts, please join. Links to those accounts are located on our website. You are missing out if you are not a member of at least one of those social media platforms.

I saved the best for last! Retention and recruitment is a big priority for us. The pandemic limited our ability to conduct outreach/recruitment activities and with retirements we saw a significant decrease in our overall membership numbers. I emphasize the fact that I put retention before recruitment. Our current members are the lifeblood of this coalition. If you are not feeling as though you are being served, then how are we to expect that you are communicating the benefits and services our coalition offers to others? I want to say thank you to all our members that have persevered through the pandemic and stuck with us. The best is yet to come. Recruitment events and activities are being planned at the national and local chapter level. I would encourage you to reach out to your local Regional Chapter Director and ask how you can help.

Enough from me this go around. If you have any questions or just want to talk, please reach out.

Until next time,

John Espinosa

A Message from the NHCFAE Director of Education



Estimada/Dear FAAmilia,

I hope you all enjoyed your holidays! For those who don't know me yet, my name is Hilda G. Banda, and I was recently elected as your national Director of Education.

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss my background. I recently celebrated my 20th anniversary of federal service. My FAA career began in June 2002 as a Collegiate Training Initiative (CTI) student at the Houston Air Route Traffic Control Center (ZHU ARTCC) Automation System Support Center (SSC), while working and attending school. I graduated from Texas Southern University in Houston with a Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering Technology, and a minor in Community Development. Upon graduation, I was hired as an Airway Transportation Systems Specialist (ATSS) in the ZHU ARTCC Communications SSC. In April 2015, I was selected and began a new position as a PSS (Training Specialist), which is now called an Operation Support Specialist (OSS), for the Houston District. As an OSS, I primarily focus on managing Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health (EOSH) and technical training. Throughout my career, I have participated in several Front Line Manager details and successfully completed the Technical Operations Leadership Development Program (TOLDP) in December 2021. I have been an active Houston chapter member of our NHCFAE since 2016 and held various positions within the Houston chapter.

During the 2022 national elections, I was up against a strong, intelligent and talented opponent, who carried the same focus and values that we as members want out of our organization. With this being said, please allow me this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who voted and entrusted me to serve as the Director of Education to our NHCFAE FAAmilia. I am exceptionally thrilled about this new chapter in my life and will continue to provide as much support to our FAAmilia, as you have provided me.

I want to assure you that I am committed to continue building on the great progress we have made and will continue working hard for the progress we hope to accomplish. I look forward to working with everyone to achieve our goals and continue providing the best interest for our FAAmilia.

A special thank you to John Espinosa for previously serving as Director of Education, in addition to his NHCFAE VP duties. Thank you for bringing your passion, intellect, insight, experience and resources to the table. We appreciate all that you do.

I am honored for the opportunity to serve as your Director of Education, and thankful for the love and support. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at doe@nhcfae.org

“Education is what allows you to stand out” – Ellen Ochoa-Atentamente

Hilda G. Banda

Save the Date

2023 Annual Training Conference

Hola FAamilia!

We would like to invite everyone to join us for our 2023 NHCFAE Annual Training Conference.

The Northwest Mountain Region has partnered together with the Western-Pacific Region to host an amazing conference for you! We proudly present the NHCFAE Training Conference in Seattle, Washington, August 1-3, 2023, at the Renaissance Hotel. The theme is “Unidos to Reach New Heights”

The Conference Committee and the Executive Board are working diligently in developing the agenda, training courses and activities. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.



Scholarships

Congratulations to all the 2022 Scholarship Recipients

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 Tuition 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

Rene Matos Scholarship Recipients



Alejandro Muñoz

Throughout my educational career, I have had many accomplishments. I was the president of the Gender Sexuality Alliance, which sponsored a booth at a mental health expo. The purpose of the booth was to educate others about the usage of pronouns. In addition to that event, I pride myself on having created a safe space for every single student in the school. I was also the vice-president of my school's National Honor Society. The National Honor Society held tutoring every single Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the school's community, it also gave community service hours to many students. National Honor Society was the first time I had been put in a vice-president position, having the duality of being President of one class and VP of another one was a very good experience. I also was an Administrative Assistant and aided my schools administration, athletic department, the school's faculty, teachers, and student activities. This was definitely the most interesting experience. Because of helping with my school's administration, I learned the ins and outs of the school system. I saw first-hand the places where we can (and should) improve. I was also able

to see how it was to be a teacher. I got to learn the inner workings of the payroll system, action days, and even requesting materials. And all these being powered by my point of view as a student was an interesting experience. However, my biggest and most proud accomplishment is getting accepted into Pratt Institute for a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Writing. I will be the first person in my family to attend college. I am beyond grateful for this opportunity. I know that little sophomore doing all his virtual classes is smiling at me right now. Thank you for this scholarship.

Alyssa Zapata



I was always taught the importance of working hard to reach success. Thankfully, I can say that I have never felt an unhealthy amount of pressure to try to be the best. I simply do what I can and I am happy with the outcome, because I know it is the best I can do. I have my parents to thank for instilling this ideology in me.

I want to humbly say that throughout my entire educational career, I have earned GPAs no lower than a 3.4. I was able to accomplish this by managing my time well, being responsible and having clear communication with my teachers and coaches. It definitely was not easy, but I managed to graduate high school with honors and a cumulative GPA of 3.8. I also took several AP classes and have passed AP tests throughout my high school career. Even if I did not pass all of the AP exams that I took, I still consider taking each and every class/exam an accomplishment. The mere fact that I was able to receive a good grade and keep up with the curriculum of a faster-paced class, is an educational accomplishment for me.

I am proud to say that I have accomplished this all while involving myself with several different extracurricular activities. I was a part of the Associated Student Body in high school and I was the ASB Vice President my senior year. I have been a part of music programs since middle school and I am able to read and play music proficiently. Also, I played sports in elementary, I have been a part of dance and soccer teams while in middle school. During high school, I was a part of the soccer, softball and cross country teams. Towards the end of my senior year, I was awarded "Female Athlete of the Year." I do not believe I was the best player on the teams I was a part of, but I definitely gave it all I had, and perhaps my attitude and effort are what won that award. In my opinion, staying committed to these extracurricular activities, while having to deal with the challenges from school itself, is an educational accomplishment. Through these extracurricular activities, I learned skills that are crucial for success... academically and otherwise! Through this, I have become a better communicator, problem solver, hard worker, and have become better at working with others.

