



# Hispanic Women's Council

Fall/Winter 2021 Newsletter

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The Hispanic Women's Council is a non-profit, inter-generational organization established in 1988 to promote, support, and create opportunities for Hispanic women.

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## Un mensaje de la presidente

Dearest HWC Members,

My deepest gratitude goes to all of you for the unwavering support you have provided to the Hispanic Women's Council over the last year. As I write this final message as your Hispanic Women's Council President, my heart is filled joy and with pride for all our accomplishments this year.

We had a great turnout for our virtual Meet & Greet and welcomed 28 HWC scholars! We also enjoyed the Masquerade *Peña*, which was a lively and creative alternative to the traditional Masquerade Ball. We were ecstatic about exceeding our goal of \$15,000! I'm happy to share the winners of the Wine Basket raffles: Dr. Kathleen Colleran, Dr. Parisa Kermani (HWC member), Samia Hindi (HWC member), and State Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino. Congratulations to the raffle winners and a big thank you to all of you who contributed and helped us surpass our fundraising goal once again! The last event for the year was the HWC Holiday Happy Hour. It was such a pleasure to meet those of you who joined us, and I appreciate everyone's cooperation in making it a safe and lovely event! If you were not able to join us, I hope you know that I do look forward to the next time I can meet you in person.

As I conclude my term, I can't help but reflect on my journey, beginning as an HWC scholar, then as a Board member, to HWC President in 2021. My progression to this role is not simply a reflection of my personal achievements, but a reflection of the incredible women that have guided me and supported me along the way. HWC came into my life during a time when it was crucial for me to have mentorship and be surrounded by strong and empowering women. And that is exactly what I received as a scholar. The HWC scholarship program is such an important piece in our efforts to create an intergenerational organization that promotes networking, education and Hispanic culture preservation. Most importantly, I believe, is that we have created a community for our scholars, for our members of various backgrounds and professions, our mothers, daughters, sisters, cousins and



...continued on page 2

President's message, continued...

*amigas*. We created a community where they can grow, connect, and inspire. For that and more, I am deeply grateful to you all. It has been a pleasure and one of the biggest honors of my life to serve you in this capacity this year.

All of my love goes out to each and every one of you. I wish you a beautiful holiday. This year has been full of many achievements and success, but I also want to acknowledge that it has been difficult and heavy for some at times as well. May your hearts find comfort when you need it, and many blessings in the coming year.

*Con mucho cariño,*

Marissa Elías  
Hispanic Women's Council President



Thank you to the following for donating the gift baskets

Jubilation Wine & Spirits  
John and Carol Zonski, Proprietors

Dr. Victoria Sánchez  
Melissa Rodríguez  
Marissa Elías  
Dr. Vi Flórez  
Kathryn Ramsey  
Nicole Florez

## Éxito y Más



On October 12, 2021, as part of the Hispanic Heritage Awards, **Edna Lopez** received the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce. Edna is President & CEO of COMPA Industries, Inc., a company she has steered since 1994. Her community involvement is legendary, and she has been a stalwart promoter of women in business. Her tenure with HWC has been hands on and unwavering. She served as HWC President in 2002, has actively recruited women to join HWC, and she has been a generous donor year after year. The Lifetime Achievement Award is well deserved and celebrated.

## 2021 Virtual Meet & Greet

On September 15, 2021, we hosted the virtual Meet & Greet and heard from current scholarship recipients. About 42 guests attended the Zoom event, comprised of students and their families and HWC members. As always, learning more about the goals the students have set for themselves and how they are pursuing those goals is rewarding and inspiring. Many students acknowledged the value of the mentorship they receive from faculty mentors, including Dr. Leila Flores-Dueñas, Dr. Victoria Sánchez, Dr. Carmen Samora, and Dr. Valerie Romero-Leggott. A total of 28 students received scholarships for the 2021/2022 academic year. To date HWC has awarded 302 scholarships totaling \$139,600.

We were not able to capture a group photo of the students as we have in the past. Below is a list of the students and their area of study.

