



Hispanic Women's Council

Spring/Summer 2021 Newsletter

Board of Directors

Marissa Elías
President

MAJ (Ret.) Linda C. Zamora
Immediate Past President

Nicole Florez
President Elect

Dr. Victoria Sánchez
Vice President

Raqui Martínez
Treasurer

Melissa Rodríguez
Secretary

Christina Brigance

Dr. Cecilia Navarrete

Dr. Carmen Samora

Vangie Samora
Newsletter Editor

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

P. O. Box 27271
Albuquerque, NM 87125

www.nmhwc.com



Un mensaje de la presidente

Greetings Dearest HWC *Comadres*,

It is with much gratitude and my deepest respect that I assume the role of HWC President from Past-President, Major Linda Zamora. Major Zamora led us with grace, humility, and strength through one of the most unique and uncertain years for our organization, community, and nation. I knew this year would continue to be a time to practice patience and get creative and, at our Annual Membership Meeting in February, I was confident we would have a successful year with the addition of three brilliant and energetic new Board members, Christina Brigance, Melissa Rodriguez, and Dr. Cecilia Navarrete (see their stories on pages 3 & 4). Our 2021 officers are Nicole Flores, President-Elect; Dr. Victoria Sanchez, Vice-president; Melissa Rodriguez, Secretary; Raqui Martinez, Treasurer.



With the advantage of both hindsight and foresight this time, our HWC committees began to brainstorm and plan events that would give HWC an opportunity to stay in touch and virtually engage in fun activities in 2021. On April 11, we had the honor of hearing from Dr. Josie Lopez who took our membership along on a marvelous, cultural journey in her talk, "The Universal and the Specific in Mexican Modernism" based on the Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, & Mexican Modernism Exhibition at the Albuquerque Museum. Our event committees knew that with growing "zoom fatigue", we would need to keep thinking outside the box. Since our traditional Mother Daughter Brunch was not possible again this year, the planning committee thought there may still be a way to share a *comida* together (see event details on page 9). The Mother Daughter Planning Committee also recognized that this year continued to be a difficult one for many organizations who serve our community and decided to continue to fundraise for Barrett Foundation, Inc., and I'm proud to share that HWC raised \$1,535 (see page 9)! Most recently, we were honored to hear from Dr. Rita Serda, an accomplished and inspiring cancer researcher at UNM's Cancer Research Center (see page 10).

When I think of women like Dr. Serda and Dr. Lopez, I am reminded of the value of sharing experiences and celebrating the successes of our fellow *mujeres Hispánicas*, who pave the way for many more to come. As we know, when one of us wins, *todas ganamos*. Coming together and learning from one another, and inspiring the next generation of researchers, curators, educators, entrepreneurs, etc., is at the core of our organization. With 2021 halfway conquered, I am thrilled to share that we look forward to more joyous and entertaining events

...continued on page 2

President's message, continued...

to come the remainder of the year, including the **Meet and Greet** (September 15th- Chair: Dr. Carmen Samora), the **Masquerade Ball Alternative Fundraiser** (October 17th -Chair: Nicole Florez), and our **Holiday Party** (December 5th -Chair: Raqui Martinez).

The year 2021 was anxiously awaited, and at HWC we longed for the days when we could gather and celebrate all together. The wait has been a long and a painful one for many, whether it was uncertainty about the future, the anxiety about our livelihoods and our health, and for many, it was the grief and pain of losing someone they loved to COVID-19. My deepest affection and heart are with you all. I still look forward to the day that we can comfortably gather and hug and kiss each other, our hearts perhaps filled with a little bit of heaviness still, but very importantly, also filled with hope, strength, and much love for one another. This past year has been a constant reminder to hold my loved ones a little longer and let go of the insignificant things a little faster. Every single one of you who held on a little bit longer and stayed with us, gave me something to work towards and look forward to. Whether you attended events, responded to my emails, or renewed your membership, you inspired me and gave me purpose. For that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Con mucho cariño y amor,

Marissa Elías
Hispanic Women's Council President 2021

Exito y Más

Kathryn Ramsey has earned an Administrative License, along with a Master's Certificate in Educational Leadership, from the University of New Mexico. In addition to her Master's degree in Advanced Literacy and Instruction, the license and certificate positioned her to move into an administrative role with Albuquerque Public Schools. She just accepted her first administrative role as Assistant Principal at Mountain View Elementary. Congratulations!