To be honest, I enjoy being challenged and testing my limits... even if it does get stressful trying to manage several things at once. I have learned that some stress is good and through my experiences under stressful circumstances, I have grown to be more competent in dealing with it and have learned to use it as a motivational drive. All in all, I am proud of all of the experiences and educational accomplishments I have thus far. I cannot wait to see what other goals and achievements I will reach as I further my education. Thank you for this scholarship.

Maria Bolaños



My name is Maria Angélica Bolaños, and I am a senior at the University of Houston, C.T. Bauer College of Business. I plan to graduate Magna Cum Laude and be skilled in several coding languages and project management. Through hard work and perseverance, I've obtained internships with the American Chemical Society, HP, Library of Congress, Management Leadership for Tomorrow, PwC, and this past summer I was a Summer Associate at EY-Parthenon.

Additionally, I have had the pleasure to serve as the UH ALPFA Corporate Relations Director for a year, serving more than 150 members, in which I was awarded the top officer of the semester. With all the knowledge I've obtained, I plan to recruit with a top consulting firm as a full-time technology consultant. Throughout my senior year, I will be studying for my GMAT, with the help of a prep course, and I will apply to top deferred MBA programs, of which Harvard Business School and MIT Sloan School of Management are my top two choices.

Not only will the Rene Matos Scholarship push me towards completing my undergraduate degree, but it has lightened the financial burden of the tuition I pay myself. I spend more time studying for the GMAT, with my family, and giving back to my community. With this scholarship award, I will achieve my goal of working full-time as a technology consultant at a top global firm and being accepted into a top deferred MBA program. It will also further aspire me to one day create my own scholarship fund for Latinos pursuing a career in business. I feel privileged to be given the opportunity by NHCFAE to be awarded a scholarship to help fulfill my career goals. I will be sure to demonstrate that I do have the capability to not only be a thriving professional but a catalyst for change and an advocate for women succeeding in the corporate world.

Ximena Gonzalez



As a child, I dreamed of going to college. My parents encouraged my siblings and I to do well in school, so that one day we could go off to college and receive an education, since they were unable to. Recently, I have achieved just that. My greatest educational accomplishment was getting into the University of California, Irvine. Although it did take many other accomplishments, most of which I carried out in high school, to get the admission.

In high school, I made it on the honor roll list a total of 8 times, once every semester of my time there. This was because I was able to keep my GPA at a 3.8 or higher. During my junior year, I had a GPA of 4.4! In acknowledgement for keeping a high GPA all 4 years, I was given a principals citation award. It is difficult for many students to attain a high GPA, but I was able to do it even with Advanced Placement classes. Which brings me to my AP scholar with Honor award that I received from the Advanced Placement College Board for receiving an average score of at least 3.25 on all Advanced Placement exams taken and having scores of 3 or higher on four or more of the exams. Passing five of my Advanced Placement exams has allowed me to receive college credit, and it has been a significant educational accomplishment for me. Besides this, I have received smaller awards, like perfect attendance, star student for participating and being a good student in my team advisory class, and student of the month for being an outstanding peer.

Before graduating high school we had a senior award day in which I received an "orgullo" award (which means pride in Spanish) for showing pride in my work, conveying the best of my abilities and working hard. Along with that, I received the character award, which is given to those students who show exemplary behavior. I was even presented with the academic excellence in the area of Spanish award since I passed my Advanced Placement Spanish test with a 5 and always showed my abilities in class. One of my proudest accomplishments was being salutatorian of my class. I was able to give a speech at my graduation and I chose to honor my fellow Latino community by basing my speech on the American dream and the importance of education, and of course, I delivered my speech in Spanish.

All of these accomplishments paved the way for me to be able to attend my dream college. I worked very hard to make my dream come true, but most importantly I worked hard to make my parents proud. Thank you so much for this scholarship.

FAAmilia Foundation Scholarship Recipients



Andrew Metcalf

I want to start off by saying thank you to everyone who makes this scholarship available. The NHCFAE allows me to go to school without the burden of working or thinking about how I am going to pay for the upcoming semester. I am truly blessed and grateful to be selected. I have just started my junior year at the University of Oklahoma, where I am currently studying Construction Science and Project Management. However, while studying for my degree, I am also enrolled into the Air Force ROTC program, with the hope of commissioning into the United States Air Force once I graduate. In the Air Force, I don't exactly have a set career path yet. Right now, I am leaning towards Intelligence, however, the Space Force has recently sparked my interest. I am extremely grateful for this organization and the help it provides students like me to continue my education in hopes of serving my country.

Genesis Rivera

I am currently an undergraduate student studying the University of South Florida. My major is Early Childhood Education. I will be graduating in two years with my bachelor's degree. After graduation, I plan on working as a Pre-k or Kindergarten teacher for a few years. One of my goals after graduating is to take my skills out of the country and teach in different countries, while learning about other cultures myself. This scholarship is very important to me because it lessens my financial burden. In this program I have to really focus on my classes, therefore I have limited time to work, so this is a great help, which I appreciate because thanks to you I am one step closer to my goal.



James Falcon

My name is James Falcon. I currently attend California State University Long Beach as a first-year majoring in Aerospace. After I graduate, I hope to work for a large aerospace corporation building beautiful airplanes or for the FAA. With this scholarship I'm able to focus more on my studies and worry less about my financial status. Thank you to the NHCFAE for your continued support of students looking to seek a higher education.

Jeyra Resto

My name is Jeyra Resto, and I am currently in my third year studying for a bachelor's degree at the University of Puerto Rico in Carolina majoring in Forensic Psychology. When I left high school, it was clear to me that I wanted to dedicate my life to helping others. In between the long list of things I could've chosen to do, I decided to follow the Criminal Justice path in order to help save lives and make the world a safer place. Currently, my plans involve graduating and getting a master's in forensic psychology. Then, I'll get a job at a mental health institution to broaden my knowledge as I apply to a federal organization and hopefully begin my journey into the justice system. I am grateful to have been selected for the scholarship, as it takes me one step closer to achieving my academic goals and creating a better life for myself and hopefully others.



