

FAAmilia

National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees

Volume 12 | Winter 2023



Save the Date!



NHCFAE Annual Training Conference Las Vegas: August 20-22, 2024



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



Querida NHCFAE FAAmilia,

Over the past few months, our coalition has been hard at work, striving to fulfill our mission of promoting diversity and excellence within our agency and our communities. I am delighted that this volume highlights some of the incredible strides we've made in our increased outreach efforts and our dedication to inspiring the next generation of professionals, thanks to members like you. Those efforts have included engaging with local schools, and our participation in career fairs and conferences, where we connect with students and provide mentoring regarding the opportunities in aviation and the FAA. By taking this information to the heart of our communities, we have had the privilege of sparking curiosity and passion in young minds.

In this volume you will also see how we celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with great pride and enthusiasm. It was a time to reflect on the immense contributions of Hispanic individuals, which includes many members of our FAAmilia. Our rich heritage and cultural diversity have always been sources of strength, and it is truly inspiring to see how our community continues to shape the world around us.

To conclude, as we enjoy the holiday season, I want to extend my warmest wishes to each of you and your families. May this season bring joy, peace, and an abundance of cherished moments. Let us take this time to reflect on our achievements and the positive impact we continue to make within our community and the FAA.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the opportunities and challenges that await us in the coming year. Together, we will continue to make a profound difference and advance our mission.

Thank you for your dedication, passion, and unwavering support. You are the driving force behind our successes. The team and I are grateful for your commitment to NHCFAE.

Wishing you all a wonderful and joyful holiday season!

Hasta pronto,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oscar A. Torres".

Oscar A. Torres
NHCFAE President



Editor's Message

Hola FAAmilia!

Wishing you all a happy, joyful, blessed and healthy holidays! I hope this year has brought you great new memories. For this coming 2024, I am wishing you many more wonderful blessings, health and joy. I want to take this opportunity as your Director of Public Affairs to thank you for the wonderful opportunity of meeting you, and if we haven't met yet, I hope in the future I am able to greet you soon. Thank you, FAAmilia! Thank you for all the confidence you have given me as your DOPA.

FAAmilia magazine, volume 12 is the ending of 2023. With that said, I hope everyone has enjoyed reading every volume of our magazine. If there's something you would like to share in our magazine, please do not hesitate to contact me. Remember, FAAmilia magazine is your magazine. I simply put it together for us.

It has been a very busy year for our organization. A big shout out to all of our Regional Chapter Directors, everyone has been active and on the move. Every single one of you make a difference, and we the Executive Board appreciate you. You can read more about facility visits and outreach events in this volume. We all have been busy visiting different facilities and spreading the word about our organization. If we haven't been to your facility yet, please let us know, so we can plan a visit. This year we have over 80 new members. Bienvenidos!

Also, in this volume of FAAmilia magazine you will read about all the scholarship recipients for 2023. Remember, scholarship applications open again in February. Please take the opportunity to learn about what our scholarships can offer you, your family and friends. Contact our Director of Education, Hilda Banda, for any questions. She can be reached at doe@nhcfae.org.

In addition, in this volume you will read and see lots of great photos from Hispanic Heritage Month, as well as the different employee association conferences our members have attended, plus many more great articles.

Bienvenida to our new Executive Board member, Náleé Romero, Director of Administration. I'm looking forward to working with you. Laurie Ortiz, we will miss you on the Executive Board. You have been great to work with over the years. You have us here, whenever you need your FAAmilia. Enjoy the time with your family.



Lastly, I want to wish our past president, Bill Fernandez, a happy retirement! Big hugs and looking forward to hearing from you on your new journey to Spain during your retirement adventures. Thank you for everything!

The conference committee has been very busy. They are already working on the theme and logo for the 2024 conference. I hope everyone has plans to join us for our annual training conference from August 20-22, 2024, in Las Vegas at the Flamingo Casino & Resort.

Mil Abrazos! Y a todos Feliz Año Nuevo!

Susie Diaz

National Director of Public Affairs

Stay connected with us on our social media platforms!

NHCFAE Executive Board

President Oscar Torres: president@nhcfae.org

Vice President John Espinosa: vp@nhcfae.org

Director of Admin. Náleé Romero: doa@nhcfae.org

Director of Education Hilda Banda: doe@nhcfae.org

Director of Resources Erik Salazar: dor@nhcfae.org

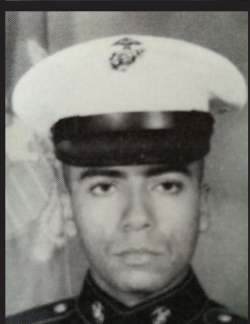
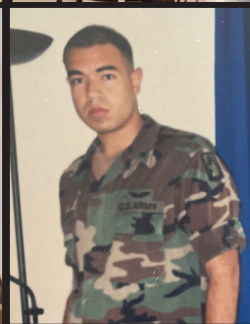
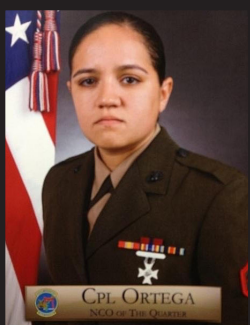
Director of Public Affairs Susie Diaz: dopa@nhcfae.org

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An Unknown Call from 2024 that You Should Answer

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Regional Chapter Director

2023 has proven to be a year of growth and advancement for the coalition. We have seen committees stood up, a multitude of new members, ACE camps established, new leadership positions filled, innovative methods and procedures, outreach events like never before, and member support increased.

The organization is GROWING, and in turn changing. As more activity is generated, more involvement is required. We are fortunate to have a handful of outstanding members who volunteer and contribute a commendable amount of time to our mission on a daily basis. What those members are able to accomplish goes above and beyond, and is invaluable to our cause.

I have always stood by ALL of our contributing members who pledge their support financially by providing us with the funds necessary to accomplish our mission. Without every member's contribution, we would not be able to reach our communities and members in the unique way that we do. Once again, I say THANK YOU to all of our members who pledge support and allow us to change our workplace, industry, and community.

Looking forward towards 2024, I would ask for every member to get more involved in some capacity in your area; either locally, regionally, or even nationally. WE DO need your support, your talents, your ideas, and your participation in order to continue to lead the way as the largest federal Hispanic organization.

Involvement ranges from simply attending a meeting as a listener, all the way to leading the entire organization. Whatever capacity you are able to participate in is more valuable than you imagine. Simply having members attend our events and meetings demonstrates an organizational presence and goes a long way towards supporting our mission. Your participation in a school or college career fair can shift someone's life and create a gateway in our community. We, the NHCFAE, are the ones on the front-line changing history and shifting the landscape of what the FAA looks like today and tomorrow.

We can only build, maintain, and improve this crane between our community and the FAA through member involvement. I ask everyone to answer the call and contribute any participation they can so we can continue to lift our membership and our Hispanic community into the FAA and diversify the future in 2024.

If you would like to get more involved or have questions, please reach out to your local RCD, any member, or even myself to find out how we can apply your talents.



SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to all the 2023 Scholarship Recipients

Rene Matos Scholarship Recipients

Claudia Cavazos	Daniel Akanro
Esai Almodovar	Ethan Johnson
Frangé Laboy-Velázquez	Genesis Chinchilla-Mora
Gerardo Diaz-Espinoza	Josahandy Avila
Jakyra Green	Joel Mink
Maria Villeno	Raef Makrai
Rayni Rister	Yariel Amiama

Danny Gutierrez Scholarship Recipient

Claudia Cavazos

Cynthia Garcia Memorial Tuition Reimbursement Program

Antonio Altamirano
Anthony Chu
Caroline King
Ofelia Medina
Dolores Spriggs
David Williams
Misty Peña

NHCFAE Foundation FAamilia Scholarship Program

Alexius Peña
Ariana Hurtado-Day
Andrew Metcalf
Christopher May
Frangé Laboy-Velázquez
Matthew Metcalf
Yariel Amiama

Rene Matos Scholarship Recipients



Joel Mink

I have wanted to pursue a career as an Aviation Maintenance Technician ever since my first flight in a Cessna 172 Skyhawk, at an Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagles fly-in event. I was amazed by all the gauges, and I wanted to know what each one was and how it made the plane fly. The pilot was very patient with me and explained what each instrument measured and why it was important. This experience sparked a desire inside me to learn the science behind how the various aircraft systems operate and how to maintain them, which has developed into my long-term career goal to be an Aviation Maintenance Technician.

To achieve my career goal of a FAA certified Aviation Maintenance Technician, I created the following set of educational goals for myself: to learn as much as I can about the field of general aviation, to earn my Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Private Pilot License (PPL) certificate, and to gain the post-secondary education necessary to earn my FAA Airframe and Powerplant (A&P)

license. I knew each of these goals would be time-intensive and difficult, but also necessary to fulfill my career goal of becoming a well-rounded Aviation Maintenance Technician.

