

# ★ USHLI ★ Student Leadership Series Launch

Thursday | February 12, 2026

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP SERIES EMPOWERMENT RALLY

- 9:30 AM Emcee** *Tsi-tsi-ki Felix - Journalist, Author, Speaker*  
**Honorary Chair Remarks | Honorary Co-Chair Remarks**  
**Welcome Speaker** *Hon. Alma Anaya - Commissioner, 7<sup>th</sup> District, Cook County, IL*
- 10:05 AM Featured Speaker** *Gian Paul Gonzalez - Former NCAA All-American & NBA Summer League Player*
- 11:00 AM CAREER & UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL RECRUITMENT FAIR** **BLUE GROUP** ➔
- 11:00 AM OPCIONAL: SESIÓN EN ESPAÑOL**
- 11:00 AM Guest Speaker** *Mayda Del Valle, Chicago Poet Laureate* **RED GROUP** ➔
- 11:10 AM REAL TALK: HOW WE PAID FOR COLLEGE AND WHAT WE WISH WE KNEW**  
**Moderator**  
*Adrián Calderón - District Director, Office of Jesus "Chuy" Garcia  
U.S. House of Representatives, IL-4th District*  
**Panelists**  
*Jocelyn Alba - Graduate Student, Speech-Language Pathology, Governors State University  
Julie Alvarado - Associate Underwriter, National Aliados Co-Lead, Community Outreach / Ally Insurance  
Abel Montoya - Director of Outreach Operations, Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
Maria Rios, Financial Aid Client Service Representative, Purdue University Northwest*
- 11:50 AM GROUP ROTATION**
- 12:10 PM CAREER & UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL RECRUITMENT FAIR** **RED GROUP** ➔
- 12:10 PM OPCIONAL: SESIÓN EN ESPAÑOL**
- 12:10 PM Guest Speaker** *Mayda Del Valle, Chicago Poet Laureate* **BLUE GROUP** ➔
- 12:20 PM REAL TALK: HOW WE PAID FOR COLLEGE AND WHAT WE WISH WE KNEW**  
**Moderator**  
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**Panelists**  
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Abel Montoya - Director of Outreach Operations, Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
Maria Rios, Financial Aid Client Service Representative, Purdue University Northwest*
- 1:00 PM Bus Dismissal & Student Lunch Distribution**

Honorary Chair



Honorary Co-Chairs



Co-Sponsor



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP SERIES EMPOWERMENT RALLY



**EMCEE**  
**TSI-TSI-KI FELIX**  
Journalist, Author, Speaker



**WELCOME SPEAKER**  
**HON. ALMA ANAYA**  
Commissioner, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
Cook County, IL



**FEATURED SPEAKER**  
**GIAN PAUL GONZALEZ**  
Former NCAA All-American &  
NBA Summer League Player



**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**MAYDA DEL VALLE**  
Chicago Poet Laureate

# REAL TALK: HOW WE PAID FOR COLLEGE AND WHAT WE WISH WE KNEW



## MODERATOR

### ADRIÁN CALDERÓN

District Director  
Office of Jesus "Chuy" Garcia  
U.S. House of Representatives  
IL-4th District

## PANELISTS



### JOCELYN ALBA

Graduate Student  
Governors State University



### JULIE ALVARADO

Associate Underwriter  
National Aliados Co-Lead  
Community Outreach  
Ally Insurance



### ABEL MONTOYA

Director of  
Outreach Operations  
Illinois Student Assistance  
Commission



### MARIA RIOS

Financial Aid  
Client Service Representative  
Purdue University Northwest

## OPCIONAL: SESIÓN EN ESPAÑOL



### DULCE DIAZ

Mental Health Specialist



### MARTHA VILLEGAS MIRANDA

MSSW, LSW, CPC  
Educator & Storyteller &  
First-Gen Profesora  
Martha Empowers

# Career Fair Exhibitors

American Federation of Teachers  
ComEd  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute  
Constellation  
Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement  
Goya Foods

National Education Association  
Old National Bank  
PepsiCo  
The Chicago School  
Thrivent Financial Services  
Wells Fargo

Participating Exhibitors as of 1/30/2026

## Undergraduate College Recruitment Fair

Alverno College  
Arrupe College of Loyola University Chicago  
Aurora University  
Ball State University  
Calumet College of St. Joseph  
Calvin University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Chicago State University  
City Colleges of Chicago  
Concordia University Chicago  
Davenport University  
Dominican University  
Eastern Illinois University  
Elmhurst University  
Goshen College  
Governors State University  
Herzing University  
Illinois State University  
Indiana University, Indianapolis  
Indiana University Northwest  
Lakeview College of Nursing  
Loyola University Chicago  
National Louis University  
North Park University

Northeastern Illinois University  
Northern Illinois University  
Oakton College  
Pittsburg State University  
Prairie View A&M University  
Purdue University Northwest  
Roosevelt University  
Saint Augustine College  
Saint Xavier University  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
The Grainger College of Engineering at the  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
The University of New Mexico  
University of Chicago  
University of Illinois Chicago  
University of Illinois Springfield  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
University of Pittsburgh School of Public &  
International Affairs  
University of St. Francis  
University of Wisconsin- Parkside  
Valparaiso University  
Western Illinois University

Participating Colleges as of 1/30/2026