Kathleen May

My name is Kathleen May, and I am a sophomore at the University of California, Irvine. I am pursuing a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences. When I first started at UCI, I wasn't sure if I wanted to work towards a medical degree, be in the field of research, or apply my biology degree to another field. Now going into my second year, the vision for my future has become a bit clearer. I currently have plans to pursue Veterinary School once I complete my bachelor's in Biology. My current career interests are to work as a veterinarian, and possibly with a focus on wildlife. There is a high demand for large-animal veterinarians in the US, and I am considering possible career options in that field. I am honored and very grateful to be one of this year's recipients of the NHCFAE FAAmilia Scholarship. I sincerely thank all members of the Coalition and NHCFAE Foundation for supporting my academic endeavors and providing me with a greater opportunity to accomplish my goals at UCI and in the future.



Cynthia Garcia Memorial Tuition Reimbursement Recipients



Antonio Altamirano

I feel very privileged to have been chosen as a recipient to this year's Cynthia Garcia Memorial Education Reimbursement Program. This award goes a long way towards my educational goals as I near the completion of my master's degree in Commercial Aviation.

I would like to thank the Coalition for providing these types of benefits to its members, especially during the past few challenging years. This year, the Coalition even provided us with an extension to file, talking about going above and beyond for your members!

Thank you!

Dolores Spriggs

I continue to be extremely grateful for the financial support that the Coalition is able to offer me to further my education. It is an amazing benefit available to all members. Having this financial support has enabled me continue to further my education in general pre-law classes. The goal is to complete all required courses to complete a management certificate in pre-law. So far, I have completed a full year of classes and have one more year left. Although it gets a bit challenging to juggle working full time and attending school part time, it is very doable. I encourage every member who is considering personal development education to apply for this great benefit!



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Capital Chapter FAAmilia

Karen Perez, Capital Regional Chapter Director

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Capital Chapter met up for a small dinner at Mi Vida Restaurant at the DC Wharf, right by FAA Headquarters. In addition to how we got our start at the FAA, we talked about our families, and shared core memories of us growing up, as well as the challenges encountered to break the molds that were set before us. We also talked about how the coalition can better serve its members – we are always open to new ideas that would set the stage for the growth of our organization.

That evening, the Wharf was celebrating 5 years since its grand opening, and as part of its celebratory events, an entire fireworks show illuminated the evening water scenery. It was a great end to a night catching up with some of our Capital Chapter FAAmilia, and we are looking forward to doing it again soon!



Aeronautical Center Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Javier Quiñones, MMAC Regional Chapter Director

On September 15, the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center Chapter hosted a Hispanic Heritage Month kick-off lunch at the MMAC Blue Sky Cafe. We enjoyed a diverse Hispanic menu and talked to several students, employees and center visitors about our organization. Academy Director, Jim Duskow, and Academy Deputy Director, Valdrie Buford, joined some of our chapter members for lunch. Also in attendance was our National Vice-President, John Espinosa, and multiple members of the NHCF AE. I want to express my appreciation for the Blue Sky Cafe management for their contribution to making this lunch a success.



Western-Pacific Commemorates Hispanic Heritage Month

Nat Perez and Susie Diaz, Western-Pacific Officers

First things first, as a tradition we have always decorated and created a display in the lobby area of the regional office at El Segundo, CA. We didn't have a chance to do it during the past two years because of pandemic. This year, most of us are back in the office and wanted to bring back some traditions to help revive the office a little. This allowed us to express ourselves to those new employees and current employees that have come back to the office. We decorated all three floors of the lobby area. In every floor there were different flags that represented all Latin American countries. We had different displays on each floor, including loteria, Latin artists and some artifacts. We had several NHCFAE giveaways and Mexican candies for employees to take as well.



On September 17, Western-Pacific chapter kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month in Santa Monica, CA. It was an incredible event. We took full advantage of the cultural spotlight and brought together a good group of members during this social and networking event. Members from around the Southern California area had an opportunity to meet fellow members, as well as members from the Latino Pilot Association. This event also provided us an opportunity to plan further initiatives and collaborative ideas. We also met a potential sponsor thanks to our new member, Ivan Gutierrez. Having these types of in-person events strengthens our relationships and allow us to share about our cultural similarities that make us a leading coalition.

The "Revival in NorCal". We revived Northern California! It has been quite a while since there has been any activity in the Northern California/Bay Area. Thankfully, this is now something we can say is in the past. As a revival event for the Northern California area, we had the pleasure of meeting our new Director of Administration, Lulie Vazquez, and her San Jose tower co-worker and new member, Jenny Zepeda. We also had a guest appearance from Johnathan Eagle from Van Nuys tower. It's these types of initial meetups that allow us to begin to spark and cultivate a new presence in the Northern California area. There was a great conversation on how to engage the current and potential membership in the Bay Area and NorCal, so be on the lookout for events that will be coming, including facility visits, off-site meetups, and a possible ACE camp. The purpose of this meetup was to plan for the future of the Bay Area and begin to revive this portion of our membership. This meeting was a success. It will be a process, but we have the right people in place to grow, and if you are in the Bay Area, reach out to the WP leadership for future coalition opportunities.



On September 20, we hosted "Café con Pan Dulce" in our El Segundo office. Thanks to our member, Veronica Jimenez, for assisting Susie Diaz with this morning event. It was a great morning to see a few familiar faces. Employees came down to enjoy hot coffee with pan dulce, while some of the members chatted with employees and reached out to those employees that had questions about the coalition.

These types of small and large events are always great to see members, and those that have always had the curiosity to join our FAamilia. Everyone always leaves very motivated and ready to come and assist with the next event.

Southwest Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Lydia Gomez-Martinez, Southwest Regional Chapter Director

On September 16, the Southwest Chapter kicked off our HHM event at the Fort Worth Aviation Museum, and it could not have been more fitting for the occasion. The local museum brings together people, aviation and our community to display our heritage, educate our community, and continue to inspire our youth to seek opportunities in aviation. Fort Worth is fortunate to have this aviation showcase in our community and neighborhoods.

This year's event included several of Fort Worth's strong Hispanic leaders and educators in the local community:

Carlos Flores – Council Member for Fort Worth City Council District 2 and board member of the Fort Worth Aviation Museum.

Roxanne Martinez - Fort Worth ISD School Board Trustee for District 9.

Leo Vaughns, Jr. - Teacher at Kirkpatrick Middle School for over 30 years, and a pillar to this community and the education community.

Rosalinda Martinez - a seasoned community volunteer, community advocate and longtime active resident of Fort Worth.

Arturo Martinez - national award-winning designer and a culturally-connected strategist.

Pete Munoz - Precinct 5 Tarrant County Constable.

