



## 2021 Emerge Latino Virtual Conference Agenda February 16-18th, 2021

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### Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM to 6:30 PM EST

#### **Virtual Opening Reception**

***Speakers:** Andres Rodriguez, Vice-President for Young Adults, LULAC National; Domingo Garcia, President, LULAC National; Sindy M. Benavides, Chief Executive Officer, LULAC; U.S. Representative Sylvia Garcia, D-TX 29th District; U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, D-CA; U.S. Representative Nanette Diaz Barragán, D-CA 44th District; Jasmin Chavez, LULAC Deputy Director for Virginia; Corina Alegria, Interim Texas Deputy Director for Young Adults; Melissa Cossio, LULAC National Education Coordinator; Sandra Caraveo, LULAC National Programs Manager*

6:30 PM to 7:15 PM EST

#### **Panel Discussion: Breaking Into the Professional World**

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the workforce landscape dramatically in the last year. As we learn to adjust, we now face new obstacles in job hunting and navigating how to break into the workforce for recent grads and young professional adults. In this session, you will have the opportunity to listen to best practices and tips from higher education academic advisors, public and private sector professionals on how to market yourself, networking strategies, tips for navigating virtual meetings, and about in-demand careers those entering the workforce during this time.

***Speakers:** Lorena McElwain, Former Assistant Deputy Secretary, Office of English Language Acquisition, US Department of Education; Emilia Gutierrez, Politics & Government Manager, Facebook; Doris Alcivar, Assistant Director, Employer Relations UCF Career Services*

***Moderator:** Andres Rodriguez, LULAC National Vice-President for Young Adults*

7:20 PM to 8:00 PM EST

**Virtual Hill Visits 101: How to walk in and make your voice heard**

Without your help, your member of Congress may not realize how to best support the Latinx community needs such as supporting jobs, engaging kids in school, and changing lives in your district. You have the power to educate them about the importance of issues in your community and to engage them on important issues on Capitol Hill. We want to make it easy for you to take action, build relationships with your representative's office, and highlight the advocacy work you are doing in your community.

**Speakers:** *Vanessa Cárdenas, Sr. Advisor, LULAC National Office*

**Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 PM to 3:30 PM EST

State of Latino America

1:00 PM to 1:55 PM EST

**State of Latino America Welcome**

**Speakers:** *David Cruz, Communications Director, LULAC; Domingo Garcia, President, LULAC National; Cindy M. Benavides, Chief Executive Officer, LULAC; U.S. Representative Ritchie Torres, (D-NY)*

**Fulfilling a Progressive Vision for America**

On the heels of a historic election where latino voters turned out in unprecedented numbers, it is our time to push through a bold progressive agenda that brings relief to the challenges our communities face. Join us in conversation with national leaders to hear about the outlook for progress on key issues important to the Latino community.

**Speakers:** *Jamie Margolin, Founder, Zero Hour; Teresa Romero, Executive Director, United Farm Workers; Mariaelena Hincapié, Executive Director, National Immigration Law Center; Marcella Nunez-Smith, Chair of the Biden-Harris COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force*

**Moderator:** *Sindy M. Benavides, Chief Executive Officer, LULAC*

2:00 PM to 2:05 PM EST

**Remarks by DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas (TBD)**

2:05 PM to 2:45 PM EST

**Breakout Sessions**

**Education in the Time of COVID-19**

COVID 19 has had a debilitating impact on our students' education, further widening the achievement gaps between students of color and their counterparts. In this session, we will discuss the action we need from the Biden administration and our Congressional leaders to immediately address these gaps.

**Speakers:** Steven Almazan, K12 Education Program Analyst, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; David Hinojosa, Director of Educational Opportunities Project, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Melissa Lazarín, Senior Advisor for K-12 Policy, Migration Policy Institute

**Moderator:** Candelario Cervantez, National Senior Managing Director, Teach For America

### **Is Immigration Reform Finally Attainable?**

After decades of fighting for meaningful relief for the 11 million undocumented immigrants, we now have the best opportunity to realize the dream of immigration reform. Democrats are in control of Congress, and advocates have the opportunity to push through a generous legislative package. In this session, you will learn about what you can do to help make legalization a reality.