Restaurateur **Linda Zamora** (immediate past president of HWC) and her business partner, Bryan Thompson, expanded their reach during the pandemic by opening a second Rosemary Restaurant at 9821 Montgomery, NE. The original Rosemary on San Mateo near Montgomery (where we have enjoyed hosting HWC events) continues to serve clientele in the area. Additionally, they operate two restaurants at the 505 Central Food Hall, one called Pier None and the other called Wild Rosemary. A deli named Sprig is still in the planning stages. Go, Linda!

HWC is all about creating opportunities for multi-generational participation. At the Mother-Daughter Virtual Cooking Class held in May, three generations gathered in a kitchen in Truchas, NM, to cook together. Vangie Samora captured this zoom photo of **Christina Brigance** (HWC board member) and her family. From left to right: Natalie Brigance (Christina's mother), Kaitlyn Gonzales, Christina Brigance, Andrea Gonzales and Fabiola Sandoval (Christina's grandmother).

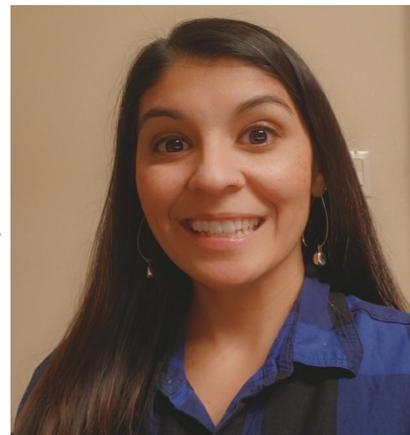


Meet Our New Board Members

Melissa Rodríguez

I've lived in Albuquerque the majority of my life; my parents moved us here when I was 2. I have been married for 23 years and have three children. My oldest child lives on his own and is out in the workforce, forging his way. My youngest son is in his third year at New Mexico Tech, and my baby girl is a senior in high school.

My Bachelor's degree is in Education and my Master's degree is in Educational Leadership. I have worked for Albuquerque Public Schools for nearly 24 years, in multiple positions and in both middle and elementary schools. Elementary school is where my passion lies. Currently, I am a classroom teacher and have been for quite a while. Over the years, I've taught many grades, including 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th.



Through a federal grant, I have had the opportunity to work with an amazing cohort of educators to assist with reform in identified schools and districts across parts of New Mexico and Texas. Being able to work with staff and students in those rural areas, and establish systemic practices and policies for over three years, was quite impactful to my own learning and teaching.

I always welcome new opportunities to learn from people, especially those who have lived such accomplished lives. I am grateful for this new adventure of serving on the board for HWC!



Dr. Cecilia Navarrete

Like my parents and siblings, I was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico. My parents raised us in the South Broadway/San Jose community close to my grandparents who were from Meoqui, Chihuahua and La Barca, Jalisco, Mexico. I attended St. Mary's High School then Albuquerque High School where I graduated in 1969. Working jobs to support my family since I was 14 years of age (and suffering from poor eyesight) I barely made passing grades in school, leading my senior high school counselor to declare that I was "not college material." Undeterred, I went from part-time to full-time employment at the Albuquerque Credit Union. A federal Urban Renewal program offered college scholarships to students living in my community and, given my poor high school grades, I was not sure I should accept the funds. Fortunately, my mother reminded me that I had common

sense and believed it would be enough for me to survive college.