We were also pleased to have two of our national executive board officers, Erik Salazar and Hilda Banda, there to help us kick off the festivities. We enjoyed traditional music, food and great company.



Latinas in Aviation

On October 1st, in College Park, MD, we had our second annual “Latinas in Aviation Global Festival”. Bill Fernandez worked closely with the author of Latinas in Aviation, Ms. Jacqueline Ruiz, and the Director of the College Park Aviation Museum and Airport on the event. This event allowed people to come in and talk to those “Latinas” who have shared their stories in the book “Latinas in Aviation”. This year, they published a second edition with Latinas from the DMV (DC, Maryland and Virginia) area. We had four NHCFAE Latinas appear in the second edition. In the first edition, we had one member, Lizbeth Alvarado, tell her story in the book.

We have been discussing expanding the Latinas in Aviation Global Festival to four Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), Vaughn College in New York, Miami Dade College in Florida, Mount San Antonio College in California and the Inter-Americana University in Puerto Rico. Each of these schools have ATC CTI programs, as well as other aviation programs.

For this year’s event, we partnered with PWC and received great support from AVS. Every participant was a registered outreach representative and our four Latinas highlighted in the book were able to share their stories in person and participate in panel discussions.

It was an awesome and motivational event. We look forward to partnering together again for next year’s event.



41st FAAMA Convention & Managing the Skies Expo John Espinosa, NHCFAE Vice President

Members of your Executive Board (Oscar Torres, John Espinosa and Erik Salazar) attended the FAA Managers Association (FAAMA) Convention at Walt Disney World’s Yacht and Beach Club Resort in Orlando, October 23-27.

The 41st annual FAAMA convention was well attended by managers from across the agency, representing all lines of business in the FAA. The NHCFAE was given a booth in the expo hall by FAAMA to recruit and talk with managers about our current priorities and initiatives. There were multiple opportunities for building new relationships, networking and collaborating with both FAA executive leadership and FAAMA leadership. It was nice to attend another FAA Employee Association conference that provides their members with world-class leadership training in order for FAA managers to remain effective leaders in fostering positive work environments and safe skies. I took some great notes and captured some best practices for our own national training conference.

The focus of the training over the three days was to recharge and refocus energy, and address how to move on to the next challenge through personal development perseverance from world class leadership trainers. Training conferences such as these and ours allows the FAA to accomplish its mission, while facing ever-changing regulations, culture, technology and economic conditions within the FAA and NAS.

As an exhibitor and new FAAMA members in the Managing the Skies Expo, it gave us the opportunity to visit with current members, FAA senior executives, potential sponsors and most importantly, welcome six new members to our FAAMILIA. This is the true benefit of attending these types of outreach events. Communicating with FAA employees about the benefits and services provided by the coalition is a true pleasure. Talking to people that have been in this agency for some time and never knew employee associations like ours existed is the gift that keeps on giving.



I want to end by thanking you, our FAAMILIA, for supporting participation to events like these and others that are taking place around the country. Whether it is conferences, STEM/AVSED events, job fairs, or chapter get togethers; your dues allow our coalition to remain the premier Hispanic employee resource group across DOT. We do not take for granted the work those who have come before us have given to our coalition and the hard work yet to come.



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GEHA



Western-Pacific Remembers Dead and Keeps Momentum Alive

Nat Perez and Susie Diaz, Western-Pacific Officers

Dia de los Muertos is a significant event for many of our members, and it is a cultural identifier which helps us find common ground in our heritage. We held this event as a social via Zoom and was open to all members in the coalition nationwide. We were able to provide history and explain the significance of Dia de los Muertos to fellow members that were not familiar with the tradition. We were also able to learn about other members that have similar traditions from different countries, as we are a very diverse organization. Susie Diaz, also shared her Ofrenda (Altar for the Dead) so that we could better understand the significance of why you see the design that you see. Dia de los Muertos has been a widely misunderstood tradition, but by meeting together and educating each other, we can begin to break down those barriers that may cause a sense of difference amongst people. Sharing our cultural differences will allow us to recognize who we are and the bond that we share to promote diversity and cultural understanding. This was a very interactive event which taught us a lot about our members, promoted networking, but more importantly, keeps the pulse of the organization going strong. Susie took this opportunity to display a small altar and decorations in the Western-Pacific regional office.



On October 11, we partnered with one of our corporate sponsors, SkyOne Federal Credit Union, to host a Dia de los Muertos luncheon in our El Segundo office. It was a great event where we invited all employees to come down to the atrium lobby to enjoy some Peruvian food and a chance to come and talk to Skyone members. Since the pandemic, the Skyone branch temporarily closed, and now that we are back in the office again, several employees are always asking about the credit union's new hours and staff. This gave a chance to teach others about Dia de los Muertos and get to know more about our corporate partner, Skyone. A big thank you to Franco from Skyone, as he was a big part of making this event happen.

Martinez Family Dia De Los Muertos Ofrenda

Lydia Gomez-Martinez, Southwest Regional Chapter Director

We started putting up our Ofrenda in 2019, shortly after the passing of my brother. It started with my daughter, Olivia, as she was adamant about putting one up. She did all the research and we got it done. This will be our third year putting up our Ofrenda, with each year adding our past relatives, friends and more decorations.



Chapter Events

Southwest Does a 5k for a Great Cause!

Lydia Gomez-Martinez, Southwest Regional Chapter Director

On October 22, a few members of the Southwest Chapter participated in a 5K for Miles Ahead Texas. This is an organization that helps homeless veterans, women and children in shelters. This is their first year as an organization. They are doing some amazing things for the homeless veterans, women and children in shelters. It was an honor to come out and support them! Thank you Misty, Chris and Olivia for coming out to support this event. Congratulation to Chris and Olivia for placing 1st in their age groups!

Our NHCFAE logo was also proudly displayed on the shirts!



Lunch & Learns with Western-Pacific Chapter

Nat Perez and Susie Diaz, Western-Pacific Officers

Did you know that our organization provides great mentoring opportunities? Did you know that we have great leadership in the organization in executive and member level positions? Did you know that you can pass on your leadership knowledge to your fellow members? Well, it's all possible through our lunch and learn initiative hosted by the Western-Pacific Chapter. We will be hosting meetings continuously throughout the year where a guest FAA leader will share his or her experience and be available for a Q&A session with our members. This is a great opportunity for our members to learn directly from the source. Maybe you already are a leader and have a pending difficult decision, this is a great place to brainstorm solutions from leaders in our industry. This is a great place to learn what it's like to fill the roles that these leaders have overcome to be successful.