My first goal, learning as much as possible about aviation, was started by me joining the Civil Air Patrol in August of 2017. My parents found the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) online, which teaches youth about aviation as one of its core missions. I joined the Boone County Cadet Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol at 13 years old, and I immediately set out on my journey to learn about aviation through seeking out opportunities to get back up in the air. The Civil Air Patrol provides cadets with five free “orientation” flights, with each flight having an individual syllabus to teach specific aerospace lessons. I quickly completed my five orientation flights. The Civil Air Patrol pilots saw my enthusiasm towards aviation, and I was invited to sit in the back seat anytime that there was an open seat in the aircraft.

Kyra Green

Throughout my academic journey, I have consistently demonstrated my commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice through various work, service, and extracurricular activities. As the Black Student Union (BSU) president, I organized several mental health events, including workshops for students of color, coping skill activities, and a puppy de-stress event to promote student well-being. Other events include the initiative to collaborate with other intercultural groups on campus to host an intercultural semi-formal dance.

As co-editor of “The Record,” the school newspaper, my fellow editor and I have worked to elevate diverse voices and perspectives in school journalism. Our efforts have been warmly received by students and faculty of color, and we are proud to have contributed to a more inclusive school environment. We are also one of few minorities to serve in this role for decades.



In addition to my work in the newspaper, I am an active member of the Student Senate, where I promote student rights and ensure that all voices are heard. I am also a member of the Queen Singers, a group I co-founded, with the hope of bringing women of color together.

I am also aware of the lack of diversity in teaching, especially among minority women. To address this issue, I aspire to become a teacher who can provide representation and positively influence the lives of my future students and my siblings. I believe that we need more teachers of color, especially Black women, to serve as role models for all students, especially those of color, and promote diversity and inclusion in schools. As a first-generation college student, navigating college has been difficult. I have overcome numerous challenges throughout my academic journey, including limited financial resources and support. Despite these obstacles, I remain determined to succeed in college and beyond, using my experiences to empower and support others in the best way I can.

Rene Matos Scholarship Recipients

Rayni Rister

While in high school, I worked hard to maintain my grades while also being involved in school activities, in my county, and surrounding communities. I have repeatedly challenged myself throughout my life with higher-level classes, extra volunteer opportunities, leadership positions, and sports. I began taking college credit classes during my sophomore year, and thoroughly enjoyed them because of how in-depth, advanced, and thought-provoking they were compared to traditional high school courses. While maintaining focus on my academic goal of maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA, as well as graduating at the top of my class, I was involved in Girl Scouts, 4-H, band, and volleyball. In addition, I volunteered in many capacities including as a multi-year student advocate with United Way, at Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, for Buy the Book Bookstore, as well as a volunteer tutor. Some of my academic awards include recognition as a College Board Rural and Small-Town Recognition Scholar, Northwest State Community College Dean's List, High Gold Honor Roll, Archer Superintendent's Award, American History Student of the Quarter, American History Top Student, Geometry Student of the Quarter, and Geometry Top Student.



Ethan Johnson



Ethan Johnson is a sophomore mechanical engineering student attending Texas A&M University in College Station, TX. In everything he has attempted to do, Ethan would give total effort and not finish with anything less than what meets his lofty standards.

During freshman year at Flower Mound High School (FMHS), Ethan focused on academics, being a member of the FMHS marching band, and being a Boy Scout in Troop 1225. During his freshman year, the FMHS marching band placed third at the State UIL marching contest. Ethan earned his Eagle Scout rank between his freshman and sophomore years at FMHS. He was also invited to join the National Honor Society, Math National Honor Society, and English Honor Societies. In sophomore year, Ethan joined the FMHS robotics team. Junior year at FMHS, Ethan was asked to take a more significant role on the robotics team, working on the team to manufacture a majority of the parts for the robot in-house. In scouting, Ethan was asked to lead

the Boy Scout Honor Society chapter, a size of approximately a school district and comprising a little over 600 members. During his senior year at FMHS, Ethan was promoted to manufacturing lead of the FMHS Robotics team and was recognized for being on the National Merit Commended list and being a National Hispanic Scholar. In scouting, Ethan was invited to help teach a leadership training program by the Longhorn Council, National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). Ethan was also nominated for the highest rank in the Boy Scout Honor Society, The Vigil Honor, by members of the council in the Honor Society.

Once at Texas A&M, Ethan shifted his focus toward engineering. During his freshman year, he joined the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) chapter and participated in their development and 12th Man Garage programs. In development, they were taught the components of an automobile and introductory engineering principles by grad students. Then, they were assigned groups in the spring and had to design a rudimentary system for a Formula SAE car. In 12th Man Garage, they were working on restoring a 1987 Mustang to put on auction. The 12th Man Garage allowed them to see and tangibly work with the concepts they were learning in development. Ethan was also a member of the Dean's List both semesters, posting above a 3.5 GPA each semester. This year, Ethan joined the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and is part of a new program that allows students to design and build a go-kart. Ethan is still involved in the SAE program, taking development for another year and focusing on a year-long project to work with a team of people to create a simulator for a Formula SAE car to travel around a track. Ethan is also part of a team tasked with reimagining the 12th Man Garage after they lost space once they sold the Mustang restoration project.

Rene Matos Scholarship Recipients



Daniel Akanro

Hello, my name is Daniel Akanro. I am a first-generation immigrant from Nigeria. I moved to the United States when I was 10. Shortly afterward, I joined the Duke-TIP program, a prestigious program for talented middle and high school students hosted by Duke University. In high school, I was given the SC Academic Honors award and named Top 10 of my high school. Now, in college, I am a Clemson honors student and a member of the National Academy of Engineering's Grand Challenge Scholars program (GCS). It is an absolute honor to receive the 2023 Rene Matos Scholarship. I am truly grateful for those who are willing to sow into me. Thank you!

Esai Almodovar

My educational experience began as a homeschooler until the seventh grade. The transition to middle school, and subsequently high school, was not as difficult as I imagined it to be.

I graduated from International Community School in Winter Park, Florida with a 4.32 GPA and was awarded class valedictorian this past May. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at ICS and look forward to a successful career as a pre-med student at Washington University in St. Louis.



Maria Villeno

I am Maria Villeno and I am in my freshman year of college at Eastern Kentucky University. I am majoring in Business Marketing with a concentration in Music Marketing and minoring in Sociology. Reaching this chapter in my life has been a very rewarding and gratifying experience. The challenges I had to overcome have allowed me to understand that hard work can truly pay off.

Growing up, my parents were not always financially stable. As my family grew, financial challenges became more frequent. In spite of this, both of my parents have done admirably well in raising four children. As the oldest, I often witnessed the mental strain my parents frequently tried to suppress in making ends meet. Seeing their troubles and experiencing the difficulties that arise from financial instability created my goal to ease the burdens of my family. I wanted, and still do, to relieve the stress of my parents and to improve the circumstances my siblings faced. Although this required sacrifices to be made on my part, I still persevered.

Throughout high school, I had to repeatedly babysit my younger siblings after school while my parents went to work. This often took away the time for me to focus on my studies or frequently participate in any extracurricular activities outside of school. Though it was challenging to maintain proficient academic standing, I did my best to perform well in school and used every available time I had to fulfill academic requirements outside of school. I participated in the Honors Society in my high school, volunteered in communities, and managed to obtain part-time jobs along the way.

My efforts in high school permitted my acceptance at Eastern Kentucky University and allowed me to be eligible for many of their scholarships. Furthermore, receiving scholarships outside of the university, like the Rene Matos Scholarship, has allowed me to accumulate enough funding to have all my college expenses paid off. That being said, I must make my time here at ECU count. As long as I continue to work hard to achieve my career, I will not only make my family proud, but also those who invested their time and money to aid me in my journey.

Cynthia Garcia Memorial Tuition Reimbursement Recipients



Anthony Chu

My name is Anthony Chu and I appreciate being named a beneficiary of the Cynthia Garcia Memorial Tuition Reimbursement Program. I returned to school during the pandemic to pursue an advanced business degree. I really enjoy being a student again and learning from the renowned faculty at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., even though I have to juggle between school assignments and a full-time work schedule this time around. I saw how I might incorporate lessons from classes like project management, ethics and accountancy into a potential future FAA job. But I also deliberately chose left-field classes like sustainable tourism development to broaden my experience. In June 2022, I traveled to the Republic of Georgia near Turkey as part of a two-week USAID-sponsored consulting abroad project and a class called Gastronomy and Wine Tourism in Georgia. We paired with tourism students from Caucasus University to identify issues and offer recommendations to advance tourism in the country and boost their economy. We sampled tourist itineraries, explored their proud heritage as the cradle of wine, interviewed government officials and entrepreneurs, and reviewed research and literature. Surprisingly, while doing a lot of wine tasting, I honed skills that I think I might use at the FAA: issue identification, problem-solving, data analysis, interviewing, public speaking, project management, and working in small teams under tight timelines. After some intense field research and several late nights of passionate discussions, we settled on a dozen recommendations and provided a stellar closing briefing to Georgian tourism officials.

Thank you, NHCFAE Charitable Foundation, for supporting the educational goals of our membership. This tuition assistance program is one of the more rewarding benefits of being an NHCFAE member.

Hello FAAmilia!

