

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

CENTER FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN AND LATINO/A STUDIES



Center for Mexican
American and Latino/a Studies

College of Liberal Arts
and Social Sciences

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ABOUT CMALS - UH

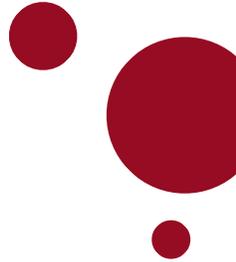
THE CENTER FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES AND LATINO/A STUDIES (CMALS) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1972 AS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY ACADEMIC PROGRAM ENCOMPASSING THE LIBERAL ARTS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCES FOCUSING ON THE MEXICAN AMERICAN AND BROADER LATINO EXPERIENCE IN THE U.S.

Located within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, CMALS has evolved into an academic unit with several major components: teaching, research and publications, recruitment and retention, leadership training, academic advising and community service.

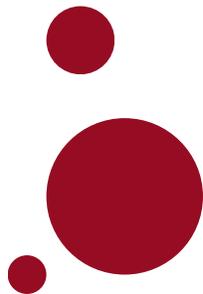




MISSION



To advance knowledge, promote critical thinking and foster the value of service to the community. This involves designing a broad spectrum of public and scholarly programs.



MESSAGE FROM CMALS DIRECTOR



The 2022-2023 academic year marked the 50th anniversary of the Center for Mexican American Studies and the change of our Center's name to more adequately reflect the growing diversity of our Latino population at the University and in Houston. The 50th anniversary of CMALS has been a special year for several reasons. We ushered in our new major in Mexican American and Latino Studies. We had the honor of hosting our annual luncheon, with special guest speaker and 2022 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Dr Juliet Garcia, who also happens to be a UH alumnus.

We also had the opportunity to honor the four persons whose efforts have made CMALS and the Academic She also stated that “when you raise the aspirations of an individual, in essence you are bending upward the curve of that person's achievement for the rest of his or her life.”

It is no exaggeration to say that our honorees positively impacted the lives of many Latino students. CMALS also engaged its fourth year as the headquarters of the country's oldest Latino research consortium, the Inter University Program on Latino Research. Because of the pandemic we have placed our emphasis on supporting research collaboratives, creating a professional development video library that features some of our IUPLR experts, and disseminating information of value to our membership. We also spent the year putting together a virtual program of successful cultural workers across the country who will be featured for IUPLR and the nation in 2023.

Perhaps our greatest research accomplishment this past year was the completion of a three-year research project, Latino cARTographies, the country's first portable, bilingual, and interactive digital board that maps the Latino visual artists of Houston and the contributions of Latino communities to Houston and the nation. Our unveiling of this visual digital archive and public knowledge tool also included an immersive program of Houston's Latino artists and arts organizations.

Sincerely,

Pamela Anne Quiroz

Director for the Center for Mexican
American and Latino/a Studies

MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



As a UH Alumnus and Associate Director for The Center for Mexican American and Latino/a Studies (CMALS), I am honored to be a part of the ongoing progress towards the continuing education for our students and our community.

The 2022-2023 academic year brought in new and exciting opportunities for CMALS.

As we begin to recruit for our MALS Major, we want to continue to strengthen the relationships with other departments in the university. The Latino cARTographies project has increased its visibility in the community and amplifies the representation of Latino/a artists of Houston and its surrounding areas. We are also working on expanding to give scholarships to graduate students in all fields that are interested in Latino/a studies and culture.

As we move forward, our goal continues to help our students achieve their academic aspirations and create a network of supportive advocates that will pave the way for the future.

Sincerely,

Marisela Martinez

Associate Director

MESSAGE FROM AAP PROGRAM DIRECTOR



As the Program Director of the Academic Achievers Program, I am delighted to present our comprehensive Year-End Report for the academic year 2022-2023. This report represents the culmination of our collective efforts as the AAP staff, students, and community members worked together to advance our mission of promoting academic excellence among Mexican American and Latino/a students.

Throughout the year, we organized numerous activities, including workshops, seminars, and educational events, all aimed at engaging and empowering our students. We are proud to report that our efforts have yielded significant results, with a remarkable improvement in the academic performance of our students.

Our report proudly highlights our most notable achievements, including the successful revitalization of the Academic Achievers Program at Stephen F. Austin Senior High School. Moreover, we have significantly strengthened our partnership with the Greater Houston Area and its surrounding regions by fostering a robust academic community committed to recruiting underrepresented students and ensuring their retention to graduation.