On October 7, we had our first lunch and learn with Liliana "Lili" De LaCruz from the Latino Pilot Association. Lili is a latina pilot and the Southern California Regional Director of the Latino Pilots Association (LPA). She is a flight instructor in SoCal at Hawthorne (KHHH) and soon to be a commercial pilot. She shared with us her upbringing as a woman in a Mexican household and how she left her career as a financial accountant with her family business to pursue her dream of becoming a pilot. Lili was encouraged to pursue aviation by a friend who is a pilot and a huge advocate for changing your career to just go fly a plane. Lili is inspired by the thrill of the challenge that aviation

provides. She is driven by the constant testing of knowledge and ability to be a pilot. She also agrees that the views are pretty spectacular. She is a trailblazer in aviation, mentoring young pilots to pursue their dreams, as she was once encouraged to pursue her own. She is a great resource for information on how to get your start as a pilot. The Latino Pilots Association was founded in 2015 by President Jerry Dooyes at the University of Florida in Jacksonville. LPA is a nonprofit organization, committed to empower support and mentor the underrepresented in our communities by providing educational programs, training, mentoring and scholarships. To learn more about the LPA, visit their website at: www.latinopilot.org A huge thank you to Lili for taking the time to come and speak to our members during our chapter meeting.

cont...

Lunch & Learns continued...



On November 9, we had a lunch and learn with Mark McClardy, AWP Airport Division Manager and NHC member. Mark has been a member of our FAamilia for a long time now and has always been open to offer management advice to any of us. Mark has always had an open-door policy. In this lunch and learn, Mark spoke to us about where he came from and how he made it to the position he has now. He gave us all great advice on how to not give up and always ask questions and always keep growing as a person. Always be positive and keep moving forward. With this type of lunch and learn, we can all gain some insights and pointers to take back with us to reflect on and know that we can take that big step to become a manager/supervisor and role model. Thank you, Mark, for taking the time from your busy schedule to speak to us.

Our hope in 2023 is to have more of these successful lunch and learns for our FAamilia and fellow coworkers.

East Coast Meets West Coast Virtual Happy Hour

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Regional Chapter Director

Membership is a term that we take to the next level in the NHCFAE. We refer to ourselves as a FAamilia for a reason. And what family doesn't have fun while they share, talk, laugh, debate and feel a connection that is unique? We are no exception. "Never Have I Ever" and "Two Truths and a Lie" were games that we participated in that are intimidating, but a whole lot of fun! The comfortability that we create in the coalition allows us to let our guard down and break the ice amongst members that may be new, or even longstanding members who haven't met each other. It allowed us to learn a lot about our fellow members and what makes us tick and why we are the way we are. And learning more about each other helps us strengthen the bonds of family, friendship and membership. Strengthening the bond allows us to help each other and really put more than a face to the name, but also a personality. And learning about our FAamilia will only make us stronger and better prepared to go after our mission. A special thanks to Susie and Karen for putting this great "sure to repeat" event together.



Western-Pacific Chapter Monthly Zoom Meetings

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Regional Chapter Director

Amongst all organizations, success is dependent on communication. Many times, the common issue amongst our membership is that they are not in the know of what happens or what is going on. They might feel like the coalition doesn't reach out or is inactive. In the Western-Pacific chapter, this is not the case. We started monthly zoom meetings on the first Friday of the month at noon. It is a short lunchtime meeting where we come together to discuss what is happening in the organization and all the activities and initiatives that we host in the Western-Pacific chapter. This meeting is open to all WP members, and we have now included members from the Northwest Mountain chapter. Our aim is to continue to strengthen communication within the chapter and activate those members that may feel like they are out of the loop. Let us get each other into "the know" of what's happening. Come meet your fellow members, bring your ideas, questions, concerns, initiatives and your support. Together we will continue to demonstrate the impact that our organization has, and the influence that made us the chapter of the year in 2022!



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FY 2023 1st Quarter Executive Board Meeting

Oscar Torres, NHCFAE President

From November 13-14, the Executive Board hosted its FY 2023 1st quarter meeting. The team traveled to Seattle, which is the location of our 2023 National Training Conference. It was two days of a packed agenda which revolved around planning the course of our NHCFAE strategy for the next year. During this meeting we were also joined by Regional Chapter Directors Nat Perez and Karla Valdez, along with member Shirley Hingada, who are all part of the conference committee. The meetings took place at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Seattle, which is our conference site. We toured the facilities and meeting room spaces, as well as planned conference logistics. During one of the days, we were also joined by the entire conference committee via Zoom. This conference committee is breaking records when it comes to preparedness for the upcoming conference. A logo has been designed and the theme is already in place. We are planning to launch registration for both the conference and the hotel accommodations by February 1, 2023. The committee is planning an exciting conference with lots of activities that our members and their family members can enjoy while in Seattle. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

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NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we asked members to answer a few questions about themselves and their traditions that make them proud to be Hispanic. We featured a member each day throughout the month via NHCFAE social media and email. Here are their stories. Thank you to everyone that participated!

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National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022
HONDURAS
 Oscar Torres
 NHCFAE President
 Air Traffic Control Specialist Atlanta ARTCC (ZTL)

I was born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras and as far as I can remember a special tradition and or custom that my family practices to this day is the way we address and answer to our elders. Growing up, as in many households we were always taught to respect your elders. Not just family members but any individual that you interacted with deserved the respect.

For example, when speaking with a person you always referred to them with the word "USTED". This means "you" but in a very respectful and formal way. Another way to show that respect is that when your name was called you would reply with the word "MANDE". Mande comes from the verb mandar which means to send or to give direction to. Until this day even when my mom or an elder friend calls my name to get my attention I reply with "MANDE". Growing up it would be a big NO NO if you replied by saying "What" to someone. This custom is something that I have proudly passed on to my children and I am confident that they will pass it on to theirs.

Orgullosa de mis raíces Hondureñas!



National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022
EL SALVADOR
 Karla Valdez
 Northwest Mountain Region Chapter Director
 Management and Program Analyst
 Des Moines, WA

I was born in El Salvador, raised in Los Angeles CA. One of the traditions I love from my nationality is our gatherings and eating sandwich traditionally served hot in submarine bread filled with chicken or turkey and fresh vegetables. It originated in El Salvador, where the most popular filling is chicken simmered in a tomato sauce. It includes fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, raw onions, watercress, shredded cabbage (known as curtido), beets, radish and hard-boiled eggs. I love them so much that I have kept my mom's recipe and made them as one of our traditional Thanksgiving dishes! I enjoyed them growing up, and I'm happy to share that tradition with my own kids who also enjoy them and look forward to them on that special day!