My name is Ofelia “Ofie”, and I am a Western-Pacific member.

I highly believe that we should never stop learning and investing in our self-development. Regrettably, I didn’t take advantage of the scholarships or tuition reimbursement opportunities when I was completing my master’s degree in education counseling, Psychology. I’m now thankful for the opportunity to apply to the Cynthia Garcia Memorial Tuition Reimbursement Program to get reimbursed for the cost of one of my courses, which led to me earning my Health and Wellbeing Certificate. The certificate will help me with my second job as a care provider and helps me earn Continuing Professional Education credits towards my counseling license. I recommend members to apply for scholarships and educational reimbursements. Thank you for my reimbursement.

Ofie Medina



SCHOLARSHIP

FAAmilia Foundation Scholarship Recipients

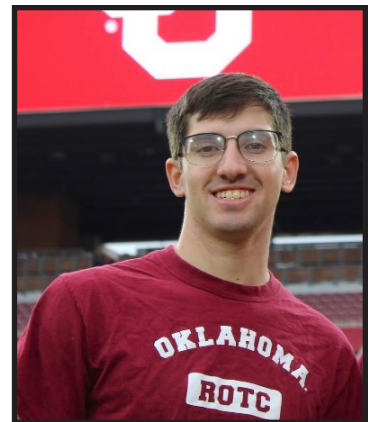


Alexius Peña

My name is Alexius Peña. I am the daughter of Misty King Peña. Currently, I am a senior at the University of North Texas, majoring in Integrated Studies. My major is concentrated in the fields of Criminal Justice, Business and Sociology. With a love for sports, I minored in Journalism with a focus in the sports industry. My last semester in college starts in January 2024, at which time, I plan to do an internship in sports to determine if this is my career path after college or to utilize my degree in federal law enforcement. As a child, I grew up hearing about the NHCFAE and the wonderful scholarship opportunities when I entered college. I'm very grateful and appreciative for receiving this scholarship, as it is an honor to be a recipient and I would like to thank the members of the NHCFAE for supporting my education.

Andrew Metcalf

Hello, my name is Andrew Metcalf. I am a student at the University of Oklahoma, where I am studying Construction Science, while also participating in Air Force ROTC. When I graduate, I plan to join the United States Air Force as a Civil Engineer. I am extremely grateful for the NHCFAE for continuing to help me reach my goals and allow me to focus on my classes, as well as giving me the time to volunteer with multiple organizations that OU has to offer. My college experience truly would not be the same without this scholarship.



Ariana Hurtado

Hello, my name is Ariana Hurtado. My plan to attain a doctorate in physical therapy is driven by a deep passion for helping others regain their mobility and improve their quality of life. Alongside my academic pursuits, I aspire to open a pro bono clinic dedicated to providing quality physical therapy services to those in my community who are in need, regardless of their financial situation. This scholarship will play a pivotal role in supporting my academic journey, enabling me to focus on my studies while alleviating the financial burden of graduate school. It will empower me to achieve my academic and altruistic goals, ultimately contributing to my professional career and the lives of individuals in my community.

Matthew Metcalf

I am Matthew Metcalf and I am very thankful to be an NHCFAE FAAmilia Scholarship recipient. At the University of Oklahoma, I am pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with minors in Aerospace Studies and Philosophy. Additionally, I am a cadet in Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 675 pursuing a commission as an intelligence officer in the United States Air Force. This scholarship allows me to focus on and commit more time and energy to my academic and military pursuits as it provides me more financial stability as a college student.



FAAmilia Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Yariel Amiama

Hi, my name is Yariel Amiama. I was born in the Caribbean on the beautiful island of Puerto Rico. Since I was little, I was always enthusiastic about going to the movies. The magic of filmmaking has always been something that interests me. This is one of the reasons why I decided to study digital cinematography. I'm enrolled at Atlantic University College in Puerto Rico, a college specializing in digital cinematography. In the course History of the Moving Image, I have learned a lot about the evolution of filmmaking and its origin, types of film, the process of filmmaking, and movie subjects. It is very exciting to learn how a film is made and produced. Once I finish my bachelor's degree, I intend to find a job at a television network and work behind the scenes to get the experience. My ultimate goal is to be a filmmaker and produce and direct my own movie. I'm grateful as an awardee of the scholarship from the NHCFAE Foundation. I consider this a great honor and privilege, and I will work hard and do my best to achieve success. Thanks to the NHCFAE Foundation for paving the way for students like me looking for a future.



Christopher May

Hi, I am Christopher May, and I am in my fourth year at California State University, Fullerton. My interest in management and entrepreneurship has been a motivating force throughout my academic career. I've eagerly enrolled in a variety of courses that have provided me with the information and abilities required to succeed in these professions. My studies have been both academically interesting and practically useful, from comprehending the complexities of successful leadership to improving my talents in developing innovative ideas.

Upon graduation, my objective is to use the information and experiences I've learned to make a real difference in the corporate world. I want to be an entrepreneur and start my own business, using the concepts of effective management and the spirit of creativity. I hope to address real-world difficulties and contribute to economic growth and job creation by implementing what I've learned in university.

Receiving this scholarship is not only a tremendous honor, but also a significant support in achieving my academic and career goals. I am greatly thankful to the NHCFAE Foundation for gifting me this scholarship to continue my educational career.

Frangé Laboy-Velázquez

I am Frangé C. Laboy-Velázquez and I am studying medicine of vital and significant pursuits for several compelling reasons. Firstly, medicine plays a pivotal role in preserving and improving human lives. By learning the intricacies of the human body, its diseases, and treatment methods, medical students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to alleviate suffering and make a profound, positive impact on the well-being of individuals and communities. Moreover, medicine is an ever-evolving field that fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation. The pursuit of medical knowledge encourages students to adapt to new discoveries, technologies, and changing healthcare landscapes. It instills a sense of continuous learning and adaptability, traits that are valuable in various aspects of life.

After graduation, I plan to continue my studies and explore the diverse avenues of the medical field. The end goal is to specialize in forensics as a Forensic Pathologist to continue to serve the community and law enforcement. This field empowers medical students to delve deeper into an area of research that not only determines cause and manner of death of an individual but looks to also bring closure to their relatives.

I want to thank the NHCFAE for selecting me as a recipient of the 2023 NHCFAE FAAmilia Scholarship. Receiving this award serves as a milestone in my journey to become a physician, to further encourage me to keep going forward, and reach my goals in my medical career.





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Chapter Events



Southwest Celebrates National Aviation Day

Lydia Gomez-Martinez, Southwest Regional Chapter Director

On August 19, 2023, the Southwest chapter celebrated National Aviation Day with the Fort Worth Aviation Museum. The event was from 9am-2pm, with age-appropriate activities that were available for visitors of all ages. Paper airplane activities, stomp rocket, drone flying, open cockpit flight simulators and museum tours were all on the agenda. Kona Ice was there selling snow cones to help beat the Texas heat! We were joined by members: Melanie Reyes-Upton, Joans Perez and his wife, Jean Droz and his daughter, Isabela, and a special guest, Jose Marrero, from Eastern Region who was in Oklahoma for training, but made the trip down to join us. Jose did an amazing job talking to the kids about the aircraft and what he does for the FAA. Congratulations to Jose, who was the lucky raffle winner of a nice Wright Brothers briefcase. I want to give a BIG thank you to Jose for coming out and supporting the Fort Worth Aviation Museum, Southwest Chapter and FAA. Thank you, Fort Worth Aviation Museum, for inviting the Hispanic Coalition to join you for this great event.



Chapter Events

Southwest Visits Harlingen, TX

Lydia Gomez-Martinez, Southwest Regional Chapter Director

On September 7, 2023, Hilda Banda and I visited Harlingen TRACON Tower. This was a very quick visit, but we met with members and non-members, and handed out retirement briefing packets. Due to a very busy schedule, we did not get to get a tour of the tower, but are planning for a return visit. We recruited a new member. Welcome Efrain!



Southwest Visits Corpus Christi, TX

Lydia Gomez-Martinez, Southwest Regional Chapter Director

On September 9, 2023, we visited Corpus Christi Tower. Hilda Banda and I met with members and non-members, and spoke to them about the coalition and its benefits. We met the manager, Hector Segunda, and Deb Stewart, who are members, and was given a tour of the tower by Deb. We had a great meet and greet following our visit with some of our new members. Thank you Livingston Financial for sponsoring our meet and greet! We recruited a total of 3 new members. Welcome Ismael, Isaac, and Franchisco!!!



Chapter Events

Southwest Visits Austin, TX

Lydia Gomez-Martinez, Southwest Regional Chapter Director

On June 9, 2023, we visited Austin Tower. Michael Livingston gave retirement briefings to members and non-members at the facility. We had a warm welcome from the manager, Stephen Martin, and were given a tour of the facility by one of our members, Robert Pena. They were very appreciative of our visit and are looking forward to a return visit. Thank you, Robert Pena, for arranging everything for our visit and tour.



