



Latiné/x Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

(Most recent date at the top)

2025 Provost Faculty, Librarians, and Staff Award:

Inclusive Excellence Award: Genevieve Negrón-Gonzales, School of Education

Latinx Recognition Ceremony: Faculty Award May 2025

Gerardo Marin Faculty Member of the Year Award: Julio E. Moreno

Named in honor of Gerardo Marín, distinguished research psychologist, professor of psychology, and university administrator at USF. This award honors a faculty member who dedicates their experience, knowledge, and scholarship to Latinx students. This person demonstrates continuous support and dedication to the Latine/x community at USF.

Latinx Recognition Ceremony: Staff Award May 2025

Jason Pender Staff Member of the Year Award: Jessica Alva

Named in honor of Jason Pender, a former USF staff member driven by social justice values and tirelessly advocating for and with marginalized students at USF. This award honors a staff member working in any area of campus who strives to create an inclusive and equitable environment for all. They embody what being a "person for and with others means."

Latinx Recognition Ceremony: Graduate Student Award May 2025

El Pueblo Unido: Carolina Echeverria, School of Nursing and Health Professions, Director of Communications. Received a graduate degree with the College of Arts and Sciences, earning her Master's in Professional Communication.

This award recognizes graduating students who stand up for their ideals, challenge injustices while treating others with respect, and empower groups and individuals to flourish.

May 2025

Genevieve Negrón-Gonzales, School of Education, will continue to serve as faculty co-chair and Sonia-Melitta Montoya, School of Management, will be the new staff co-chair of Somos USF for academic year 2025-2026.

Staff Spotlight January 2025

Carolina Martinez, an IT Quality Assurance Manager within ITS, has been appointed to the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) Board of Trustees to fill the district's Area 3 trustee seat. Carolina, who was nominated as Staff Council President at USF in September 2024, has been with the university since January 2013.

CTE Co-Director Announcement January 2025

We are excited to announce that Nicole Gonzales-Howell (Rhetoric and Language) will join the Tracy Seeley Center for Teaching Excellence as co-director for a three-year term effective June 2025. Nicole joins



Co-Director Keith Hunter (SOM), Program Coordinator Ifeoma Nzerem, and Program Assistant Talia Knowles on the CTE team.

Faculty Presentation November 2024

Nicole Gonzales Howell is an Associate Professor with the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Rhetoric and Language. Professor Gonzales Howell is one of the presenters with the University Assessment Committee (UAC) Series on Addressing Bias and Racism in Assessment - Ethical and Informed Assessment in the AI Age: Tackling Bias. Presentation dates: Noon, Wed, 11/13 and Thur, 11/14.

Faculty Spotlight November 2024

Xiomara Cornejo is Assistant Professor with the Performing Arts and Social Justice program. Professor Cornejo is directing a fall production during her first year at USF: *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!* by Italian playwright and activist Dario Fo. It is a free show and runs from November 7-10 in the Studio Theatre. It's a hilarious comedy about hunger, the impact of capitalism, and the resilience of the working class.

Promotion October 2024

Sindy Olvia was promoted to Associate Director of Law Admissions with the School of Law.

Faculty Spotlight September 2024

Nicole Gonzales Howell is an Associate Professor with the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Rhetoric and Language. In this ETS faculty spotlight, Nicole discusses the integration of generative AI in higher education teaching, its potential impact on academic integrity, and the need for guidelines and faculty learning communities to help manage these changes. [Read more>>](#)

Staff Spotlight September 2024:

Carolina Martinez, an IT Quality Assurance Manager within ITS, has been appointed to USF Staff Council President. She has been part of the USF community for ten years. Her interest in joining the Staff Council stems from the opportunity to learn more about how decisions account for current and future staff. She brings a diverse perspective to the Staff Council to ensure representation to all when ushering in change. She also looks forward to collaborating with other teams and departments. She considers it an honor to be considered part of the conversation about the future direction of university initiatives.