Orgullosa de mis raíces Salvadoreñas!




National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022
MEXICO
 Patricia Navarro
 Houston Chapter Member
 Houston District NAS Operations Specialist

I was born in Cuernavaca, Morelos, raised in Livingston, California. One of the traditions I love from my nationality is the Day of the Death (Día de los Muertos), which is a celebration of life and death. It was a day to honor our deceased by gathering the Calaveritas (Little Sugar Skulls), campazuchitl (for de muerto) (Marigold flowers), building our altar called ofrendas with the favorite food, cigars (smokes), favorite beverages, and pictures of the departed. In addition, we visit the graves, for a three-day period to clean and decorate. The graves are decorated with campazuchitl to attract souls of the dead to the offerings. We believe the bright petals with a strong scent can guide the souls from cemeteries to their homes. The celebration is not just focus on the dead, it is common to give gifts to friends. Some people believe the traditional pan de muerto with family and friends. Some people believe the spirits of the dead eat the "spiritual essence. Traditionally, we spend some time as a family praying around the altar telling out anecdotes of our deceased and why I miss about my family and being far away.

Orgullosa de mis raíces Mexicanas!




National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022
PUERTO RICO
 Misael Goicuria
 Houston Chapter Member
 ZHU Environmental SSC Coordinator.

Puerto Rico is full of many traditions passed down from our Spanish and Afro Latino roots. One of my favorite traditions is conducted during the holidays (which for Puerto Ricans starts in November and ends after 3 kings day in January) We hold parrandas, which is like Christmas caroling. We go from house to house, in some cases picking up people along the way to add to the party. We share in songs, dance, food, and stories. Its a great time for family and friends and something that my family continues to take part in.

Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!
 Orgullosa de mis raíces Puerto Riqueñas!




National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022
Nicaragua
 Jonathan Eagle ATCS at VNY Airport
 Western-Pacific Member

The event I remember most as part of my Nicaraguan heritage is celebrating La Purísima. "La Purísima" is a religious festivity that celebrates the purest conception of Virgin Mary. For more information on how and when we celebrated I've included this article for those interested. I've had the opportunity to participate in this in Nicaragua and even here in the states. From this tradition I've learned to keep a close relationship to God. It keeps me and my family grounded on what's important in life. Family, love, and doing the right thing.

Orgullosa de mis raíces Nicaragüenses!



National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022
MEXICO
 Erik Salazar
 National Director of Resources
 Mgr. of the Budget Execution Branch in Flight Standards.

I am Mexican-American. Growing up in Texas, I remember every year right before Christmas at my cousin's house all the aunts and cousins would assemble tamales in the kitchen and garage. Each person had a job, and we would work for hours. It was so fun, but the best part was eating the tamales afterwards. Although I have not made tamales in years, I still keep the tradition alive by serving tamales every Christmas.

Orgullosa de mis raíces Mexicanas!




National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022
MEXICO
 Laurie Ortiz,
 National Director of Administration
 Administrative Officer - Kansas City District - ATO

I am Mexican-American. Growing up in Kansas City, Missouri we were surrounded by a lot of relatives. A tradition I remember when I was younger was visiting my Grandmother on Sundays, and this would be ALL DAY on Sunday. There would be Aunts, Uncles, cousins all visiting on Sundays. Eating menudo, having Mexican Bread, listening to Spanish radio station on the AM dial. The house was filled with a lot of laughter and a lot of commotion. My cousins still carry on the tradition, but we do not make it a weekly event. I always think how my poor Grandma put up with us all.

Orgullosa de mis raíces Mexicanas!




National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022
REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA
 Ana Peña
 Deputy for Capital Region
 Data Analyst

I was born in Pastor Abajo en Santiago De La República Dominicana. My family cherishes our strong family values. I currently live in Maryland, and every chance I get, I visit my family in Laguna Prieta, Pastor Abajo, New Jersey/New York, and Massachusetts. Locrio de Pollo, Pastelón, and Majarete are some of my favorite dishes that I try to make for the holidays. When I go home to visit my grandparents, I love eating fresh mangos and guanabana from my family's farm. Fun fact: One of our mango trees is over 100 years old and has been in my family for so long.

Soy orgullosa de ser Dominicana!




National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022
PUERTO RICO
 Javier Quiñones
 MMAC Region Chapter Director

Electronics System Instructor of the AMA-415 EnRoute Radar Section
 I am from Bayamon, Puerto Rico and moved to OK in 2013. My family and I will always keep the "Fiesta de Reyes" tradition. This tradition is based on the wiseman visit to baby Jesus after grass and water for the 3 kings camels on the night of January 5th. On the morning of January 6th, the kids will notice the grass and water vessels were emptied and the kings have given them presents. That's the Santa Claus version of our Puertorrican culture.

Orgullosa de mis raíces Puertorriqueñas!




National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022
MEXICO
 John Espinosa
 NHCFAE National Vice President
 MMAC Chapter Member

I am Mexican-American. I love Hispanic Heritage Month for many reasons. One thing that I always remember doing with my grandparents this time of year was chile roasting. Carrying on the tradition with my family! Cheers FAAMILIA!

Orgullosa de mis raíces Mexicanas!




National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022
MEXICO
 Susie Diaz
 NHCFAE Director of Public Affairs and Western-Pacific member
 I am proud to be Mexican-American!

I am honoring my "Apa" (father), he was born in a small "rancho" (ranch) call Tlachapa, Guerrero. He is the youngest of 4 sisters and 3 brothers. He grew up in the fields caring for his parents and raising farm animals in order to make a living for his family. He didn't complete his education because he had to help with the family. There was a time they would only have tortillas, beans and cheese to eat. Since a small boy, he has always been a hard worker and cared for his loved ones. He came to the U.S. when he got around 18 years old. He started sweeping parking lots to make a living. After a few years, he got an engineering maintenance job in the hotel industry. Eventually, he went to adult school to learn English. Working in the hotel industry he met a lot of great leaders/friends that helped him grow. My father became sick and had to make a life decision to quit the hotel industry job. I remember being young and overbearing my parents say that we had to be on food stamps because there was no other source of income. After several years, my father reached out to a few friends he had met that were mentors to him and they convinced him to go back to school and open his own business because he was so good at what he does. My father, being a "guerrero" (warrior), persevered and went from house to house telling the neighbors that he was able to help them with their refrigeration problems. My father eventually realized that this was his dream to help people, and that he could do much more. He went to contracting school and got his California licenses to be a HVAC specialist. He has owned his own business for 40+ years.