Southwest Visits San Antonio, TX

Lydia Gomez-Martinez, Southwest Regional Chapter Director

On July 19, 2023, Hilda Banda and I traveled to San Antonio Tower. We met with members and non-members, the Air Traffic Manager and Micah Straughn, SAT Terminal Tech Ops Manager. We were given a tour of the Air Traffic Simulator, and of Tech Ops. Michael Livingston accompanied us and gave a retirement briefing to attendees.



Chapter Events

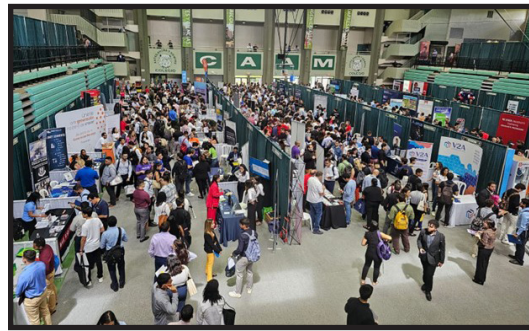
Puerto Rico Recruitments

Freidy Lazala, Southern Regional Chapter Director

On October 19, 2023, Michelle Dobao and Tamara Sabalier visited the InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico, along with Katherine Koch, Management and Program Analyst from the Human Capital Division. Katherine talked about the internships that the FAA has to offer and how to create a federal resume. We spent the day talking to more than 100 students. During which, we spoke to students about our experience having interns in SJU Tower.

Naara DeJesus and David Ferreira were interns in San Juan Tower this last summer in 2023. In the 10-week internship program we included visits to Isla Grande Tower (SIG), CERAP, FSDO and airline tours. The main intention was to expose them to different careers opportunities in aviation.

The next day, on October 20, 2023, Carlos Perez and Michelle Dobao accompanied Katherine to the recruitment event held at Puerto Rico University Mayaguez campus. Michelle mentioned how impressive the event was since more than 300 students from the campus presented their resume and were interested in FAA careers.



NHCFAE and Capital Chapter Celebrate Deputy Mims

Karen Perez, Capital Regional Chapter Director

On June 15th, Capital Chapter represented the NHCFAE at the FAA's farewell celebration honoring FAA Deputy Administrator Bradley Mims.

It was a truly heartwarming event listening to all the ways that that the Deputy Administrator touched both personal and professional lives. Several colleagues and employee associations were invited to share the impact and growth spurred by Deputy Mims, including the NHCFAE.

While our national president, Oscar Torres, could not be present at the event, Capital Chapter RCD, Karen Perez, presented Deputy Mims with a heartfelt letter from Oscar bidding him farewell on behalf of the NHCFAE.

During the coalition's brief speech, we recounted Deputy Mims most recent support at last year's Latinas in Aviation event and showed our deepest gratitude for his service to the FAA, his support to the NHCFAE, and his commitment to diversity and inclusion within the agency.



The coalition wishes Deputy Mims continued success at his next endeavor serving as the Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization at DOT.

Chapter Events

Maryland Aviation Festival

Karen Perez, Capital Regional Chapter Director

On Saturday, July 8th, a group of representatives from the Capital Chapter participated in the kickoff of the inaugural Maryland Aviation Festival at the College Park Aviation Museum. There were an estimated 1,100 visitors who attended to learn about Maryland's airports, aviation businesses, clubs and schools. They got to see a variety of aircraft up close, try their hand at simulators, engage with interactive and educational activities, and take a break with some delicious food.

Our representatives: Frances Melina, Ana Peña, Keanne Vallejo-Huertas and Christina Filipowski, were able to share information about the coalition. Specifically, training conferences, scholarship opportunities, as well as explain how they may join and become members. It was a great opportunity to get the future generation of aviators interested in this career field, and it was very inspiring to see young adults of minority communities light up when they started talking about their interest in aviation.

It was also a networking opportunity as our representatives were able to make connections with educators who seek mentors and speakers for their students. This opens a world of opportunities for us to not only share our knowledge and passion about aviation, but also share the importance of being part of associations such as the National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees.



Chapter Events

OBAP NoVa ACE Academy

Karen Perez, Capital Regional Chapter Director

On July 14, 2023, NHCFAE Capital Chapter attended the closing ceremony of the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy in North Virginia. During the event, student participants recounted their experiences on flying and landing a Cessna aircraft, visiting the nearby NASA Goddard facility, and the Potomac TRACON, among other hands-on aviation-related activities crafted to provide aerospace career exposure to the middle and high school students.



Capital Chapter was thrilled to present three students with registration reimbursement scholarships. The NHCFAE's contribution was highlighted at the ceremony, along with a certificate presented to the student. Following their "graduation," Capital Chapter was able to connect with the grateful students and parents and stress the importance of pursuing education and the doors that open as a result of it, as well as the opportunities available within the aviation field.

Capital Chapter is committed to the continued support of student exposure of aerospace and STEM-related careers, and looks forward to the next opportunity.

Palm Springs Visit with Controllers

Susie Diaz, National Director of Public Affairs & Western-Pacific Member

Being on social media has its privileges. I saw a post that Palm Springs (PSP) was advertising a Coffee with Controllers event. I right away contacted our member, Christopher Robinson, and asked if I could join. He right away responded and said, "Come on over". On September 6, 2023, Jonathan Eagle and I drove down to Palm Springs, which is about a 2 hour drive from Los Angeles. First, if you haven't been to Palm Springs, CA, it's a must! You will not regret it. Beautiful and relaxing views. We met at the Palm Springs Airport, where the Air Traffic Managers were having their annual meeting. After we drove to the tower, Chris greeted us and introduced us to everyone. He gave us a quick tour of the tower, and we talked to a few employees and shared with them about the Hispanic Coalition. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming to us. Thanks Chris, for all you do and always being very welcoming. We're looking forward to having events together in the future with the Palm Springs staff.



Chapter Events

Phoenix Meet and Greet

John Espinosa, National Vice President

In August, our Phoenix area members hosted a meet and greet at a local restaurant in Mesa, Arizona. NHCFAE National Vice President, John Espinosa, and former National DOPA, Jonathan Eagle, were attending the NBCFAE Training Conference in Phoenix and participated in the event. Brandon Esquer, ATC Phoenix TRACON, organized the event, which was well attended. The food was great, and the company was even better!



It's Been a While... Hello, NorCal TRACON

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Regional Chapter Director

It has been a very long time since the NHCFAE has visited my hometown in northern California, and it was a well overdue visit! This visit was possible through collaborative efforts with our corporate sponsor, NATCA. Specifically, our hosts, I would like to recognize the Facility Representative, Johnny Albanez, for setting up the visit and creating a flyer, and to Jordan Castro for taking the time to cook tacos on site for the event. I was joined by Susie Diaz, our Director of Public Affairs, and Jonathan Eagle, a long time Western-Pacific member. Together, we were able to engage the employees working that day and promote awareness of who the NHCFAE is and our mission. I even had the pleasure to meet someone who attended my old high school years ago that is also now in the FAA. It is a small world in aviation, and without these visits we would not be aware of the members of our community that work right beside us. Speaking face to face with potential members is always the best way to establish the relationships necessary to strengthen our membership and achieve the mission. In the Western-Pacific chapter we will continue to carry the NHCFAE banner from facility to facility until it is no longer a secret and employees are aware of who and what we are.

A special thanks to Susie Diaz and Jonathan Eagle for taking time out of their weekends to make this visit possible.

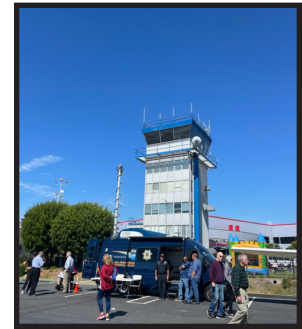


Chapter Events

Hayward Airport Open House

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Regional Chapter Director

It was a pleasure to collaborate with our corporate sponsor, NATCA, for a booth presence at the annual Hayward Airport Open House. This was a great outreach opportunity where the NHCFAE was able to promote the FAA and aviation as a career to a diverse community, who otherwise wouldn't have known about the many opportunities. There was a high level of diversity present amongst the attendees, and they were very interested to learn more about Air Traffic Control and other FAA careers. I was able to speak to parents directly and guide them towards the initial steps towards the FAA for their children. These types of events are key for us to be able to not only address the applicants, but also the family structure who will be supporting them along their aviation journey. Without the presence of the NHCFAE, the message would have been absent to many of the Hispanic families visiting that day. I would like to thank the NATCA Facility Representative, Bo from Hayward Tower, for reaching out to the NHCFAE at CFS and making our appearance possible. We look forward to attending every year and continuing to spread the message to our communities.



Fresno City College Health & STEM Presentation

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Regional Chapter Director



On September 20, 2023, it was a great opportunity for the Western-Pacific chapter to reach out to our community and spread awareness and education for Health and STEM students attending Fresno City College. I was able to present aviation as a career to a classroom full of students who never considered aviation. They had no idea of what the FAA was, or the wide array of employment opportunities available. I was also able to talk about the MSI program which was received with a lot of positive interest. At the beginning of the presentation nobody raised their hand when asked if they were interested in aviation. At the end of the presentation there were several hands raised and that is how the spark begins for the future. It takes our NHCFAE efforts to go out into the community and engage and tell our stories and encourage our community to take their place amongst us in the FAA.