*¡Felicitaciones!*

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### Announcing the 2021/2022 Scholarship Recipients

Ariana Aragon, BA Education

Jazmin Arciniega, BS Nursing

Rylee Brachle, BS Population Health

Lizzet Castillo, Doctor of Medicine

Brenda Elias, BA Sociology

Kyla Fugate, BA  
Environmental Planning & Design/Landscape  
Architecture Sustainability

Esther Garcia, BA Education

Maria Estela Gonzalez, MS Nursing

Analissa Gutierrez, BS Population Health

Anjelica Jimenez, Doctor of Physical Therapy

Alma Lozano, AS Biology

Nicole Martinez, Doctor of Medicine

Samantha Martinez, MS Occupational Therapy

Yohana Martinez, BBA Business Administration

Vivian Marquez De La Garza, AS Biology

Nancy Orduño-Villa, Doctor of Medicine

Analissa Pizarro, AAS Nursing

Erin Price-Borunda, BS Nursing

Irma Rocio Vazquez, PhD  
Mechanical Engineering

Alyssa Ramos, BS Dental Hygiene

Evelyn Rouse, BS Nursing

Lynn Saavedra, MS Nursing

Dulce Saldivar, BBA Liberal Arts

Brittney Sanchez, Doctor of Medicine

Roxana Sanchez, MS Occupational Therapy

Simone Sena, BS Biology

Maria Vielma, BA Criminology/Spanish

Kristal Vigil, Doctor of Physical Therapy

## Masquerade *Peña* Raises Dollars for Scholars

Our annual fundraiser this year was a virtual **Masquerade *Peña*** featuring exceptional performances by local artists. Short and informative messages were delivered by HWC leaders, long-time sponsors, and students who have received support from the HWC Scholarship and Mentorship Program. It was a fun-filled, well attended event, with many of the online participants wearing Masquerade costumes and dancing in their living rooms.

Thanks to generous donations from HWC members and supporters and to the on-going support of our sponsors, the event raised funds exceeding the set goal of \$15,000. We actually raised over \$18,000! Kudos to the Committee for a successful program and campaign: Nicole Florez and Melissa Rodríguez, Co-Chairs, plus Dr. Vi Flórez, Kathryn Ramsey, Raqui Martínez and Dr. Cecilia Navarrete.

In the following pages we feature the performers and acknowledge both donors and sponsors. We are grateful for the support from each and every one. We will continue to support young women and help them become future leaders in our community.



**Leila Flores-Dueñas & Carol Vigil** of *Las Flores del Valle* have been making music together for more than 10 years at venues that range from the Gene Autry Theatre in L.A. and the National Hispanic Cultural Center to public school classrooms. Whether they are singing for huge audiences or private guests, they are sure to deliver smooth harmonies and thoughtful tunes with passion and heartfelt joy.

Carol and Leila's interests include researching and performing songs that have formed part of our rich cultural heritage in the US/Mexican Borderlands. Through various genres of music, they address social topics such as equal rights, social justice and women's history.

At the Masquerade *Peña*, they were accompanied by David García.

Both Leila and Carol are former HWC Presidents and *Estrella Brillante* awardees.



**Lara Manzanares** is an award-winning bilingual singer-songwriter of Northern New Mexican heritage. In addition to singing the Mexican boleros, rancheras, and corridos of her sheep-ranching childhood, Lara also composes her own style of music in both English and Spanish. Through a combination of storytelling and songs both playful and sincere, Lara draws on her rural New Mexican roots and her urban experiences across the U.S. and abroad as she sings about love, loss, a sense of place, and her own connection to the land.



The **Santa Fe Symphony Chorus** is dedicated to creating a musical community rich with cultural and intellectual diversity, performing selected choral works to the highest level of mastery. They accomplish this in partnership with The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra, performing major choral symphonic works.

**Mary Oishi** is the 2020-2022 Albuquerque Poet Laureate and a familiar figure in Albuquerque's thriving poetry scene: performing, publishing, and producing poetry events. Oishi is the author of



*Spirit Birds They Told Me* (West End Press, 2011), and co-author of *Rock Paper Scissors* (Swimming with Elephants Publications, 2018), finalist for the New Mexico Arizona Book Award. She is one of twelve U.S. poets in translation in *12 Poetas: Antología De Nuevos Poetas Estadounidenses* (La

Herrata Feliz and MarEsCerto, 2017), a project of the Mexican Ministry of Culture. Her poems have appeared in *Mas Tequila Review*, *Malpais Review*, *Harwood Anthology*, and other print and digital publications.