**Speakers:** Monica Sarmiento, Executive Director, VA Immigrant Rights Coalition; Darcy Gallego, Legislative Associate, Immigration Hub; Claudia Flores, Immigration Campaign Manager, Center for American Progress

**Moderator:** Vanessa Cárdenas, LULAC Senior Advisor

### **The Impact of COVID-19 and Efforts to Vaccinate Our Communities**

COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on communities of color, and Latinos have been hit particularly hard. In this session you will hear from leading medical professionals who will dispel myths about the vaccine, and from advocates who are working to ensure communities of color receive the relief they desperately need to recover from the pandemic's impact.

**Speakers:** Melissa L. Pluguez-Moldavskiy, DNP, FNP-BC, AGACNP-BC, National Association of Hispanic Nurses; Dr. Ilan Shapiro, Co-Chair of Southern California chapter, National Hispanic Medical Association; Aracely Panameño, Director of Latino Affairs, Center for Responsible Lending; Rodolpho Galindo, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Emory University

**Moderator:** David Cruz, Communications Director, LULAC

### **The Time is Now for Environmental Justice**

The impacts of climate change, pollution, and environmental degradation continue to harm, displace, and create instability in our communities. Now with a Senate and House in Democratic hands and the Biden-Harris Administration, there is an opportunity to go bold on legislation on climate and environmental justice issues. This panel will provide an update on opportunities for community leaders to engage in advocacy efforts.

**Speakers:** *José T. Bravo, Executive Director, Just Transition Alliance; Esther Sosa, Project Manager, Environmental Defense Fund; Felipe Benítez, Executive Director, Corazón Latino*

**Moderator:** *Cintia Ortiz, LULAC Environmental Justice Fellow, LULAC*

### **Ensuring Broadband Access to the Latinx Community**

Latinx communities continue facing real barriers that hinder their access to broadband technology, particularly in rural communities. Internet access is essential for finding resources, economic opportunities, and information during the COVID-19 pandemic. This panel will discuss the importance of driving solutions to ensure our communities have access to high speed internet access.

**Speakers:** *Laura Berrocal, Vice President of Policy and External Affairs, Charter Communications; Joanna Diaz Soffer, Senior Manager of Government & External Affairs, T-Mobile; Jessica J. González, Co-CEO, Free Press; Jackie Puente, Executive Director for External Affairs, Comcast Corporations*

**Moderator:** *Alejandro Roark, Executive Director, Hispanic Technology & Telecommunications Partnership (HTTP)*

3:00 PM to 3:20 PM EST

### **Policy Fireside Chat with the Federal Communications Committee**

**Speakers:** *Jessica Rosenworcel, Acting Chairwoman, Federal Communications Committee; Cindy M. Benavides, Chief Executive Officer, LULAC*

7:30PM to 9:15 PM EST

### **24th Annual LULAC National Legislative Awards Gala (VIRTUAL)**

**Thursday February 18<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST

### **Virtual Congressional Hill Visits**

2:15 PM - 3:10 PM EST

### **A Time for Change - An Insight on Running for Public Office**

Have you ever thought about running for public office? As we see a surge in new candidates running for office for the first time we are faced with learning how to connect to potential constituents, align messaging and forming your platform, and maximizing your fundraising efforts. Our panelists will share their personal experiences on running for office and

best practices in connecting with your audience, understand your story and see how your story connects with fundraising, field, and digital tactics for your campaign.

**Speakers:** *Joél-Léhi Organista, LULAC National Vice President for Youth; Estefany Castañeda, Board Clerk Centinela Valley Union School Board*

**Moderator:** *Andres Rodriguez, Vice-President for Young Adults, LULAC National*

3:10 PM - 3:30 PM EST

**Where Do We Go From Here?**

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM EST

**Virtual Closing Reception**

**Speakers:** *LULAC National Vice President for Youth; Andres Rodriguez, Vice-President for Young Adults, LULAC National; U.S. Representative Jesús “Chuy” Garcia, D-IL 4th District; Joél-Léhi Organista, LULAC National Vice President for Youth; Dr. Alan Curtis, President, The Eisenhower Foundation; Jasmine Morales, LULAC Women’s Empowerment Council; Laurie Rubiner, Executive Vice President, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids*

**Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>**

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM EST

**Young Adults Service Project (Virtual)**

***\*Times Subject to Change. All events will be virtual.***