A special thanks to Dr. Angelica Gil, president of the Latino Faculty and Staff Association for making this visit possible.

Chapter Events

Fresno City College Career Fair

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Regional Chapter Director

Once again, the Western-Pacific Chapter was able to demonstrate an outreach presence in the community during the Fall Career Fair at Fresno City College in Fresno, California. This was the first time that the career development department ever had any aviation related organization attend. The faculty and staff were very interested in the opportunities that we bring to the students and were extremely welcoming of our organization.

Our NHCFAE booth was very busy with a variety of students and alumni curious about what we had to offer. On one occasion a young lady approached the booth and quickly turned away saying “Oh no, I can’t be an aerospace engineer, that’s not something I can do!” I responded, “Hey, hold on, give me two minutes to talk to you about what the FAA has to offer.” In those two minutes, I was able to start painting the picture of the wide range of careers that the FAA has to offer aside from aerospace engineers, to include Air Traffic Control, various Tech-Ops opportunities, Aviation Safety Inspectors, human resources, program analysts, Airports division, legal, civil rights, inspectors, career developers, pilots, etc. The student then responded with some questions, and the idea that she didn’t have a place in the FAA started to fade and interest began to grow. She said, “Ok, I’m starting to get interested. How can I get started in Air Traffic Control?” I responded, okay now that’s something I can really elaborate on, and the conversation continued, and the information flowed, and awareness grew.

I then directed her on how to apply to the MSI internship program, which is a very attractive program to college students because it’s a means to full employment upon successful completion and allows the flexibility for the students to continue school. She was very interested in the idea, as almost every student that stopped by the booth was that day.

This event was eye opening after I received numerous follow up emails requesting more information on how to apply for employment at the FAA. One specific statement I remember reading was “I am ready to start my career with the FAA.” That resonated with me, because I realized what type of an impact our organization has for members of our community that are in the dark when it comes to aviation as a career field. WE are the ones that deliver the message to the Hispanic community. Without YOUR (NHCFAE members) support, we would not be able to change the future. I would like to thank all of our members here in Western-Pacific, as well as nationwide, for furthering our mission and I invite all members to step up and take the lead on an outreach event of your own. The little time that it takes to attend doesn’t compare to the rewarding long-lasting effect you can have on changing someone’s future.



Chapter Events

First Year Enrollment Students at Fresno City College

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Regional Chapter Director

College can be a milestone for a lot of young adults in our community. It's hard enough to be able to attend for most, and on top of that, choose the right field of study. There is a lot of pressure for students to make the right choices, as many are the first to attend college in their family, or their resources are limited and only the most vital courses can be afforded. In many instances there has been little to no direction for these students, and they remain undecided in their college program. I took this opportunity to engage these students, who otherwise would have probably not known about aviation as a career choice. While Fresno City College (FCC) does not have an aviation program available, we all know that the FAA is more than Air Traffic Controllers (ATC). We have a wide umbrella of careers possible. Luckily, FCC does have an engineering program, as well as several administrative and medical programs. Thus, I was able to bridge their goals with the opportunities that the FAA has to offer. One example was a young lady who was looking to go into law enforcement. I asked if she would be interested in our FAA security division and she found that to be a possibility. We have the insight of what the FAA has to offer due to our extensive networking made possible through the NHCFAE, and that insight gets translated into knowledge and education that we can pass along to the next generation that otherwise would have never known. It was very eye-opening to provide information that we find to be simple, such as the USAJOBS.gov website, that is news to this generation of digitally versed candidates. Only through education and awareness will we spark the idea of aviation as a career field for the youth and change the landscape of what the FAA is today.

A special thanks to Dr. Angelica Gil for making this visit to FCC possible.



Western-Pacific Chapter Inaugural ACE Day 2023

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Regional Chapter Director

What an incredible event our NHCFAE members put together! The idea of hosting our own Aviation Career Education (ACE) Day was the brainchild of our Western-Pacific member and national Director of Public Affairs, Susie Diaz. With the supportive collaborative efforts of our chapter members and national president, we were able to get this idea off the ground.

We had the opportunity to host 30 local middle school students at the FAA Regional Office in El Segundo, CA. The day began with breakfast provided by the Western-Pacific Chapter and SkyOne Federal Credit Union, followed by a special welcome from our former NHCFAE president, current member and AWP Deputy Regional Administrator, Faviola Garcia. Our current national president, Oscar Torres, made the journey from across the country on his time off to participate in the event as well.

The students were then broken off into groups and sent to different breakout



Chapter Events



sessions to be educated about various aviation career fields and the aviation industry as a whole. The breakout sessions included an Air Traffic Control introduction presented by Jaime Jimenez, our newest Western-Pacific member (literally recruited two days prior) and current Deputy NATCA FACREP at Long Beach Tower. The students were able to ask questions and receive in depth firsthand explanations as to how traffic was organized in the National Airspace System.

The following breakout session educated the students on the engineering side of the FAA and how fuel systems were managed at airports throughout the country. Ana Gabrielian, new FAA employee and NHCFAE member, is an aerospace engineer who has expert knowledge on how aviation fuels work and was even able to break down a chemical combustion model for the students to understand how ignition was created. It was very encouraging to hear the student's responses when they were able to comprehend the process.

Tech Ops hosted the third breakout session for the students, and they walked into a room to sit at a table with real world equipment placed in front of them. They were able to handle the equipment and learn what each device was used for and how it was used to either diagnose, test, transmit, or operate in the aviation environment. Veronica Sanchez and Audrey Barada, our local Western-Pacific members, gave in depth briefings on how tactile the tech ops environment was, but more notably demonstrated firsthand that the tech ops environment can be a diverse environment open to everyone who would like to make it a career.



The final stop was the Air Traffic Control simulator provided by Mr. Gregory L. Hatcher, Sr., Contract Site Supervisor (CSS), FAA AWP/RO Tower Simulation System (TSS). The students were able to sit in the simulator and see how air traffic controllers train to do what they do. They were able to see all of the different situations and conditions that could create challenges for controllers and how to deal with them. It was an eye-opening experience for most students as the equipment seemed like something out of a sci-fi movie.

Next, the students were invited to enjoy lunch provided by our sponsors at PASS, thanks to Carlos Aguirre. After lunch, our friends at SkyOne, including Franco Ayala, Oscar and Brian, were able to educate the students on the value of financial education for a more secure future, as well as provide an interactive activity highlighting the value of financial balance.



Overall, this was a learning experience for both the students and our coalition. We learned the value of what coming together and collaborating can create. Even though this might have been one member's idea, it took many members to coordinate and volunteer their time to make this happen. It took funding from members throughout the chapter and the nation to make this a reality. Without the support that we provide each other we can only do so much, but with the support, we can achieve any goal that we set out to accomplish.

The greatest accomplishment I believe we achieved during this ACE Day was the demonstration of our coalition. For Hispanic students to walk into a federal building and learn about aviation and see various career fields being explained by Hispanic aviation professionals is a once in a lifetime experience. I believe it is definitely a life changing experience, and now those students have been exposed to aviation and that could spark a foothold on being able to believe that they too can one day become aviation professionals. That the norms that they once thought were the limit have now been fractured and that aviation is an opportunity available to them. A lot of children understand the phrase "seeing is believing" and now we (NHCFAE) have shown them.

Chapter Events

Western-Pacific Chapter Inaugural ACE Day 2023

Continued...



We look forward to hosting more ACE days in Western Pacific in the future.

A special thanks to our chaperones: Susie Diaz, Johnathan Eagle, Veronica Jimenez, Elsa Gonzales and our STEM volunteers.

Words from ACE Day volunteer, Ana Gabrielian:

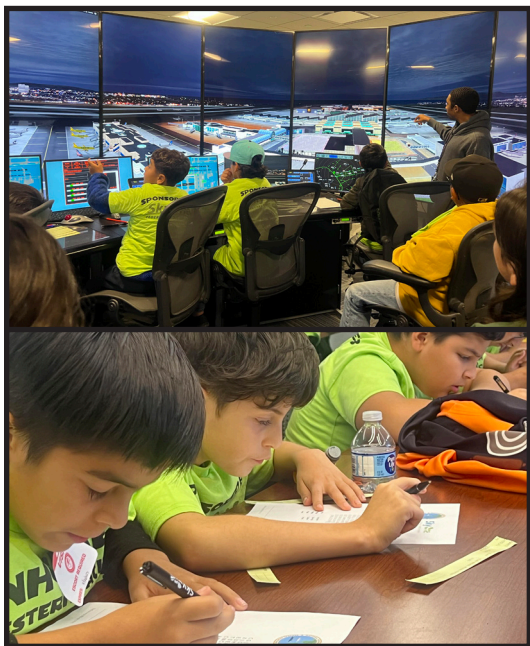
As a part of the NHCFAE, I was able to take part in the Western Pacific Chapter's ACE Day. Around 30 kids from the neighboring schools came together to learn about aviation at an FAA facility.