Continued on next page...

Dr. Cecilia Navarrete, continued from page 3

With my mother's encouragement, a pair of eyeglasses, a lot of effort, and influence from my college advisor Dr. Mari-Luci Jaramillo, I earned an undergraduate degree in elementary education and a master's degree in early childhood education from the University of New Mexico. I taught several years for the Albuquerque Public Schools. While working in migrant education, I spearheaded a cognitive-based program, which received national attention, and gave me the opportunity to obtain a Ph.D. at Stanford University in education. Applying the competencies learned from my Ph.D., I pursued ways to improve the learning condition of underserved and English learning students. I designed and trained educators in schools and in state departments across the nation on effective and equitable evaluation practices for diverse populations. I later became a research coordinator for New Mexico Highlands University and ended my career as a grant writer and program evaluator focusing on STEM programs for underserved populations.

I served on the foundation board of NM's Natural History Museum, volunteered as a grant reader for the Albuquerque Community Foundation, and currently volunteer as a historical researcher for the Wheels Museum.

I am a life-long learner, have a serious travel bug, hunger for the taste of world food, and am passionate about family genealogy. I am also an outdoor enthusiast. My favorite activities these days include hiking, cross-country skiing, and powerwalking with my husband Ron Beauchamp. In 2018-2019, I had an experience of a lifetime – reconnecting with Dr. Mari-Luci Jaramillo and co-authoring her childhood memories into a book we entitled, "Sacred Seeds". I owe Mari-Luci for introducing me to the HWC and am now honored to serve on the board. I look forward to carrying out the mission of the HWC with other talented and inspirational Hispanic *comadres*.



Christina Brigance

I am a native New Mexican who grew up in Albuquerque. For my undergraduate degree, I studied both Hotel, Restaurant, Tourism and Spanish at New Mexico State University. Later, I was able to continue my education at the University of New Mexico and received a Master's in Public Health. I am now an Epidemiologist with the New Mexico Department of Health and have a rich career in the area of Maternal Child Health in the data field.

Early in my adulthood I was interested in learning the Spanish language as a way to connect to my heritage and that had been lost in my mother's generation. As an undergraduate student, I was fortunate enough to study abroad in Mexico and then again, after graduation, in Spain.

Outside of my professional life, I enjoy carrying on the traditions of my family and spending as much time as possible in Truchas, NM. I am passionate about helping other women succeed, my two dogs, being outside, flowers in vases and long-distance running.

Petra Sánchez Receives the *Estrella Brillante* Award

The HWC *Estrella Brillante* Award is bestowed on a woman who has given extraordinary service to HWC and has demonstrated excellence, integrity and professionalism. The award was given to **Petra Tovar Sánchez** at the HWC Annual Membership Virtual Meeting held January 31, 2021. Because the event could not be held in person (due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions) an in-person celebration will be enjoyed at a later date. In the meantime, enjoy excerpts from her nomination to learn about her many contributions to HWC. Also, because it's important to document women's lives, a short biography written by Petra and her daughters Verónica, Victória and Mónica Sánchez is published in the following pages.

Excerpts from the *Estrella Brillante* nomination:

“Petra Tovar Sánchez has been a member of HWC for many, many years. She has been very supportive of our enduring organization, including attending events and contributing to our scholarship and mentorship program and other initiatives. Often, we have asked Petra to say a prayer to start off an event, such as the Mother Daughter luncheon, and she always obliges us with a well thought out verse or two. We considered ourselves blessed in more ways than one. Perhaps equally as important a contribution is her keeping us connected to our culture, especially the beautiful Spanish language. Whenever we were not sure of how to say, convey or write something in Spanish, we could call upon Petra to discuss the sense of what we were after and come to an appropriate wording/message for our different projects. In her quiet way, she has been a mentor to several of us and embodies what HWC is all about – empowering Hispanic women. As a matter of fact, her 3 daughters are currently members of HWC and 2 of them, Verónica and Victoria, have been HWC presidents. Petra has always encouraged us at the start of some of our difficult projects, such as the *Mujeres Valerosas* book, the Scholarship & Mentorship Program, the 20th Anniversary celebration or the Masquerade Ball, to name a few. And, Petra has been there to congratulate us for our successes and to give insightful, thoughtful advice when we were uncertain. It is reassuring, when we see her renewed membership each year, that our organization stays intergenerational so that we remain connected to our traditions and culture and that we know our shared past and, so that we may continue to educate our students and younger members in our shared future.”



