



TITLE SPONSOR



HONORARY CHAIRS



HONORARY CO-CHAIRS



2026 USHLI NATIONAL CONFERENCE

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 12

03:00 PM - 08:00 PM **General Conference & VIP Registration**

06:00 PM - 08:00 PM **OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION**

Musical Entertainment: La Seleccion Vallenata

Performance: Denice Frohman - Poet, Writer, Performer, Educator

Performance: Elsa Salsa - Dance Instructor

Product Donated by: PepsiCo

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 13

07:00 AM - 07:00 PM VIP Registration

07:00 AM - 08:00 PM General Conference Registration

08:00 AM - 09:30 AM **WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT BREAKFAST**

Title Sponsor: Wells Fargo

Co-Sponsors: Constellation, FedEx, Goya Foods

Welcome Speaker: Hon. Jeylú Gutierrez, Alderwoman, 14th Ward, City of Chicago

Featured Speaker: Dr. Juana Bordas, President, Mestiza Leadership International

Award Presentation: *Dolores C. Huerta Women of Courage Medallion*

Honoree: Lourdes M. Rosado, President & General Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF

09:30 AM - 02:00 PM **EMPOWERING HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTIONS (By invitation only)**

Co-Sponsor: ComEd, T-Mobile

09:45 AM - 12:00 PM **CAREER & GRADUATE SCHOOL RECRUITMENT FAIR**

Graduate School Recruiters: [32 Graduate Schools](#) | [Representing 11 States](#)

Career Fair Recruiters: [American Federation of Teachers](#)

[ComEd](#)

[Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute](#)

[Constellation](#)

[FedEx](#)

[Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement](#)

[Goya Foods](#)

[National Education Association](#)

[Old National Bank](#)

[PepsiCo](#)

[The Chicago School](#)

[Thrivent Financial Services](#)

09:45 AM - 11:00 AM **FORUM I: Economic Power and Political Thought in America Today**

Co-Sponsor: PepsiCo

Moderator: Cid Wilson - President and CEO, Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR)

Panelists: Ana Valdez - President and CEO, Latino Donor Collaborative

Mark Hugo Lopez - Director of Race and Ethnicity Research, Pew Research Center

09:45 AM - 11:00 AM **WORKSHOPS: CYCLE I [Financial Foundations](#)**

[Ace the Interview: Strategies for Career Success](#)

[Leveraging Culture as a Superpower](#)

[Illuminate Your Path: Stories from Constellation Leaders](#)

[How to Stand Out with Confidence in Today's Job Market](#)

09:45 AM - 11:00 AM **High School Student Empowerment Workshop** (Required for HS students)

[Raíces & Resistencia: Leading with Cultura, Courage, Comunidad, y Corazón](#)

11:00 AM - 05:00 PM Professional Headshots by: Zuno Photographic Studio

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM **FORUM II: The State of Mental Health in American Society**

Co-Sponsor: The Chicago School, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Moderator: Dr. Michele Nealon - President, The Chicago School

Panelists: Dr. Samantha Collazo - Adjunct Professor, Clinical Psychology, The Chicago School

Aaron Leiva-Zuleta - Alum, M.A., Industrial Organizational Psychology, '22, The Chicago School

Elian Miguel Porras - Graduate Student, Forensic Psychology, The Chicago School

Dr. Lynessa M. Rico - Department Chair and Associate Professor, The Chicago School

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM **WORKSHOPS: CYCLE II [LatinoJustice's Defense of Hispanic-Serving Institutions](#)**

[Rights Are Power: Knowing Your Rights in Law Enforcement Encounters](#)

[Performing Arts x Leadership: Using the Arts to Strengthen Your Voice](#)

[The Power of Latino Leadership](#)

[The Leader You're Becoming: Identity, Influence, Impact](#)

[Leveraging Your Network: What They Never Taught Us About Getting Ahead](#)

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WORKSHOPS: CYCLE II** (Required for HS students)

Degrees, Dollars, and Decisions: A Guide to College for First-Gen Students
From Passion to Action: How to Lead Social Change and Build Community at Your Institution