Orgullosa de ser hija de un Mexicano Guerrero! Si Se Pudo!!



National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022
Nicaragua
 William Vallejos
 Houston Chapter Member

ACEPS- ARTCC Critical Essential Power System System Specialist
 I was born in a small village in the northern mountains of Nicaragua and growing up I remember the most important things we did was to go by grandmas place everyday in the morning when going to school and on the way back from school. The typical nuclear family values runs in our veins and is engrave in our hearts and I am thankful for it. It is the kind of tradition that build respect, character and sense of belonging and makes you feel proud to carry that last name and pass it on to the next generation with pride in what it represents.

Orgullosa de mis raíces Nicaragüenses!




NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation

Lourdes "Lulie" Vazquez
Western-Pacific Member
Air Traffic Controller SJC

First Generation Latina-Americana de Jalisco, Mexico!
A memory from my childhood that I loved was as a young girl dancing ballet folklorico, Las Posadas y Fiestas en Buenavista, Jalisco, Mexico as well as El Dia De Los Muertos here in the states. Traditions I have kept from my childhood are dancing ballet folklorico as a hobby, celebrating El Dia De Los Muertos el altar y las ofrendas, and sharing many more of my childhood traditions with friends and loved ones.

Orgullosa de mis raíces Mexicanas!



National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation

Isaac Salcido
Houston Chapter Member
Houston District Technical Staff

I am Mexican American! Like both of my parents, I was born in Texas. Growing up we had many traditions such as making tamales and barbacoa during the holiday. I always enjoyed the food, music and gifts during the holidays but felt that something was missing. Years later after having a family of my own I figured it out. We had lost the true meaning of Christmas which is celebrating the birth of Jesus. Since then I buy a birthday cake for Christmas and we all celebrate the birth of Jesus. Buying a birthday cake during Christmas has become a tradition for my family.

Orgullos de mis raíces Mexicanas!



National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation

Maritza "Ritz" Miranda
Eastern/New England member
District Executive Advisor, TENY District

I have a real passion for cooking. It stems from my family always gathering on Sundays at my grandmother's house. We all lived either in the same building or within a 1-2 block radius. I remember the smells of onion and garlic cooking as the ladies were in the kitchen cooking with such pride. On Saturdays, my mom would teach me how to cook a different meal each week. Food is how we showed our love and gratitude. Putting family first is very important to me. We are in a time when it seems like we are all so busy that finding time to spend with family becomes more challenging. After COVID, many of us have lost family members, I lost my mom, and it seems like work life balance has been a reborn tradition. My family is in Florida and I live in NY, but I make it a priority to visit every 1-3 months without failure. Because it is family who stands by us during our most difficult times. I enjoy and cherish my Dominican & Cuban Traditions with my Family!

Orgullosa de mis raíces Dominicanas y Cubanás!



National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation

Dr. Ivan Gutierrez
Western Pacific Chapter Member
Airports Engagement Officer, Airports Division

In late December every year there is a Jarriepo (Bull Riding) in Iraztzo, Michoacan, Mexico to celebrate the new year. There is bull riding, dancing horse, and banda music. Men and Women from neighboring towns flood the small pueblo. The clothing, the food, the music, the history of the bull riders is a what makes the Jarriepo not just an event but its part of the deep rich Mexican History. During the day the Jarriepos are filled with smell of delicious foods such as Tacos, Esquites, Churros, and lots of fresh drinks for both kids and adults to enjoy. After the thrill of the bull riding comes the dance. Banda music Cumbia, Zapateado, and Corridos to create a fun atmosphere that will get everyone moving. I am very proud to honor mi cultura y mi gente, because I am also part of that myself.

Orgullos de mis raíces Mexicanas!



National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation

Raquel Yasi-Huerta
Retiree Member-Greatlakes

I am honoring my parents, Guillermo and Maria Yasi. I am 2nd generation Mexican American; my parents were born in Texas. My dad was from Robstown and my mom from Laredo. Both of my parents were migrants, eventually my mother's family settled in Michigan when she was in grade school. My dad would travel from Texas to Michigan each Spring to work in the Cherry Orchards and stay until fall to work in the Apple Orchards. My parents met on New Year's Eve in 1952 at a dance. They married a year later, and eventually had six children. My dad decided that all our names would be of Mexican origin and would begin with the same letter (Ruben, Raul, Ricardo, Raquel, Rosenda and Rebecca). Growing up in Michigan was very different from how my parents grew up in Texas. We were required to primarily speak in English, since we attended a parochial school. At home we spoke Spanish to our dad and English to our mom. To this day when we get together, we still speak Spanish, which means that we go between Spanish and English in one sentence. Our parents had limited educations, dad stop going to school in the 4th grade and mom was only allowed to finish 8th grade. My dad encouraged my mom to go back to school, and she was able to complete her GED. All six of us completed High School, and most went on to college earning either an Associate, Bachelor's or Master's degree. My dad has a Doctorate Degree (PhD). My parents have 19 grandchildren and the majority have a Bachelor's or Master's degree. Because of my parents stressing the importance of education, all six of their children have had successful careers. My dad would tell me "Mija puedes hacer cualquier cosa si quieres y no dejes que otros establezcan tus limites".

Orgullosa de mis raíces Mexicanas!



National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation

Ruth Hurtado
NHCFAE Outreach Chair
Capital member
Management & Program Analyst

Growing up I lived next door to my grandparents. My grandma in particular had some interesting New Years traditions. First, we would eat grapes as we counted down to the New Year. Second, we would walk around the block with a suitcase and that meant we would travel throughout the year. The third one and a funny one is we would wear yellow underwear for good luck. All of this of course after having an amazing Colombian New Years Dinner including my favorite empanadas.

Orgullosa de mis raíces Colombianas!