Above: Petra receives her Estrella Brillante award in her front porch, delivered by Raqui Martínez. Below: A close-up of the pendant. Photos courtesy of Verónica Sánchez.



A Short Biography of Petra Tovar Sánchez

Petra Tovar y Martínez Viuda de Sánchez was born on October 19, 1928, in Dawson, New Mexico* to Mexican immigrant parents, José Higinio Gonzalo Tovar of Irapuato, Guanajuato, and Carmen Martínez of La Barca, Jalisco. The youngest of nine – five brothers, three sisters, and herself – she alone survives in 2021. When Petra was ten, her mother passed away and she would be guided and raised by her older siblings and father.

Education was always important to the Tovar family; Petra remembers her father’s careful review of her report card and the siblings studying together in the warmth of the coal stove. In the second grade she already knew she wanted to become a teacher. As she approached her high school graduation without the means to attend a four-year college, Petra considered the shorter and less expensive course of study to become a hairdresser, as a path to work her way through college to fulfill her dream. As it happened, she was able to attend Highlands University with a scholarship earned in her senior year and augmented by Don Higinio and one of Petra’s brothers. In the fall of 1947, Petra was on her way to NMHU. She worked throughout her college career, primarily in the Registrar’s Office.



Petra Tovar Sanchez poses in front of a painting of Dawson, NM, created by her brother Vidal.*

Petra met Heraclio David Sánchez of Anton Chico, NM, in January 1950. She was completing her bachelor’s degree in three years; he was a WWII veteran, attending college at NMHU under the GI Bill. They were married in April that year. Both became educators, teaching in Colorado and northern New Mexico. Petra taught in Santa Cruz and in Springer at the New Mexico Boys School. In 1956, the couple moved to Bernalillo, NM, where “HD” as her husband was known, was selected as school superintendent.

After HD resigned the Bernalillo superintendency (to pursue a doctorate at UNM), Petra served with the original wave of Head Start teachers during the summer of 1965. Her teaching career in Bernalillo included classrooms in Algodones where she taught 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades in a two-, then three-room schoolhouse, and 2nd grade at Roosevelt Elementary, before the family moved to Albuquerque in July 1969. She recalls bringing into her 2nd grade classroom Head Start principles of experiential education. Her students were treated to field trips to visit nurse-training classes at Bernalillo High School, public servants in their offices, auto technicians in auto shops, and even with a roundtrip airplane ride, from (the former) Albuquerque International Airport to the Santo Domingo School! Petra, throughout her career, was committed to expanding her students’ knowledge about the world around them. She regularly enlisted the community, forming partnerships, and raising money, responding, “Why not?” when she was faced skeptically with the question “Why?”.

Once the family had moved to Albuquerque, Petra taught at Laguna-Taylor Elementary-Middle School for a brief period, followed by substitute teaching. In 1971, she was recruited to start the first kindergarten class at A. Montoya Elementary in Tijeras Canyon - one of an initial 24 kindergarten classes within APS. In 1975 she took the opportunity to become the kindergarten teacher at East San José Elementary, a position she held until her retirement in December 1989. Petra has many joyful, poignant, and colorful stories about her years with kindergarteners. As a teacher she was rooted in the belief that a

familiarity with the community and the student's home life were vital to her ability to "reach" the child. She got to know her students' families through home visits and by inviting them to participate in classroom and field trip activities.