We are grateful for the unwavering support of our staff, students, and community members, and we look forward to continuing our mission of promoting academic excellence.

Sincerely,

Fely Aguilar

AAP PROGRAM DIRECTOR I

OUR TEAM



● **C**MALS DIRECTOR
Dr. Pamela Anne Quiroz



● **A**ssociate Director
Dr. Marisela Martinez



● **A**rts Program Director
Dr. Valentina Jager

OUR TEAM



● **A**AP Director
Fely Aguilera



● **P**ROGRAM MANAGER II
EDDIE MUÑOZ III



● **C**ommunications Intern
Mayra Garcia

OUR TEAM



● **F**inancial Coordinator
Vanesa Luna



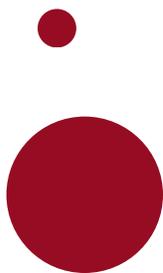
● **B**usiness Administrator
Jessica Y. Thiam



Strategic Focus

Goals and Objectives

OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS INVOLVES (1) RESEARCH; (2) ACADEMICS; (3) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; AND (4) SERVING AS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH CONSORTIUM, THE INTER UNIVERSITY PROGRAM ON LATINO RESEARCH [2018-2024].

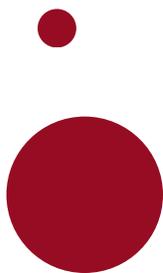




Academics

Major, Minor, Academic Achievers Program

CMALS WAS ORIGINALLY FORMED TO PROVIDE ACADEMIC SUPPORT TO STUDENTS. THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS PROGRAM HAS BEEN IN PLACE FOR THIRTY YEARS AND HAS RECEIVED NATIONAL RECOGNITION AND STATE LEVEL RECOGNITION (E.G., TEXAS STAR AWARD). CMALS HAS ALSO PROVIDED A MINOR IN MEXICAN AMERICAN AND LATINO/A STUDIES AND IN 2022, CMALS BEGAN IMPLEMENTING ITS NEWLY APPROVED AND APPLIED MAJOR IN MEXICAN AMERICAN AND LATINO/A STUDIES.



Academics

Major, Minor, Academic Achievers Program

2023-2024

Mexican American & Latino/a Applied Studies



Enterprise Applications

Designed for students who want to pursue a career in the business world & take advantage of opportunities offered by the region's multicultural economy.



Quantitative Methods & Public Policy

Designed for students who want to pursue a career in government or non-profits with a focus on Data Analysis and Public Policy



Latino/a Cultural Studies

Designed for students who want to pursue a career in the humanities, communications, or social sciences, particularly History, Spanish, Sociology, and Latino/a Studies

**Major in Mexican
American and Latino/a
Studies**
9 students

**Minor in Mexican
American and Latino/a
Studies**
32 students

ABOUT AAP - UH



The Center for Mexican American and Latino/a Studies (CMALS) at the University of Houston was established in 1972 as an interdisciplinary academic program encompassing the liberal arts, education and social science focusing on the Mexican American and broader Latino experience in the U.S. Its mission is to advance knowledge, promote critical thinking and foster the value designing a broad spectrum of public and scholarly programs. Located within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Science, CMALS has evolved into an academic unit with several major components: teaching, research and publications, recruitment and retention, leadership training, academic advising and community service



ABOUT AAP - AUSTIN



The Academic Achievers Program is sponsored by the Center for Mexican American and Latino/a Studies at the University of Houston in partnership with Stephen F. Austin High School. It was established in 1985 to help students achieve excellent academic standing, high school graduation, and college enrollment.

MISSION

The Academic Achievers Program (AAP) was established in 1994. The mission of the AAP at the University of Houston is to recruit underrepresented students and increase retention to graduation through research-based practices.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

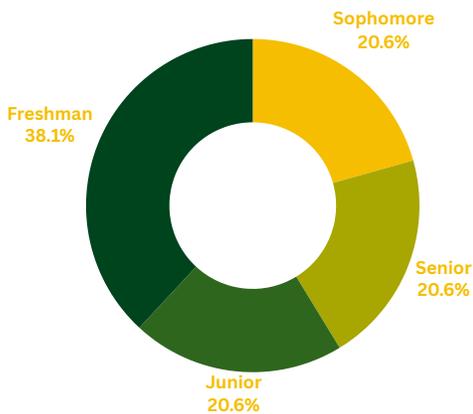
The Academic Achievers Program (AAP) sponsored by the Center for Mexican American & Latino/a Studies, Office of the President, and Office of the Provost began in the fall of 1994. It is designed to retain students through graduation. Since its inception, a total of **321 students** have graduated from the program. Services offered by the program include:

At a Glance

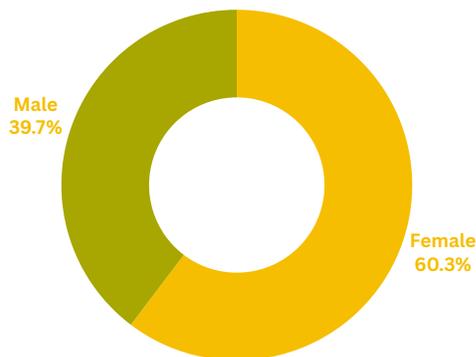
- \$4,000 Annual Scholarship
- Mandatory Individual Academic Tutoring
- Time Management Skills Session
- Skills Workshop and Leadership Training
- Career and Internship Opportunities
- Priority Registration

63
Students

Classification Breakdown

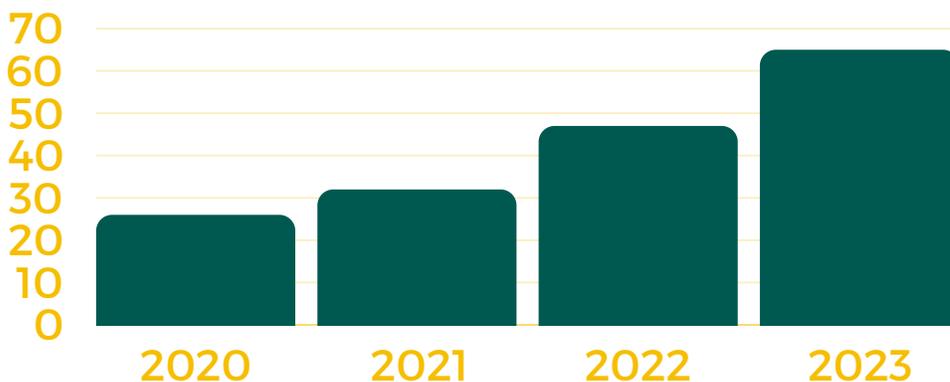


Gender Breakdown



Cumulative GPA

3.19



150%
Increase in
Student Retention

AAP-Internship



SUMMER 2022



“

During the Fiscal Year of 2023, the Capital manufacturing area of Fort Worth site produced 335 Nonconformance Measure Reports (NCMR), having an estimated spending of \$167,500. Fort Worth site goal was to positively contribute to NCMR metric goals for the end of the year by reducing Fiscal Year 2023 NCMRs by at least 15% in addition to saving engineering/tech and operators labor time processing NCMRs. By effectively measuring, evaluating, and analyzing NCMR's root cause, becoming knowledgeable in the Capital manufacturing process, and communicating with manufacturing and quality engineers, I was able to reduce the number of nonconformance material reports by approximately 33% and saved the Fort Worth site about \$65,500 without negatively affecting production quality and manufacturing lead time. In addition, I helped an engineer by conducting testing on manufacturing oil fill equipment to identify, characterize, evaluate, and qualify process parameters using Minitab DOE studies and process development capability tests to generate a process development report and participate in IQ, OQ, and PQ reports.

Michel Mascorro | Mechanical Engineering Major | Senior

Internship

SUMMER 2022



“

As a Supply Chain Management student interning with Sysco Foods I have learned so much from being on the operations side of everything and learning the backbone to this globally enormous company. Sysco has taught me that there is way more to supply chain than I thought. I learned every single function while interning at Sysco, from when we order our products, to when we store them and strategically slot each item to its unique spot, to making sure we compose our order correctly and to finally shipping our products out to finally have them serve our customer.