National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation

Arceli Gonzales
NHCFAE Southern Region Member
Management and Program Analyst in AVS/ Flight Standards Service

I was born in Cochabamba, Bolivia. I came to the U.S. when I was twelve years old. One of our biggest religious traditions is our 'Carnaval de Oruro' very similar to a parade, where more than 48 groups of folkloric dancers perform a pilgrimage to the Virgin of Socavon. People from all over the world travel to Oruro to perform or wait to view the most amazing parade of the year. Our folklore is so rich and so valuable to this day and has been passed on from generation to generation. Now I'm passing it on to my two daughters. I will continue this tradition to instill in them about our roots and where we come from. I truly enjoyed dancing since I was a teenager Bolivian community in Virginia, USA. I've danced and performed with a few well known folkloric musicians with a variety of folkloric dances, like Cueva, Caporales, Morenada, and Kullawada. My youngest daughter started performing when she was just one year old.

Proud of my Bolivian heritage roots!...Orgullosa de mis raíces Bolivianas!



National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation

Hilda Banda
NHCFAE National Director of Education
Operation Support Specialist-Tech Ops Houston

I was born in Durango, Mexico raised in Houston, TX. Today I would like to honor my father born in Guerrero, Mexico. To me he is the best father in the world. I honor him because he is an amazing father, grandfather, hardworking man that has always taken care of our family. My father is in many of my childhood memories walking distance from the coliseum. Everyday after approximately five minutes walking distance from the coliseum. He would come home from working at the "factoria" on 10th and Broadway. He would sit with me out by the fire scape and practice the multiplication tables with me. He always encourage my sisters and I to get an education and to work hard for what we want. Like we say in Spanish "nos puso el ejemplo". He started working at a "factoria" making pants and dresses for minimum wage, long hours and working weekends. With my mother's support we moved to Houston, he then became a carpenter and attended training to obtain his commercial driver's license. Not satisfied, he attended technical school and obtain his electrician license. I am proud to be the daughter of Cirino Cortes.

Orgullosa de mis raíces Mexicanas!



National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation

William "Bill" Fernandez
NHCFAE, Foundation Chair and Capital Member

My grandfather came to the U.S. in 1929 from Cuba and met my Puerto Rican Grandmother in Spanish Harlem. They raised 9 children in a two bedroom apartment in Manhattan. My father was the oldest and the whole family followed him to California when he was stationed there in the Navy. My family were the only Puerto Ricans or Cubans we knew in California in the 1970s. Cubans we knew in California in the 1970s. As a child, Christmas was always a special time to get together with my family. We always go to Grandpa and Nena's house for Christmas with all of my aunts, uncles, and dozens of cousins in my grandparent's little 930 square foot two bedroom house in Rosemead California. My grandpa would always make a large pernil, Nena and my aunts would make pasteles, arroz con gandules (which we always called Christmas rice), there would also be tostones and maduros. With over 40 people crammed into this little house, there was always too much food. There would always be music and we would dance all night. Such great memories!

Orgullosa de mis raíces Cubanás y Puertorriqueñas!



National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation

Bernice Merly
Southern Region Member
Electronics Engineer; Comm Engineering Services - Atlanta, GA

I was born in Santurce, raised in Abonito and went to college in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. Although I have moved around the island, I always enjoyed spending time with my family. It didn't matter what we were celebrating: Christmas, any birthday, wedding; we always ended up singing. While I was still in elementary school, my cousins, siblings, and myself were assigned a song to sing at every gathering. Mine was "El Zorzal". Just like in the song, I left my house and have not been back "permanently". I visit every time I have a chance. Now thanks to Youtube, I can listen to "my" song and replay all those memories with my family.

¡Orgullosa de mis raíces puertorriqueñas!



National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation

Karen Perez
Capital Reginal Chapter Director
Aerospace Engineer

I was born in New York, pero soy orgullosamente Dominicana. One of my best childhood memories is getting dressed up with my mom to travel to Santo Domingo (in our best clothes). Arriving at the airport in DR, we'd be welcomed by the tropical weather and greeted by a live band playing perico ripiao (merengue tipico). Adult passengers were often offered a shot of the national rum, Brugal. To this day I smile at the sounds of the Accordion, Guiro and Tambora, and there is nothing I love to dance more than mi merengue tipico.

Orgullosa de mis raíces Dominicanas!



National Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation

Nat Perez
Western-Pacific RCD
Air Traffic Control Specialist
Mexican- American

Mexico is very diverse in its traditions often unique to their respective region. One example can be seen in La Danza or "The Dance" of a certain part of Mexico. I am from a State called Morelos and in Morelos we dance La Danza de Los Chinelos. One obstacle to continuing this old tradition in the U.S. is that the attire for this dance is not readily accessible and is very very difficult to find. So, in true Mexican fashion, if you can't obtain it then you must engineer it in some way or another. So that is what me and my family did in order to continue on this tradition for the next generations of our family. Happy and proud Hispanic Heritage Month to all!

Orgullosa de mis raíces Mexicanas!



Winter Word Search

M	Q	V	I	F	X	G	R	E	Q	T	R	R	B	F	R
D	L	L	C	K	E	V	R	C	Z	R	R	L	R	E	J
L	X	L	I	D	T	B	O	I	O	R	I	A	B	T	Q
F	N	I	C	X	R	C	R	F	Z	Z	C	E	V	I	L
R	C	H	L	D	O	N	I	U	Z	S	K	R	M	H	M
O	Q	C	E	A	E	R	L	A	A	A	T	Z	T	W	I
Z	L	P	S	M	E	C	R	E	L	R	C	O	L	D	T
E	N	F	W	P	K	D	E	F	V	R	Y	Y	T	G	T
N	D	O	L	T	G	N	W	M	J	O	E	P	O	J	E
T	N	A	C	L	L	O	T	K	B	A	H	T	B	L	N
S	C	K	Z	K	N	N	V	H	M	E	N	S	N	G	S
E	I	C	E	S	K	A	T	E	S	T	R	U	B	I	N
G	N	I	I	K	S	M	L	D	H	Q	S	V	A	K	W
R	N	R	G	B	J	R	F	Z	Z	V	R	O	W	R	H
L	L	A	B	W	O	N	S	Z	P	N	M	L	R	D	Y
S	L	E	D	H	G	N	I	W	O	N	S	F	K	F	N

Cold
December
Skiing
Blizzard
Cocoa
Sled
Fireplace
Snowmen

Mittens
Icicles
Shovel
January
Snowing
Winter
Scarf
Chilly

February
Ice
Snowflake
White
Frost
Snowball
Ice skates
Frozen