As an engineer in the Office of Environment and Energy, I was given the opportunity to introduce them to a myriad of concepts, including one that is more pertinent to my work: Sustainable Aviation Fuel or SAF. During my presentation, I talked about what burning conventional fuel can do. We discussed emissions and aviation induced cloudiness, also known as contrails. Many students had raised their hands and exclaimed that they had seen contrails over their school, home and city.

As group after group came into my conference room, the enthusiasm never stopped. They were always eager to ask questions: "how fast does that plane go?", "how much fuel fits in that tank?" "why is that fuel colored red?" I was happy to answer and discuss all of these questions and more – their curiosity was inspiring!

My favorite part of the day was when a chaperone asked a 7-year-old little girl what she learned during ACE Day. She said, "that water is more dense than gasoline". A small moment, but an extremely proud one for myself.

Shout out to Susie Diaz for doing an amazing job organizing and corralling 30 kiddos. I'm excited to do it again!





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Giving Back Through Coaching

Justin Rodriguez, Southern Chapter Member

Air Traffic Control is without a doubt one of the most stressful careers in the world. The need to be almost perfect day in and day out is grueling. On the opposite end of the spectrum from work and perfection lies a game that deals a lot with failure. A game in which you can fail 70% of the time and may be considered a Hall of Famer. Baseball will test a player in ways that no other sport can, you can do everything right and fail or you can get lucky on a poor hit and succeed.

I am Justin Rodriguez, Facility Representative at Sarasota Bradenton International Airport, however, I am honored to be called “Coach” by this group of baseball players. I have coached my son’s sports teams for the past 4 years, served as president of our local Little League and recently joined a coaching staff for a select group of boys that play at a higher level. Teaching this beautiful game is very easy, the boys are always willing to learn and play the game, but the challenges in coaching lie deeper than what you can see. This sport teaches many life lessons with its tumultuous ups and downs, bad hops, and decisions that are out of your control as a player or coach. Helping a child understand that it is more than not succeeding, but more so in helping translate the life lesson we are given to teach. I have told every parent of my players that my focus is not on wins and losses, but in teaching the game the way it was meant to be played, being respectful to their coaches, teammates, opponents, spectators, and the toughest of all, the umpires. Winning is only a by-product of doing these things the right way. The reality of it all is, I am not hoping to train the next MLB star, but I do this because I want to ensure they are the best sibling, son, father, husband, co-worker, boss, etc. that they can be and give back to the community someday, as I am doing for them. There have been times when I question my own sanity as to why I deal with the negativity and drama this role brings outside of the baseball diamond, but I remember one quote that always reminds me to keep doing this for the kids. “You are who you needed growing up.” I remind myself that had it not been for certain positive influences in my life, I would certainly be in a different place in life.

I have been given the ultimate platform as a coach and positive role model to help spread the word of what aviation careers are out there for children who think these careers are out of their reach, whether it be educational or financial. I have brought children to the facility to show them how amazing a day in the life of an air traffic controller can be. I have also visited local elementary schools and explained what our career is and does in society. Seeing the kids’ reactions to the information, pictures, and videos is well worth it. Growing up, the resources and information to our careers was scarce and seemed out of reach for low-income families, but with our outreach efforts, we must spread the word that the future is bright for those who want a career in aviation. So I challenge anyone who reads this to step up and make a difference in a child’s life, whether it is to volunteer in youth sports or spread the knowledge we have as aviation enthusiasts. With that, I will leave you with one last quote, “No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.”



Member Spotlight

Ana Bella Gabrielian

Duty Location: Glendale, CA. 100% remote

Job Title: General Engineer, Sustainable Aviation Fuel Project Manager

Introduction: Saludos! I'm Ana! I love to play soccer, cook, play with my dogs, lift weights and spend time with my friends and family. I started at the FAA in February, and I am very happy that I found the NHCFAE.



Amy Alemañy

Duty Location: New Braunfels, TX (Capital Region – Remote)

Job Title: Lead Business Services Analyst

Introduction: I am a proud Boricua, born and raised on the beautiful island of Puerto Rico. 15 years ago, I left the island to pursue my federal government career. Indianapolis, IN was my first home away from home. Fast forward, I currently help take care of the people that make it possible to fly, here at the FAA. My background is in Human Resource Management, and through my leadership journey I am committed to building relationships, creating a diverse and safe workspace, and fostering an environment of trust. My passion is traveling. I've learned so many things by visiting other places and countries. Traveling opens your eyes to other cultures and lifestyles. It reminds you that you are this one unique person in this huge (and small) world filled with other amazing human beings. It puts many things into perspective. It makes you more human.



Denisse Malcun

Duty Location: Carolina, PR

Job Title: Management and Program Analyst

Introduction: I joined the FAA last year, and this is my first time in a federal government job. Although I don't do this anymore, my passion is dancing (any type) and my hobby is reading and traveling for leisure.



Sabrina Robinson

Duty Location: KHPN Tower

Job Title: Air Traffic Controller

Introduction: My family is from Panama, but my Spanish is limited so I'm hoping by engaging with my FAAMILIA I will get better. I'm not big on hobbies, but I do enjoy a nice lounge with live music. I can dance merengue and bachata, but salsa has me with two left feet, haha. I'm glad to be a part of the NHCFAE and I can't wait to meet everyone!



NHCFAE Outreach

FAAMA: Lead to Succeed

John Espinosa, NHCFAE Vice President

This year's FAA Managers Association (FAAMA) convention was held at the beautiful Green Valley Ranch (GVR) in Las Vegas. It was a venue that was in the running for our 2024 NHCFAE national training conference before the conference team chose the Flamingo Hotel. This is the second FAAMA convention that I have attended, but first at GVR. The FAAMA convention is well attended by managers from all Lines of Business and Staff Offices across the FAA. It was a great week of leadership training, keynotes from IndyCar Champion Tony Kanaan, Betsey Allen Manning and Astronaut Mike Mullane. We heard from multiple FAA executives on important issues facing managers in the agency and attended a speed mentoring session.



FAAMA leadership Mike Smith, president, and newly elected vice president, Wayne Hubbard, are supportive of our mission and were gracious in allowing the NHCFAE to host a booth. I was able to speak with many managers about supporting outreach events and administrative time allowed in the HRPM 12.6 to attend our annual national training conference. I was pleased that most managers I met were supportive in allowing our members time to participate in local and national outreach events around the country.

One item that I am very excited about was the chance to visit the Flamingo, the site of our 2024 NHCFAE training conference, and scout out the surrounding area. A Formula 1 race took place later that month (Las Vegas GP), so there was an extra buzz around Las Vegas Blvd where the Flamingo is located. I took a lot of pictures and some video of the venue that I am excited to share in the coming months as we begin to promote and prepare for our 2024 training conference. One thing that I can guarantee, you will NOT want to miss this training conference! Save the date: August 20-22, 2024.

NATCA: Communicating for Safety (CFS) 2023

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Regional Chapter Director

Once again, members from the NHCFAE were able to take part in the annual NATCA CFS convention. The NHCFAE was represented by Johnathan Eagle, Oscar Torres and myself, all Air Traffic Controllers and NATCA members. Our NHCFAE booth showcased our ongoing efforts to increase diversity, promote development, and support outreach in our organization and amongst our communities. We were able to answer questions from potential members and current members regarding our new initiatives and ongoing efforts in support of our mission throughout the country. Another benefit to these conversations was the spark of new ideas, the discovery of new talents amongst our members, and the reassurance of support within the coalition. This was a great opportunity to meet face to face with the membership and promote awareness of our coalition throughout the NAS. I am proud to say that through our efforts we were able to recruit 13 new members! New members not only bring new energy and ideas, but they also return home with the message and a new-found FAamilia amongst the coalition. I would like to personally thank all our new brothers and sisters who stepped up and joined our coalition at CFS. Together we are stronger, and we get closer to achieving our mission.



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Grand Rapids ATCT (GRR)



National Air Traffic Controllers Association, AFL-CIO

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NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Fresno City College Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Regional Chapter Director

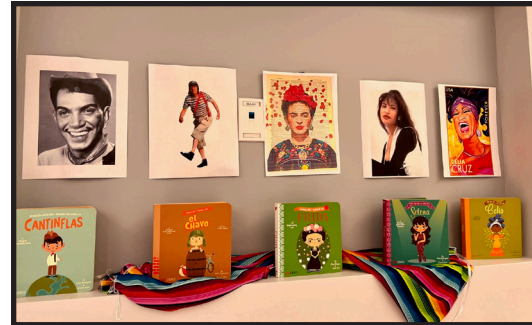
The NHCFAE is the leading federal Hispanic association and is beginning to gain notoriety amongst the community. That recognition in our work has allowed us to create partnerships and collaborate with other organizations. I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Angelica Gil, the president of the Latino Faculty and Staff Association (LFSA) at the Fresno City College Hispanic Heritage Month kickoff celebration. This event showcased folklorico dancers, Hispanic arts, Hispanic foods, and even a game of loteria for the student body. I was able to stop by the LFSA booth and meet with many of the faculty members and discuss possible collaboration events depending on their teaching fields. I found that building this network would allow the NHCFAE direct access to members of our community who were students at FCC and would benefit from knowing what opportunities await in aviation. It has been a very productive collaboration with the LFSA, and we are more than grateful to continue to work together to help our community and promote diversity in the aviation industry.