Jose Medina | Supply Chain Management Major | Junior

Internship



SUMMER 2022



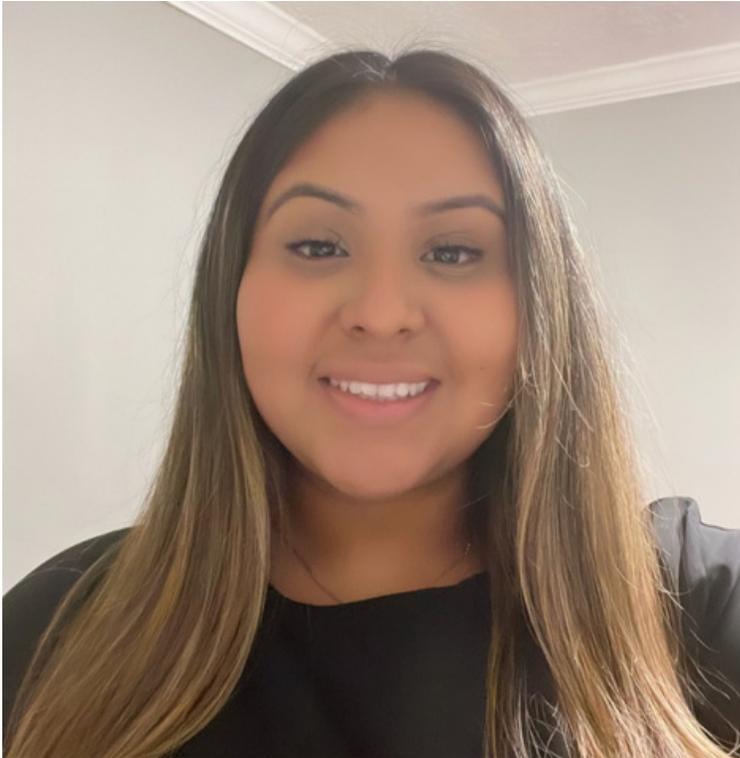
“

During a comprehensive 10-week rotational program at Sysco, I engaged with diverse departments, starting with sales and extending to operations. Throughout the internship, I successfully concluded a significant sales project. Collaborating with two fellow interns, we gathered valuable insights to improve the structure and foster a more favorable work environment for Sales employees, leaving a lasting impact on the organization.

Yoali Perezenergon | Supply Chain Management Major | Junior

Internship

SUMMER 2022



“

During my logistic internship, I delved into the intricacies of routing and day-to-day operations within the field. Each day presented a new learning opportunity, contributing to my continuous growth. The experience allowed me to interact with remarkable individuals, gaining valuable insights and knowledge from their wealth of experience. This internship has been a dynamic journey of discovery and professional development.

Stephanie Zuniga | Supply Chain Management Major | Senior

Internship

SUMMER 2022



“

During my Lamons Manufacturing & Co. internship, I was pivotal in lightening the engineering team's workload. My immediate responsibility involved crafting customized AutoCAD drawings for gaskets specifically designed to meet the requirements of significant oil and gas companies.

Hugo Gonzalez | Mechanical Engineering Major | Junior

IUPLR MELLON DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP

For the past six years, CMALS has been in charge of recruitment, selection, and funding of the UH IUPLR Mellon Dissertation Fellow. The 2022-2023 IUPLR Fellow is Alison Saenz.

The fellow receives full financial support, peer networking and faculty mentoring.

For the past three years, CMALS has been responsible for recruitment and selection of the Crossing Latinidades Pre-Dissertation Fellow.



CROSSING LATINIDADES PRE-DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP

The 2022-2023 Fellow is Javier Franco. The fellow receives full financial support, peer networking, faculty mentoring and research opportunities with a funded research project in the Consortium.



RESEARCH

Latino cARTographies

Mapping the Past, Present and Future of Houston Latino Art



This portable, bilingual, and interactive digital artscape is a community-centered permanent tribute to the artistic and cultural contributions of Houston's Latino artists, Latino arts organizations, and the Latino communities they serve. The board, funded by the University of Houston, is the result of a three-year collaboration led by Dr. Quiroz, with the curatorial leadership of former vice president of the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago, Juana Guzmán, the CMALS Research Team, and the International Gibson Group. As a permanent yet dynamic visual archive, Latino cARTographies is designed to educate and engage the public.

To date, Latino cARTographies has mapped 233 artists, 2,500 images, 7 Latino communities, 80 landmarks, 17 arts organizations, and other sites of importance to Houston's Latino communities.

In 2022, CMALS received a \$500,000 gift from Houston Endowment to expand the digital board.

CMALS FELLOWS



Representing a diverse group of research assistants who have been a critical part of the creation of the digital board.