Oishi worked professionally and as an on-air personality in public radio for 25 years, hosting blues shows at four radio stations in New Mexico and Colorado, currently at KSFR-FM Santa Fe, where she hosts a weekly blues show, *Wang Dang Doodle*.



**Carmen Flórez-Mansi**, a native of New Mexico, currently serves as the Pastoral Associate for Music at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. Since 1989, she has performed as a vocal artist, choral conductor, vocal instructor and liturgy specialist throughout the Southwest, including solo appearances with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale and The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus. Carmen is also the Director of the St. Michael's High School Choral Arts Society, which she founded in 2014. Under her direction, this advanced 42-member chorus won the New Mexico Music Educators 2017 State 4A Choral Championship, which took place at Cleveland High School in Albuquerque. In just their third year, this was the Choral Arts Society's first year competing in state finals.

Carmen has a direct HWC connection: her sister is Dr. Viola Flórez and her nieces are Kathryn Ramsey and Nicole Florez.

## Individual Donations and Sponsorships

We are honored to acknowledge all who donated to the Masquerade *Peña* fundraiser.

We extend our deepest gratitude.



### Individual Donations

Trinidad de Jesus Aguello	Linda Greenleaf	Louella Rodriguez
Joseph Azar	Samia Hindi	Carmen Rodriguez
Janice J. Bandrofchak	Gary Hopp	Ed Romero
Karla Barela	Dr. Parisa Kermani	Reina Romero
Carla Beauchamp	Curtis La Cross	Vangie Samora & Jim Iden
Richard Beauchamp	Edna Lopez	Dr. Carmen Samora
Rhonda & Frosty Blech	Lucia Lopez	Joseph Samora
B. Kim Caird	Edward Lujan	Gloria Sampson
Theresa Cardenas	Raqui Martinez	Elsie Sanchez
Kathleen M Colleran	Paula Maxim	Petra Sanchez
Diane Denish	Michael McTeigue	Veronica Sanchez
Debra Dodge	Paula Metzner	Dr. Victoria Sanchez
Paul Doran	Helen Metzner	Alex B. Stelzner
Zachary J. Carlson Doran	Martin L. Miller	Dr. Garnett Stokes
Susan Duron	Gloria Mirabal	Dr. Al Swedberg
Marissa Elias	Ed Monjaras & Barbara Johnson	Joseph Tighe
James Elliot	Matt Myers	Dr. Diane Torres Velasquez
David Espinosa	Dr. Cecillia J. Navarrete	Mary Lou Trijillo
Jeremy Fishbein	Stella Noriega	Kim Trujillo
Dr. Viola Florez	Gerald Ortiz y Pino	Ross Ulibarri
Nicole Florez	Robert Peirce	Sylvia Vigil-Raines
Carmen Florez-Manzi	Bettye Pressley	Dr. Nina Wallerstein
James Garcia	Kathryn Ramsey	Loral & Dave Welde
Judy Graves	Miriam Rand	

# GARCIA

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**to our**  
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## The Hispanic Women's Council Student Organization

*Article by Dr. Victoria Sánchez*

Leadership comes in many forms, emerging in unexpected and often delightful ways. Such is the case with the newly formed, Hispanic Women's Council Student Organization (HWCSO). The group is an outgrowth of mentoring activities on the UNM health sciences campus as part of the HWC Scholarship and Mentoring Program.

The student organization was created under the leadership of Dr. Florencia Monge (PhD and a former HWC scholar and Brittney Sánchez (MPH), a current HWC scholar. Dr. Valerie Romero-Leggott and Dr. Victoria Sánchez are designated faculty advisors.

Although Dr. Sánchez initiated group mentoring for graduate and professional students on the HSC campus a few years ago, Dr. Monge's vision was to formalize the group under the Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA) umbrella. The HWCSO is eligible to receive GPSA funding to support activities as it extends the HWC mission to *promote, support and create opportunities for Hispanic women*.