Western-Pacific Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Susie Diaz, National Director of Public Affairs and Western-Pacific Chapter Member

More Nachos Please...

For the opening of Hispanic Heritage Month at the WP regional office, nachos were popular at our last kickoff, so we decided to do it again this year. On Monday, September 18, 2023, we had a meet and greet with nachos and chili. Western-Pacific members came together to help and always support our events. This day benefited us because there were a few training classes happening in the office. We were in the room closest to the main entrance, so when employees were passing by, we were ready to greet them. We had the chance to talk to employees and passed out info about our organization.



Meet and Greet with Deputy Administrator Katie Thomson

On Thursday, September 21, 2023, we had a special guest at the regional office. We haven't had a guest for the last few years. FAA Deputy Administrator, Katie Thomson, came to the office to meet and greet employees. Before her visit, and since it was known that the Hispanic Coalition was hosting our festivities for Hispanic Heritage Month, Building Services gave me permission to decorate a little more than usual. I took this opportunity to go all out. I decorated the guard entrance, too. When Ms. Thomson was walking throughout the office, I was able to meet her in my work area in Engineering Services. I took the time to introduce myself and tell her it was perfect timing where she was able to see how our office brings out awareness to employees. It was my privilege and pleasure to meet Ms. Thomson.



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Juntos con Café y Pan Dulce

On October 10, 2023, we had our 2nd annual café con pan dulce gathering with all employees. We spent an hour in the morning talking about our organization and also closing out Hispanic Heritage Month. Most everyone enjoys a hot cup of coffee and some sweet bread in the morning. It is always nice to see employees come down and gather to catch up, especially now that most of us are on hybrid work schedules. I was glad to see many employees and members that I usually do not see. I was also able to use Hispanic Heritage Month to send out AWP broadcast emails to all Western-Pacific employees to reconnect. In the weekly email, I talked about our organization and introduced members of our chapter. During our café con pan dulce, I loved hearing employees talk about the broadcast messages. It tells me that they are reading and interested in who we are. Also, during Hispanic Heritage Month, we love to bring some color to the office and decorated each of the floors and created displays. Special thanks to member Veronica Jimenez, she has always been there to help and support all of our chapter events at the regional office. We're looking forward to more events in the future and to get to know more employees.



Southwest Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Lydia Gomez-Martinez, Southwest Regional Chapter Director

On October 18, 2023, the Houston Area Chapter closed Hispanic Heritage Month with a huge event filled with friends, music and amazing homemade food. They did a fantastic job!! Both Tech Ops DFM and the AT Manager participated. Susie Rice, jumped right in and helped serve the food and spoke a few words at the opening of the event. Food was made by Lupe Valadez, Jesse Lopez, Hilda Banda, Lashanda Craig, Steve Garza, Misael Goicuria and William Vallejos. The variety of sweet breads were donated, and Patricia Navarro gave a monetary donation. About 130 people participated in the event, which included the ZHU ARTCC, 190 TRACON, Engineering Services and Technical Staff. Great job Houston Area Chapter!



NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Northwest Mountain Celebrates HHM

Karla Valdez, Northwest Mountain Regional Chapter Director

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the NHCFAE Northwest Mountain chapter participated in collecting food for Feds Feed Families. The Feds Feed Families program is a volunteer food drive that encourages employees across the federal government to contribute food, service and time to food banks and pantries of your choice. The Northwest Mountain Region's goal was to fill up at least 10 boxes with shelf-stable foods that are low in sodium, sugar and saturated fats. Our chapter picked up a bin to help reach this year's goal. We were able to collect enough items to fill a bin by our local members and non-members. We hope to participate again next year and collect additional items to fill up more than just one bin!

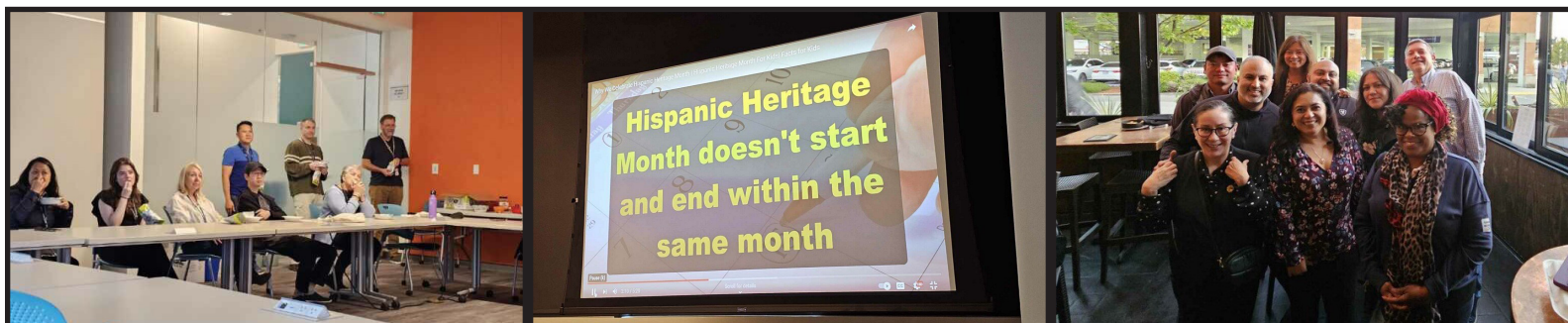
In addition, our chapter collaborated with Western-Pacific chapter for a virtual event: "Let's Make Pupusas Together". For those that aren't familiar with pupusas, they are a thick corn tortilla that can be stuffed with various fillings, including meats, refried beans, cheese and even squash flowers. The filled corn tortillas are then cooked to perfection on a traditional grill referred to as a comal. The pupusas are a Salvadoran tradition topped with coleslaw called curtido, and your choice of salsa. For our virtual event, we sent out an invite with the ingredients listed to all the NHCFAE members so they could have the ingredients ahead of time and follow along. This event was a success and I hope to see more events like this to share more of our food culture.

Fun Read: "The Importance of the Pupusa for the El Salvadoran People"

When Salvadorians began to emigrate to other countries in the late 1900s, they brought their pupusas along with them, introducing the delicious corn-based dish to several new countries, including the United States, Canada, and even Australia. The pupusa dish holds such importance and value to the El Salvadoran people that in 2005, the pupusa was named the official national food of El Salvador. The pupusas are such an essential food for the Salvadoran people that the country declared the second Sunday in November National Pupusa Day. On this Sunday, El Salvadorans from all around the country travel and gather at the capital, seeking to create the world's largest pupusa!

Finally, the NHCFAE Northwest Mountain chapter hosted a Lunch & Learn event on October 3, 2023. We invited employees to join us for some popcorn, chips and salsa and showed a small clip to learn what exactly Hispanic Heritage Month is all about. The clip was about a 5 minute YouTube video called "Why We Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month", and stated facts about the celebration and was geared more for kids. The video can be found at the following link for those that are interested in watching it: <https://youtu.be/DbxIsJmZNw8?si=y0t5sk-7j-rrA8X3>

Although this video was geared more towards kids, it caught people's attention and we all learned a few more fun facts about our month. We had about 20 attendees and I took the opportunity to talk to them about our organization. A handful of people showed interest in joining, especially after informing them that they didn't have to be Hispanic to join NHCFAE. I'm hoping to get new members soon. That same day, after work, a couple of us gathered for a social event at Moctezuma restaurant in Tukwila, WA for some delicious food and enjoyable time. The regional president from the Black Coalition joined us and talked to us about working together and collaborating with events and outreach between our two organizations. It was indeed a very successful event!





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Mike Monroney Chapter Celebrates HHM

Javier Quiñones, Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center Regional Chapter Director

On August 17, NHCFAE vice-president, John Espinosa, and I were able to present Mr. Jim Duskow with his NHCFAE Manager of the Year award. He has supported the efforts of our MMAC chapter on multiple occasions. In 2022, he met with our national president, Oscar Torres, to discuss an initiative of presenting the Employee Associations to new FAA employees on their first official training session at the Academy. He also participated in our Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at the Blue Sky Cafe in September 2022. Mr. Duskow was instrumental in the success of both meet & greet activities celebrated at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in January and May of this year. Weeks prior to the January event, Mr. Duskow coordinated the use of one of the Thomas P. Stafford building classrooms to accommodate our first-ever meet & greet activity and promoted the activity Academy-wide. On that day, we were able to showcase the programs and benefits of our coalition with new Air Traffic Controllers and Tech Ops personnel. For the second meet & greet, Mr. Duskow was also involved in promoting the event, which resulted in a full-blown success.