- 11:45 AM - 12:15 PM** Press Conference
- 12:45 PM - 02:30 PM** **EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT LUNCHEON**
- Title Sponsor:** Wells Fargo
- Co-Sponsors:** Constellation, Denny's, Ford Philanthropy, National Education Association, The Coca-Cola Company
- Welcome Speaker:** Hon. Julia Ramirez - Alderwoman, 12th Ward, City of Chicago
- Guest Speaker:** Denice Frohman - Poet, Writer, Performer, Educator
- Featured Speaker:** Evelyn DeJesus - Executive Vice President, American Federation of Teachers
- Award Presentation: *Cesar E. Chavez Community Service Medallion***
- Honoree:** Evelyn DeJesus - Executive Vice President, American Federation of Teachers
- Award Presentation: *Honorable Dr. Antonia C. Novello Humanitarian Medallion***
- Honoree:** Dr. Jesús D. Suárez, Humanitarian Leader, Innovator in Integrated Care Systems, Social Change Agent
- Recognition:** 2026 Graduating Class
- 02:45 PM - 04:00 PM** **FORUM III: ¿Sí Se Puede, o Sí Podemos?**
- Presenter:** Lionel Sosa, American Author, Founder of Sosa&Sosa Consultation & Design
- 02:45 PM - 04:00 PM** **WORKSHOPS: CYCLE III** **El Poder de la Palabra – The Power of the Word: Latino Empowerment Through Literature**
- Prepared Together: Emergency Family Preparedness, What to Do If the Unexpected Happens**
- From Aspiration to Impact: Building Equitable Pathways to Leadership and Service**
- Rompiendo Barreras – Breaking Barriers: A Data-Driven, Bilingual Approach to Addressing the Hispanic Opioid Crisis**
- Elevate YOUR Brand**
- Purposeful Productivity 2.0: A Leadership Blueprint for Women on the Rise**
- Leveraging Your Network: What They Never Taught Us About Getting Ahead**
- Abortion Isn't a Woman's Issue – Dismantling Machismo & Reproductive Choice**
- 02:45 PM - 04:00 PM** **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WORKSHOPS: CYCLE III (Required for HS students)**
- Degrees, Dollars, and Decisions: A Guide to College for First-Gen Students**
- From Passion to Action: How to Lead Social Change and Build Community at Your Institution**
- 04:00 PM - 06:00 PM** Wristband Distribution for Mixer & Dance
- 04:15 PM - 06:30 PM** **#SomosUSHLI Talent Show Auditions**
- 08:00 PM - 09:30 PM** **CAREER SPEED NETWORKING**
- 09:30 PM - 10:30 PM** Wristband Distribution for Mixer & Dance
- 10:00 PM - 12:00 AM** Karaoke con amigos
- Product Donated by:** PepsiCo
- 10:00 PM - 01:00 AM** Mixer & Dance
- Musical Entertainment:** DJ Ricomash
- Product Donated by:** PepsiCo
- SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 14**
- 08:30 AM - 09:30 AM** Breakfast Snack on the Ballroom Promenade
- Product Donated by:** PepsiCo
- 08:30 AM - 01:00 PM** General Conference Registration
- 08:30 AM - 07:00 PM** VIP Registration
- 08:30 AM - 10:00 AM** **HACE - The Legacy League Game Show**
- 10:15 AM - 10:45 AM** **Leadership Development Program Certificate of Completion Presentation: CLDP & GLDP | Presentation of Certificates & Photos**
- 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM** **FORUM IV: The American Experiment: Finished or Unfinished?**
- Moderator:** Lydia Camarillo, President, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
- Panelist:** Thomas A. Saenz - President and General Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund
- 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM** **WORKSHOPS: CYCLE IV** **Is Chicano Still a Relevant Term?**
- From Classroom to Command: Building Your Leadership Path in Nursing**
- Stuck. How to Own Your Personal Brand and Grow Your Career.**
- The Leader You're Becoming: Identity, Influence, Impact**
- Building Your Edge: College Strategies for Impactful Leaders**
- Democracy Reborn: Shaping Policy for America's Next Generation**
- Building Your Financial Future: Budgets, Credit & Goals That Work Before or After College**
- The Secret to Success: Networking & The Power of Connections**
- 11:00 AM - 05:00 PM** Professional Headshots by: Zuno Photographic Studio
- 12:00 PM - 01:45 PM** **LEADERS RECOGNITION LUNCHEON**
- Title Sponsor:** Wells Fargo
- Co-Sponsor:** Ford Philanthropy
- Featured Speaker:** Marco Davis, President and CEO, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
- Award Presentation: *William C. "Willie" Velasquez Trailblazer Award Presentation***

Honoree: Hon. Celina Villanueva - State Senator, IL-12th District, Illinois State Senate

Award Presentation: *Dr. Henry "Hank" Lacayo Lifetime Achievement Medallion*

Honoree: Thomas A. Saenz, President and General Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund

Acknowledgment: Latino/a Leaders & USHLI Leadership Development Program Graduates

02:00 PM - 03:15 PM

FORUM V: Are You In Captivity to Activity? - Breaking the Habit of Busy Before Busy Breaks You

Presenter: Dr. Kristen Guillory, President and Chief Consultant, KSGuillory Enterprises

02:00 PM - 03:15 PM

WORKSHOPS: CYCLE V **Future Ready: How Students Are Winning With AI**

Sembrando futuros: Historias y consejos para docentes en formación

Stuck: How to Own Your Personal Brand and Grow Your Career

What to Say, What to Do: Immigration Rights and Emergency Preparedness in Uncertain Times

Building Your Edge: College Strategies for Impactful Leaders

Democracy Reborn: Shaping Policy for America's Next Generation

Construyendo tu futuro financiero: Presupuesto, crédito y metas que funcionan antes o después de la universidad

The Secret to Success: Networking & The Power of Connections

03:30 PM - 05:00 PM

#SomosUSHLI Talent Showcase

05:30 PM - 06:45 PM

Wristband Distribution for Mixer & Dance

06:00 PM - 06:45 PM

Chairman's Reception (*By Invitation Only*)

06:00 PM - 07:00 PM

General Networking Reception

Musical Entertainment: Samba 1 Brazilian Dance Group

07:00 PM - 09:30 PM

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERO AWARD DINNER

Title Sponsor: Wells Fargo

Co-Sponsor: National Education Association

Featured Speaker: Hon. Gaddi Vásquez, Former U.S. Ambassador, United Nations Organizations

Award Presentation: *National Hispanic Hero Award*

Honoree: Lionel Sosa, American Author, Founder of Sosa&Sosa Consultation & Design

Entertainment: Sophia Angelica - award winning Singer & Songwriter

Closing Remarks: Dr. Juan Andrade, Jr. - President and Co-Founder, USHLI

10:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Karaoke con amigos

Product Donated by: PepsiCo

10:00 PM - 02:00 AM

USHLI Mixer & Dance

Product Donated by: PepsiCo

Musical Entertainment: DJ Ricomash

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 15

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Closing Feedback Session & Breakfast Snack

Product Donated by: PepsiCo

SAVE THE DATE

2027 USHLI National Conference
February 11-14, 2027