During the 10/29/21 inaugural meeting of the HWCSO, the scholars introduced themselves and discussed options for mentoring topics. Their list includes topics such as interviewing skills, writing a personal statement, preparing an elevator speech, salary negotiations, preparing resumes/CVs, communication skills, self-care/preventing burn-out, and working through conflict.

Dr. Sánchez will continue to meet individually with HWC scholars to meet individual mentoring needs. If HWC members are interested in supporting the HWCSO, please contact Victoria Sánchez at [visanchez@salud.unm.edu](mailto:visanchez@salud.unm.edu).



Attending the first meeting: Back Row, l-r: Nicole Martinez (far left) Lucretia Vigil, Araceli Bello, Dr. Valerie Romero-Leggott, Dr. Victoria Sanchez, Brittney Sanchez, Florencia Monge  
Front Row, l-r: Blanca Jimenez, Estella Gonzalez, Alyssa Ramos, Kristal Vigil, Rylee Brachle





*Wishing you a safe  
and joy-filled holiday*

*May the new year bring  
healing and happiness*

**2021 HWC Membership**

Clara Apodaca, Former First Lady of New Mexico	Dr. Parisa Kermani Northwestern Memorial Hospital	Elsie Sánchez Small Business Consultant
Valerie J. Borrego, CPA	Edna López, Pres. & CEO COMPA Industries, Inc.	Mónica Sánchez, Theater Faculty, Colorado College
Theresa Cárdenas, Strategic Civic Engagement & Policy Manager, New Mexico First	Lucía López Rose López, Retired	Petra Sánchez Retired Educator
Sonya K. Chávez, U. S. Marshal U. S. Marshals Service	Karla Barela Lucero, Advance Planning Consultant, FRENCH Funerals	Dr. Shelle V. Sánchez, Director of Cultural Services, City of Abq.
Gloria Chávez-Sampson	Elizabeth Marquez de la Garza Student, HWC Scholarship Recipient	Verónica T. Sánchez Retired UNM Administrator
Yolanda Cruz	Josephine Martínez Retired FAA	Donna Sandoval Loretta Sandoval
Dr. Rose Díaz, Library and Archives Research Historian, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center	Nicole Martinez, Student HWC Scholarship Recipient	Mary Frances Santistevan Retired, APS
Bonnie Escobar	Linda López McAlister, Founding Artistic Director, Camino Real Productions, LLC	Simone Sena, Student HWC Scholarship Recipient
Judith M. Espinosa, Former NM Cabinet Secretary	Latania Mar Maria Meier	MaryAnn Shore Sue Stone, Lecturer, UNM College of Population Health
Elena Flórez, Student	Helen Metzner Paula Metzner	Dr. Diane Torres-Velásquez Associate Professor, UNM
Dr. Viola E. Flórez Professor Emeritus, UNM COE	Gloria Mirabal Member, MANA del Norte	Jasmine Trujillo Kim Trujillo, Costume Designer New Mexico Film
Dr. Merrilee Foreman, Owner Chiropractic Lifestyle Center	Dr. Florencia Monge UNM School of Medicine	Mary Lou Trujillo, Retired Public Health Administrator
Dr. Leila Flores-Dueñas Associate Professor UNM College of Education	Kathryn Ramsey, Assistant Principal Mountain View Elementary, APS	Rachel A. Valenzuela Carol Vigil Entertainment Consultant
Barbara Gallegos	Carmen M. Rodríguez, President Carmen Cares Consulting	Lucretia Vigil, Child Fatality Review Coordinator, NM Department of Health
Margaret Gonzales Senior Operations Manager UNM Graduate Studies	Dominique Rodríguez, Student Cibola High School	Sylvia Vigil-Raines, Program Communications Specialist Sandia National Labs
Tanya Gonzales, Paralegal Law Offices of the Public Defender	Louella Rodríguez Retired Educator	
Maria E. González, Student HWC Scholarship Recipient	Lucinda Lucero Sachs, Author	
Analissa Gutiérrez, Student HWC Scholarship Recipient	Brittney Sánchez, Student HWC Scholarship Recipient	
Samia Hindi, Educator		