Karen Henriquez

Born in El Salvador and a first-generation college student, Karen is currently in her second year of graduate school in the Department of Sociology at the University of Houston. Her research is focusing in Latinas providing hospice and end-of-life care in the United States.

David Guevera

Currently a Latino graduate student in Sociology, David's research interests involves investigating social phenomena within Latino populations in America that are creating social stratification and how to solve those problems.



CMALS FELLOWS



Representing a diverse group of research assistants who have been a critical part of the creation of the digital board.



Pablo A. Lopez

Ecuadorian physicist currently pursuing a PhD in Quantum Physics. Pablo has a strong record of modeling real-world systems using a combination of experimental, theoretical, and computational tools. His current research interests are centered around quantum simulations, optimization, communications, quantum computing education, and modeling complex systems using machine learning algorithms.

Iran Castillo

A Master's student at the University of Houston enrolled in the Sociology graduate program. Iran obtained her Bachelor's degree in sociology at the University of North Texas and as a first generation Mexican-American, she aims to inspire and uplift those in her community.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A third component of CMALS is Community Engagement. The Center has a long history of serving the Houston Latino community. In addition to the community service performed by our students, in 2022-2023 CMALS hosted the Latin American Women Artists of Houston.

Salon CMALS de Cultura presents Latin American Women Artists of Houston



Tatiana Escallon COLOMBIA



Lorena Fernandez VENEZUELA



Lorena Morales VENEZUELA



Rosibel Ramirez VENEZUELA



Yolanda Velazquez COLOMBIA



Rosalinda Toro COLOMBIA



Moderated by Juana Guzman, a national arts strategist and former Vice President of the National Museum of Mexican Art. The Salon will be a conversation with six internationally known Latin-American women artists based in Houston. They will share their artistic vision, insights, journeys, best practices and lessons learned. Join us for an enjoyable evening about the artistic life. Space is limited, please reserve your spot.

Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, February 22nd
5:30pm to 6:30pm Reception
6:30pm to 8:00pm Presentation
7:30pm to 8pm Q & A Session

Location:

Institute of Hispanic Culture of Houston
3315 Sul Ross Street, Houston, Texas

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Sponsored by the Joseph S. Werlin Sociology Faculty Award to Promote Latin American-U.S. Cultural Understanding Endowment and by the Center for Mexican American and Latino/a Studies at University of Houston.

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON
CENTER for MEXICAN AMERICAN
and LATINO/A STUDIES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In spring of 2023, CMALS provided the city's first Latino artist immersive program free to the public. During the first two weeks of April, the 45 minute Immersive Program was presented eight times free to the public at the Houston Scottish Rites facility. The estimated number of attendees [using EventBrite] was 1600.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Latino cARTographies was also exhibited to the public at the following venues upon request:

Location	Date	Time frame
Art in the Heart Grand Opening	May 28 th , 2022	1 day
Slalom	September 15 th , 2022	
Houston Scottish Rite – Unveiling*	September 29 th 2022	1 day
Mayor’s Hispanic Advisory Board	October 26 th , 2022	1 day
The Heritage Society	October 29 th 2022	1 day
Alley Theater	November 30 th 2022 – January 11 th 2023	43 days
Debbie Harwell’s Class	March 6, 2023	1 day
Houston Scottish Rite for Latino cARTographies Immersive*	April 1, April 2, April 8, and April 9, 2023	4 days
Public Interest Communications Event at the Hilton Shamrock Ballroom	June 13 th , 2023	1 day
8th Annual Statewide Summit on Mexican American Studies at Lone Star College-Houston North Fallbrook	June 24, 2023	1 day
The Heritage Society	September 11 – September 25 th	14 days
Ion Houston* (OmniSpace360 featured segments of immersive October 13 th)	October 11 – November 16 th , 2023	36 days