Petra's retirement was initially marked by caregiving. In fact, this had begun before she retired. In 1987, she and HD brought her brother, Vidal, to their home and provided a caring, convalescing home for him. As HD's health began to fail, Petra cared for him as well. HD passed away in May 1994, and Vidal passed away one year later. As the years progressed, Petra's home continued to be open to family in transition. In her early 80s, Petra added community activities. As a Eucharistic Minister with the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center, she carried the Eucharist to the homebound. In the mid-2000s, she joined the Hispanic Women's Council, encouraging its efforts to promote, support, and create opportunities for *Hispanas*. She participated in events organized by the National Hispanic Cultural Center, serving as a docent/volunteer for the Performing Arts Program for several years and, after a break in service, returned for a time to volunteer one Sunday a month in reception at the NHCC Art Museum. In 2018, Petra made her film debut in the role of "Nana" in *Pozole*, a short feature film released in 2019. Subsequently, she filmed with Zoe Saldana, in the yet-to-be-released, *Keyhole Garden*.

At 92 years of age, Petra has many memories and remains engaged and curious. Among treasured memories are family and leisure visits that have enriched her life with travel. She's visited states from California to North Carolina, and seen the sights in New York City, Washington, DC, and Miami. Travels also included Mexico's Copper Canyon, Guanajuato, Jalisco, and Mexico City, as well as a memorable trip in 1965, to Tegucigalpa, Honduras to return with HD (who was finishing a six-month USAID post). Petra also visited Germany and France in 1980. Throughout, home life has been full of family activity, including extended family and many friends.

All aspects of the lives of her six children continue to interest her – their families, their work, and avocations. She has six grandsons, five great-granddaughters, and one great-grandson. She's embraced technology, which has allowed her to keep up with her former kindergarteners and her Dawson community on Facebook; she's even taking and emailing photos with her iPad. Petra also continues to correspond with several contemporaries from Highlands and from her teaching career. On most days you will find her listening to Pandora or KANW, and singing along with José Alfredo Jiménez or Chavela Vargas, among many others. Petra is also still baking bread, making tortillas, and preparing desserts – this last, her primary consideration in any meal planning!

*Dawson was a Phelps Dodge coal mining town located in Colfax County, roughly situated between Raton and Cimarron in northeastern New Mexico. Dawson was definitively closed, and all buildings razed in 1950. Only the cemetery, listed with the National Register of Historic Places, remains.

Petra enjoying her decorated tree, December 2020. The "mantón" she is wearing is from an HWC silent auction...she had the winning bid!





Meet Dr. Josie López

Dr. Josie López is Curator of Art at the Albuquerque Museum. She is native to Albuquerque and grew up in the South Valley. She attended Brown University where she completed a BA in History and a Masters in Teaching. She then completed her Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley.

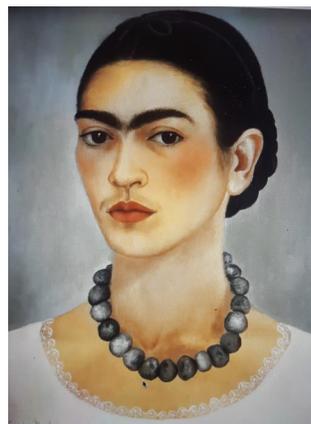
On April 11, 2021, HWC hosted Dr. López for a virtual talk titled “The Universal and the Specific in Mexican Modernism. It was based on the Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, & Mexican Modernism Exhibition she curated at the Albuquerque Museum (on exhibit February 6—May 2, 2021). Attendees received an enlightening lesson on Mexican Modernism, the artistic movement that flourished in Mexico in the early 1920s. The art of this period reflected Mexican culture and heritage and honored the country’s working and agrarian classes. Using select images Dr. López showed how murals became prominent, especially those of “los tres grandes”: Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Siqueiros. Paintings by Frieda Kahlo, and photographs of her, were highlighted (see below). Also mentioned was the Mexican painter Maria Izquierdo, who was more popular than Khalo, at the time, and was the first Mexican woman to have her artwork exhibited in the United States.