Staff Spotlight September 2024:

The Cultural Centers Latiné/x Heritage Month event will include a film screening of *Salt of the Earth* followed by a moderated discussion with Sonia-Melitta Montoya (ella/she/they), Assistant Director of Graduate Advising at the Masagung School of Management, Downtown campus. She's also the co-chair on LGBTQ+ Caucus and a part of the Latiné/x Community Building Committee. Sonia-Melitta received her Master's degree in Women's and Gender Studies with a research focus in Mexican American Studies from the University of Texas, Austin. Her research focused on the retelling of the 1949-1952 Empire Zinc Strike in New Mexico depicted in the 1953 film, "Salt of the Earth" and her grandparents' contributions in this historical labor union strike in Mexican American history.



Faculty Spotlight 2024

Nadina Olmedo is Associate Professor with the College of Arts and Sciences. Given her research interest and publications on women and gender studies in the Spanish speaking world, last spring Prof. Nadina Olmedo was selected to be part of the Executive Board of AEGS 2024-2025, Association for Gender and Sexuality Studies; Asociación Estudios de Género y Sexualidades:

<https://www.aegs-agss.com/consejo-ejecutivo.html>

Latinx Recognition Ceremony: Faculty Award May 2024

Gerardo Marin Faculty Member of the Year Award: Melisa Garcia, Assistant Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Named in honor of Gerardo Marín, distinguished research psychologist, professor of psychology, and university administrator at USF. This award honors a faculty member who dedicates their experience, knowledge, and scholarship to Latinx students. This person demonstrates continuous support and dedication to the Latine/x community at USF.

Latinx Recognition Ceremony: Staff Award May 2024

Jason Pender Staff Member of the Year Award: Gina Alvarez, School of Nursing and Health Professions - Program Assistant in the Dean's Office.

Named in honor of Jason Pender, a former USF staff member driven by social justice values and tirelessly advocating for and with marginalized students at USF. This award honors a staff member working in any area of campus who strives to create an inclusive and equitable environment for all. They embody what being a "person for and with others means."

Book Publication March 2024

Omar F. Miranda is Associate Professor with the College of Arts and Sciences, English and Comparative Literature Program. Dr. Miranda co-edited [Percy Shelley for Our Times](#) (Cambridge University Press, March 2024). Two centuries after Percy Shelley's death, his writings continue to resonate in remarkable ways. Shelley addressed climate change, women's liberation, nonbinary gender, and political protest, while speaking to Indigenous, queer/trans, disabled, displaced, and working-class communities. He still inspires artists and social justice movements around the world today. Yet *Percy Shelley for Our Times* reveals an even more farsighted writer, one whose poetic methodology went beyond the didactic powers of prophetic art. Not historicist, presentist, or transhistorical, Shelley 'for our times' conceives worlds outside himself, his poetry, and his era, envisioning how audiences connect and collaborate across space and time. This collection revitalizes a writer once considered an adolescent of idealist protest, showing how his interwoven poetics of relationality continually revisits the meaning of community and the contemporary.

Staff Spotlight February 2024:

Michelle Santana, was promoted to Assistant to the Provost.

January 2024

Genevieve Negrón-Gonzales has been nominated the faculty co-chair and Gina Alvarez is the staff co-chair of Somos USF for academic year 2024-2025.



Faculty Spotlight September 2023:

Omar F. Miranda Omar F. Miranda is Associate Professor with the College of Arts and Sciences, English and Comparative Literature Program. Dr. Miranda is faculty advisor for *Ignatian* Literary Magazine: <https://www.usfca.edu/news/literary-time-capsule>

Staff Spotlight May 2023:

Michelle Santana, Program Assistant with the College of Arts and Sciences served as the Inaugural Staff Council Vice President.

Staff Spotlight May 2023:

Gina Alvarez, Program Assistant with the School of Nursing and Health Professions served as the Inaugural Staff Council Clerk.

Book Publication March 2023

Genevieve Negrón-Gonzales co-authored with Dr. Magdalena Barrera [The Latinx Guide to Graduate School](#) (Duke University Press). Dr. Negrón-Gonzales is a Professor in the School of Education. She is an interdisciplinary scholar of immigration and education. Her academic, activist and community work focuses on the ways undocumented young people are changing the political and legislative terrain around “illegality” and belonging in this country. Her work lies at the intersection of education, immigration, and social movements. She is the co-author of *Encountering Poverty: Thinking and Acting in an Unequal World* (2016, University of California Press) and co-editor of *We Are Not DREAMers: Undocumented Scholars Theorize Undocumented Life in the United States* (2020, Duke University Press).