*Features Immersive

Latino cARTographies

Mapping the Past, Present and Future of Houston Latino Art

IUPLR HEADQUARTERS

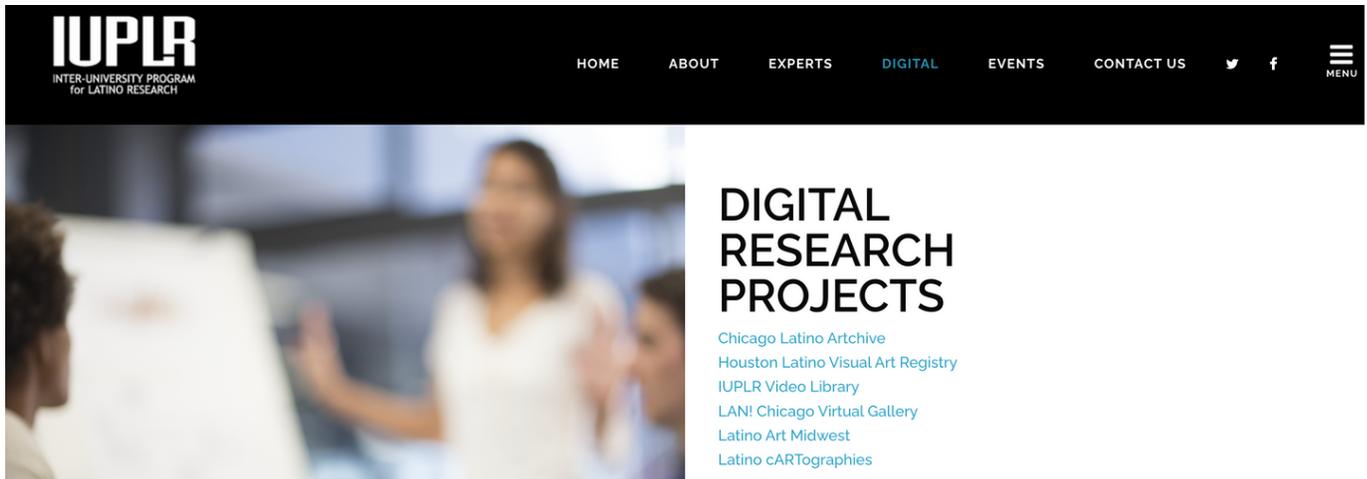
IUPLR: Research in Pursuit of Social Justice



“
A professor of mine once argued that the greatest enemy of academic freedom in the university is the norms that exist about what kinds of questions and issues may be raised and what kinds of questions may not be raised. As scholars we often hesitate to raise issues that might lead to eliciting disapproval, not only from university administrators but also from colleagues who we see regularly or whose regard we seek in our disciplines. Consequently, we often end up discussing matters of social justice only in “safe” environments such as academic conferences.

However, our colleague and former President of the American Sociological Association, Mary Romero points out that in this time of increasing social inequality we must embrace scholarship that challenges social injustice. The normalization of racism, nationalism and xenophobia demands we reexamine objectivity and detachment in research and its contribution to reinforcing status hierarchies and inequalities.

The mission of the IUPLR is to advance the intellectual presence of Latinos in the United States. It is also focused on addressing the issues that impact our Latino communities and our country. In the past few years we have seen numerous attacks on Latino communities — immigrants and citizens, adults and children. The dilemma of citizenship has arisen even in the military as veterans are being deported. And when we are not being featured as criminals and invaders, we are all but invisible in the media. The outcome of various policies has led to significant, persistent, and growing discrepancies in inequalities. As a consequence, the progress of our Latino communities remains stymied even as resistance to our communities has increased. The result is a climate of demoralization and diminished trust by Latinos in our polity.



As the academic leader of developing the intellectual presence of Latinos in the U.S. the IUPLR possesses the analytic tools necessary to support our communities to fight economic, political, and social injustice. It informs public debate about health, transnational communities, education, family, immigration, arts and culture, disaster and environmental impact, and a host of issues impacting not only Latinos but also the nation.

While we would all like to believe in a meritocracy, even those of us who have benefited from the system in which we live and work, understand we have a long way to go before we collectively realize the promise of the American dream. And so, our community and the sense of obligation toward it, leads inevitably to the asking of inconvenient questions without constraint. Research practices embedded in dispassionate and mainstream theories and methodologies, and policies that promote “meritocratic” systems when applied within a political and economic system whose origins are inherently unequal, are the systems that must be reassessed and critiqued to disrupt and transcend boundaries.

We as a community of IUPLR scholars exist within the larger community. Without a sense of justice or what is right, this sense of obligation and community cannot thrive. We therefore must engage research designed to invoke greater equity in our society if we are to remain consonant with our proposed mission. Our research and our work in classrooms, universities, and the larger community is designed to provide alternative ways not only of seeing and understanding the world but also of living in it.