Dr. Lopez has been the Curator at the Albuquerque Museum since 2018 and oversees the museum’s collections and the permanent exhibition “Common Ground: Art in New Mexico.” We are honored to know her (she’s our *comadre* now) and look forward to enjoying all her future exhibits.

PS: in June 2021, Dr. Josie Lopez was promoted to Head Curator at the Albuquerque Museum overseeing all curators, collections, and acquisitions. !Felicitaciones!



By photographer Nickolas Muray



Kahlo
Self Portrait



Maria Izquierdo

Mother-Daughter Virtual Event/Barret Foundation Fundraiser



For a second time, the pandemic required that our annual event be virtual instead of in-person. The planning committee (Marissa Elias, Christina Brigance, Raqui Martinez, Vangie Samora) arranged for a virtual cooking class that allowed attendees to cook a meal together, but in their own kitchens. Plus, they were joined in their kitchen by family and friends. Fallon Bader, owner of The Sprouting Kitchen, led us through the steps of creating a delicious green Thai curry dish. Some attendees prepared their meal in real time, others observed, then cooked the dish after the zoom session concluded. The consensus: the recipe made for a delicious meal and most of us learned to cook a Thai dish for the first time.

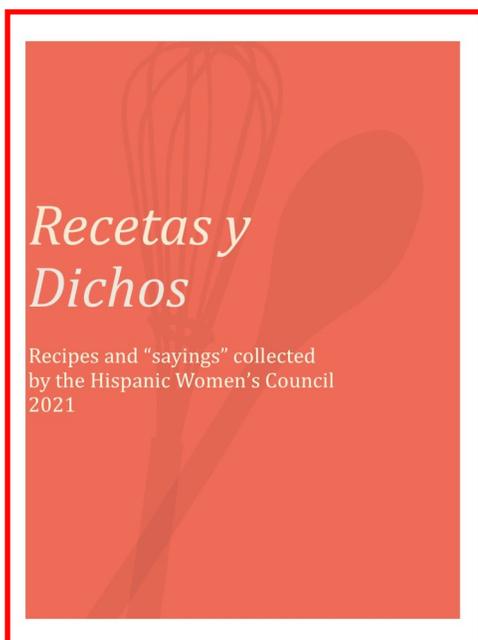
In tandem with the Mother-Daughter Event, the HWC Board approved a fundraiser to benefit the **Barret Foundation, Inc.**, an Albuquerque non-profit that has been serving the needs of homeless women and children in our community since 1985. HWC members were invited to make a donation and to invite their family, friends and colleagues to do the same. So many generous donations came in that a total of **\$1,535 was raised!** HWC President Marissa Elias sent out this message: "A check was delivered to the Barrett Foundation recently and their staff wanted us to share with all of you how happy and grateful they are. On behalf of the Hispanic Women's Council Board of Directors and the fundraiser committee, we sincerely thank you for your contributions. I am inspired by your enthusiasm and generosity. Thank you for joining us in supporting this wonderful organization that serves our community!"

There is one more piece to this dynamic project: the cookbook, **Recetas y Dichos**. Again, HWC members were called upon to submit their favorite recipes and *dichos*, and again they responded with enthusiasm. Vangie



Raqui Martinez & Marissa Elias present a check to the staff of Barrett Foundation

Samora collected and edited the submissions and created a price-less cookbook of vintage New Mexican dishes passed down generations, along side favorite staples we grew up eating or recipes we have tweaked to perfection for a healthier version. The cookbook was gifted to all who donated to the fundraiser "as a token of our appreciation." A special thanks to all the women who submitted recipes and/or *dichos*:



Petra Tovar Vda. De Sanchez
Dr. Viola Florez
Elsie Samora Sanchez
Theresa Cardenas
Dr. Merrilee Foreman
Nicole Florez
Clara Apodaca
Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Raqui Martinez

Judith M. Espinosa
Dr. Cecilia Navarrete
Rose Lopez
Carol Vigil
Vangie Samora
Carmen M. Rodriguez
Dr. Carmen Samora
Veronica Sanchez



Science as Art and My Journey Towards Finding a Cure for Cancer

**A Presentation by Rita Serda, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine
University of New Mexico**

Article by Dr. Cecilia Navarrete

The HWC was honored with a virtual presentation by Dr. Rita Elena Serda on Sunday, June 13, 2021. She started her presentation, *Science as Art and My Journey Towards Finding a Cure for Cancer*, with stories of her life influencers (as she called them) including the lessons learned from her Mexican family on the importance of kindness, hard work and support of others. Early in her life, Dr. Serda was intrigued with photography and capturing images, which would later become an instrumental part of her career.

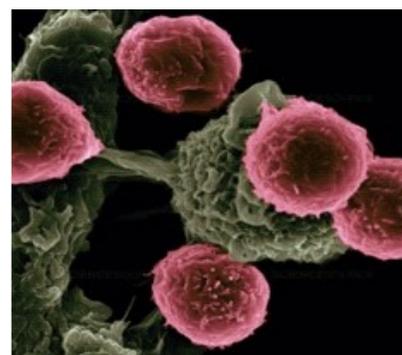
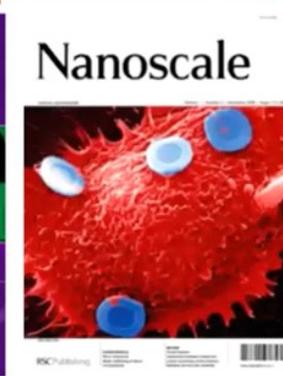
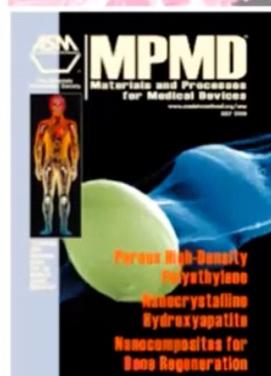
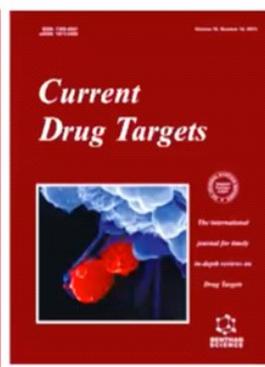
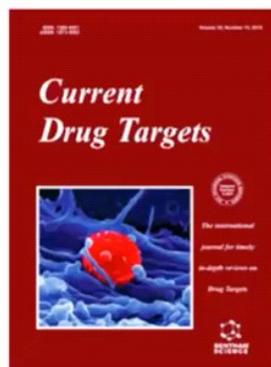
Dr. Serda shared that she followed the traditional path of going to college after she graduated from Sandia High School in Albuquerque. She acquired a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in chemistry at UNM and later a master's degree in chemistry from NMSU. Dr. Serda found work in chemistry research but was not happy with this career choice. She then went to work with private companies across the country but eventually circled back to Albuquerque and found a position available at the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center. This is where she encountered researchers and a mentor that would become like family and future collaborators.

It was at the Cancer Center that Dr. Serda learned how to take photos of cells and nano particles. She was hooked with the nano world of research and went on to pursue a Ph.D. in biomedical science. Dr. Serda completed her degree at 42 years of age and finally knew what she wanted to do in her career. Without hesitating, Dr. Serda contacted the top researcher in nanomedicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center for a post doc. He was impressed by her fortitude and offered her the job. She later followed her mentor at the Houston Medical Center where she co-chaired the Department of Nanomedicine and directed the Methodist Academy to train students and share innovations at the Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico and Swansea University, United Kingdom.