For HHM this year, we had a wonderful turnout at Blue Sky Cafe on September 20th. Our NHCFAE vice-president, John Espinosa, MMAC Chapter Deputy Regional Center Director and Vice-Chair of the MMAC DEIA Council, David Williams, and many members of the NHCFAE MMAC chapter greeted and shared information about the NHCFAE with all employees having lunch at the cafe. The cafe provided a special and delicious menu for the occasion that included “pollo a la parrilla, carne deshebrada and calabacitas con queso”. We had a table with assorted Hispanic desserts, snacks & candies to share as well. One of the booth visitors was the MMAC Director, Michelle Coppedge, who continuously shows her commitment and support to our NHCFAE chapter. On that day, we also had a new member join our NHCFAE FAamilia. Thanks to everyone that supported this great activity.

On September 28th, our chapter hosted members for a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at Chicken ‘N Pickle. This was a family event that included the use of a pickle ball court and food for members and their families. We had a great time of camaraderie, exercise and team building. The greatest part of this event was the inclusion of our members families. This allowed the family members to see and understand what our NHCFAE does for our members and the Hispanic community.





NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Capital Chapter Takes a Hike for HHM

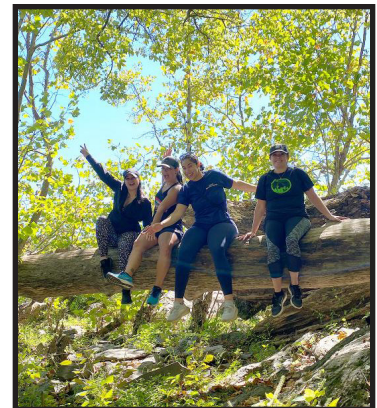
Karen Perez, Capital Regional Chapter Director

To kick off our first in-person event for Hispanic Heritage Month, Capital Chapter gathered for a group hike at Great Falls Park in McLean, Virginia on September 16, 2023.

Just a short drive from DC, this park features many great hiking trails, abundant wildlife, historical sites, and awe-inspiring waterfalls. The park also offers a variety of recreational activities such as hiking, rock climbing, kayaking, and fishing. While Capital Chapter did not partake in any high-intensity activities such as these, we did explore several hiking trails, shared stories from our backgrounds and personal lives, and ultimately created the space to bond and connect with each other that work events usually do not allow for.

As the day was gorgeous, we followed the event with lunch at a nearby Irish pub, where we sat outside, talked about goals, dreams, current challenges and ways to overcome them.

Capital Chapter is looking forward to gathering again for more physically engaging get-togethers, as we encourage not only professional and personal development, but overall wellbeing (including fitness) as well!



Capital Chapter HHM Winery Picnic

Karen Perez, Capital Regional Chapter Director



After a series of celebratory events that consisted of several lunch and learns from our partners at Livingston Financial and our Employee Assistance Program, Magellan, Capital Chapter closed this year's Hispanic Heritage Month by hosting its annual winery picnic event at Cana Vineyards and Winery in Middleburg, Virginia.

Members were joined by our National President, Oscar Torres, where we gathered on an incredibly windy Saturday and basked in the beauty of the vineyard countryside, sampling flights of wine varieties, as well as snacks and food shared by those in attendance. We eventually moved the gathering indoors, where the venue had live music



NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

and trivia. In between song sets, we told each other stories of each other's upbringings and families, and had an excellent time building comradery and enjoying each other's company.

What a great way to close out Capital Chapter's Hispanic Heritage Month event series and bid a fond farewell to warm weather on the East Coast!



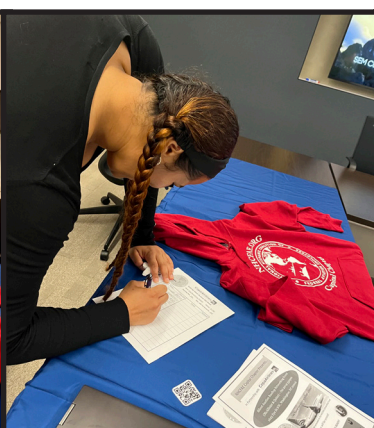
Capital Chapter HHM Silent Auction

Karen Perez, Capital Regional Chapter Director

As part of this year's Hispanic Heritage Month, Capital Chapter hosted a silent auction in partnership with Copa Airlines auctioning off two round trip tickets to anywhere in Latin America! The event, which was originally scheduled to take place at the McAllister & Quinn office rooftop with beautiful views of Washington, DC, was moved indoors due to inclement weather. This did not stop members, or our national president, Oscar Torres, from attending and supporting the auction where all proceeds went towards the NHCFAE Scholarship Fund.

Members in attendance received a Capital Chapter hoodie and enjoyed the refreshments and finger foods offered. Copa Airlines travel videos played in loop on the giant screens in the event room and Latin music played in the background while participants silently bid at their chance to travel for such a great cause - the future of our next generation!

Capital Chapter thanks every single event participant for bidding and helping us raise \$600. Our Deputy RCD, Ana Peña, was the awardee of the round trip tickets, so stay tuned for an article on Ana's travel adventures! Safe travels Ana, and a humble **THANK YOU** to Copa Airlines for their generous donation!





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NHCFAE Outreach

NBCFAE: Partnering Together Towards Tomorrow

John Espinosa, NHCFAE Vice President

From August 21-23, 2023, it was an honor to attend the National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE) 46th national training conference in beautiful Phoenix, AZ. I had the privilege, along with fellow long-time member Jonathan Eagle, to attend the event. We were hosted by Freddie Green, NBCFAE National President, and his leadership team. The conference theme was “Together Towards Tomorrow”. The NHCFAE and the NBCFAE are the two largest employee associations in the FAA. Participating in each other’s national training conferences speaks to how we can work ‘together’ to increase diversity and promote inclusion across the FAA. Many FAA executives visited our booth and gave praise for our collaborative approach to support all employee associations. Freddie and his team made sure we were front and center in the exhibition hall and welcomed us to participate in all conference activities.

Many members support multiple employee associations and participating in events such as these allow us to network with familiar faces and recruit new members. We welcomed Marcel Camacho, Sabrina Robinson, Sabrina Miller, Trey Generette, and Mokshyada Poudel to our FAAmilia. It was also a great opportunity to meet potential sponsors, connect with many of our shared sponsors and take back any best practices for future training conferences.

Overall, Jonathan and I had a great week attending the various training sessions and learning about ways we can continue to enhance our partnership with the NBCFAE. Thank you NBCFAE for your hospitality!





Let's Make Pupusas!

Pupusa Recipe

Ingredients:

Maseca (type of flour)
1 can of refried beans (or homemade beans)
1lb of cooked carnitas
1lb of mozzarella cheese
1 small 8oz tomato sauce (or blend your own tomatoes)

Curtido (cabbage slaw):

Shredded cabbage
Red onion (slice)
Shredded carrots
Oregano
Salt
Vinegar
Optional: Jalapeños

Other items:

Griddle (or a flat skillet pan)
Spray oil
Bowl
Water
Food processor

This recipe is for a "Revuelta" (mix) Pupusas

Time: 45 mins

(For a vegan option: you can use jackfruit, or shredded zucchini)

In a mixture bowl, add beans and cheese.

In the food processor, add the carnitas until it's pureed (do the same if you are using jackfruit or zucchini).

Once ready, add carnitas and/or jackfruit mix with beans and cheese. Make sure everything is well and evenly mixed.

Add the tomato sauce into the mixture.

The mixture should be soft.

Preparing the Maseca into Masa:

In a mixture bowl, add 4 cups of maseca and 5 cups of water.
(do not be afraid to use your hands to mix)

Work the masa until it is soft, but still firm.
(Make sure the mixture is not sticky)

*Put your griddle and or flat pan on the stove over medium heat. If using a griddle turn to 400 degrees and add spray cooking oil all over it.

Let's make the masa into pupusa balls...

In a small bowl, add some water.

We will be using this water to add a little in our hands for each time we make the masa into balls.

Divide the masa into several balls, if it gets stuck in your hands, you probably put too much water. Just add more maseca flour. The ball should almost feel like playdough.

Wet your hands and grab a ball of masa, flatten it out in your hands – very much like a thick tortilla.

Once you have it flattened, add the carnitas mix in the middle.

Add about 2 tablespoons of carnitas mix, bring edges of the tortilla to the center to close it up.

Wet your hands to moisten. Start flattening the ball in between your palms, like a tortilla.

Once you have flattened it a little and created a circle, add it to the griddle to start cooking your pupusa. Once it's brown, you can flip it over. About 3 - 6 minutes each side (leave it longer for a crispier texture).

Making the Curtido (cabbage slaw)

(You can either prepare curtido before starting the pupusas and/or during the process of the pupusas)

Curtido is all based on taste.

In a deep bowl and/or a large Mason jar:

Add the shredded cabbage

Slice red onions

Oregano

Warm water

1C of vinegar

Salt to taste

Option: Shredded carrots and jalapeños

Once it's all mixed, set it aside; let it sit.

Now time to eat! How to create your pupusa:

Get a pupusa, add the curtido on top and choice of salsa.

Enjoy!

***If anyone would like to volunteer for a cooking Zoom and/or submit a recipe, please reach out to dopa@nhcfae.org



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