Years later, Dr. Serda returned again to UNM's Comprehensive Cancer Center to work primarily in internal medicine. She applied what she learned in nanotechnology to create a therapeutic vaccine for destroying ovarian cancer. Her treatment consisted of loading nano or micro silicon particles with cancer fighting drugs and delivering it directly to the tumor site. Dr. Serda has now established a start-up company called Enchantment Pharmaceuticals to begin human trials and to participate with other venture companies to apply her cancer treatment.

As part of her journey into nanomedicine, Dr. Serda learned about the use of electron micrograph for taking photos of very small images. She was inspired to use the same process on her research and also enhanced the images by using Photoshop to create bright contrasts. Dr. Serda soon

found herself winning many awards and publications for her images from groups such as National Geographic, National Institutes for Health, National Cancer Institute, U.S. Postal Service Stamp, and the Washington Post. Her creativity with microelectron images lead to many invitations to submit her work for the cover of science journals. Once published the images were placed in the public domain and are currently being used by other scientists. Here is a selection of journal covers featuring her images and the postage stamp.



Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar

MEET AND GREET the Scholarship Recipients, September 15

Masquerade Ball Alternative Fundraiser, October 17

Holiday Party, December 5

2021 HWC Membership

Clara Apodaca, Former First Lady of New Mexico	Karla Barela Lucero, Advance Planning Consultant, FRENCH Funerals	Mónica Sánchez Theater Faculty, Colorado College actress/director/producer/playwright
Valerie J. Borrego, CPA	Josephine Martínez Retired FAA	Petra Sánchez Retired Educator
Theresa Cárdenas Strategic Civic Engagement and Policy Manager New Mexico First	Nicole Martinez	Dr. Shelle V. Sanchez, Director of Cultural Services, City of Abq.
Sonya K. Chávez, U. S. Marshal U. S. Marshals Service	Linda López McAlister, Founding Artistic Director, Camino Real Productions, LLC	Verónica T. Sánchez Retired UNM Administrator
Gloria Chávez-Sampson	Latania Mar	Donna Sandoval
Yolanda Cruz	Maria Meier	Loretta Sandoval
Dr. Rose Díaz, Library and Archives Research Historian, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center	Helen Metzner	Mary Frances Santistevan Retired, APS
Bonnie Escobar	Paula Metzner	MaryAnn Shore
Judith M. Espinosa, Former NM Cabinet Secretary	Gloria Mirabal Member, MANA del Norte	Sue Stone, Lecturer, UNM College of Population Health
Elena Flórez, Student	Dr. Florencia Monge UNM School of Medicine	Dr. Diane Torres-Velasquez Associate Professor, UNM
Dr. Viola E. Flórez Professor Emeritus, UNM COE	Kathryn Ramsey, Assistant Principal Mountain View Elementary, APS	Kim Trujillo, Costume Designer New Mexico Film
Dr. Merrilee Foreman, Owner Chiropractic Lifestyle Center	Carmen M. Rodríguez, President Carmen Cares Consulting	Mary Lou Trujillo, Retired Public Health Administrator
Barbara Gallegos	Dominique Rodríguez, Student Cibola High School	Rachel A. Valenzuela
Margaret Gonzales Senior Operations Manager UNM Graduate Studies	Louella Rodríguez Retired Educator	Sylvia Vigil-Raines, Program Communications Specialist Sandia National Labs
Tanya Gonzales, Paralegal, Law Offices of the Public Defender	Melissa Rodríguez, 5th Grade Teacher, Petroglyph Elementary	
Samia Hindi, Educator	Brittney Sánchez, HWC Scholarship Recipient, MA Public Health	
Dr. Parisa Kermani Northwestern Memorial Hospital	Elsie Sánchez Small Business Consultant	
Lucia Lopez		
Rose López, Retired		