



ISSUE 3 | JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023 | ERG YEAR 2

SOMOS CMU

THE LATINE FACULTY & STAFF ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

Join the Alliance!



ERG Second Year

Hispanic Heritage Month and the year ahead!



The LFSA ERG (and the other ERGs) took part in the Spring Carnival, April 14th, 2023.

¡SALUDOS Y BIENVENIDOS!

Welcome! The Latine Faculty and Staff Alliance is excited to start off the new academic year at Carnegie Mellon University with new members and events! We continue to grow in numbers and this year, we aim to become even more visible on campus and in the community.

Initiatives for this year center around the identity of our collective membership, cultural touchstones and increased involvement both internally within CMU, as well as involvement in efforts that impact the broader Pittsburgh Latine/a/o and Hispanic community. With Hispanic Heritage Month right around the corner, it is the perfect time to update our members on our upcoming events and projects. Stay tuned to see how we're planning to celebrate. No te lo pierdas!

Haven't joined our group yet? If you're a Latine/a/o/Hispanic member of the CMU faculty or staff, reach out and join your colleagues as we build community within CMU. Have something to share with our fellow CMU Latines? Send mail to latine-employee-resource-group@andrew.cmu.edu.

Join our ERG and check out our partner ERGs!
[Join today!](#)

Carnegie Mellon University
Latine Faculty & Staff Alliance

Our culture through food:
We're collecting authentic recipes from our membership and you can help!

Gathering stories:
Learn about our LFSA stories initiative!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration! Oct. 4th, 2023

We're celebrating HHM with a special event to get together, share in delicious food and a celebration of our community.

CMU Libraries and HHM

The CMU Libraries join in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with a display of LFSA-assisted book selections.

Second Year ERG Leadership

Yazmin Peña, Co-Lead

Yazmin Peña (she/her) is a Document Manager for the Office of International Education. She graduated from Allegheny College with a BS in Psychology and minored in Spanish. Yazmin was born and raised in New York City and identifies as Afro-Dominican / Dominican-American. As a co-lead for the Latine Faculty and Staff Alliance, she hopes to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for Latine CMU community members and allies, as well as bring a fresh perspective to the group. She is passionate about travel, languages, inclusivity, and teaching others about her heritage, and is looking forward to learning and growing in this new role.



Yazmin Peña is our new LFSA ERG Co-Lead.

Christian Olmeda, Co-Lead

Christian Alexis Olmeda is the manager of SCS Computing's Communications and Outreach team. He has more than 20 years of experience in technology and audio production. He currently serves as co-chair on the SCS Dean's Staff Advisory Committee. Chris holds an MFA in creative writing and writes in both English and Spanish. Chris was born and raised in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. His love of Puerto Rico and its rich culture inform his work as a writer and ultimately motivated him to help establish our Latine employee resource group, as an inaugural co-lead. His goal is to build meaningful representation and build community through strong relationships between Latine employees and faculty across CMU, for years to come.



Christian Olmeda is our "veteran" LFSA ERG founding Co-Lead, now entering his second year.

Francisco Molina, Member Liaison

Francisco Molina is the senior director for Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity within Enterprise Risk Management. He has over 20 years of experience in business resiliency, operational risk and program management. Francisco holds a BE in industrial engineering, an MS in administration, and a Ph.D. in information science. He was born in Mexico City, Mexico. He believes in supporting and building a welcoming community and creating awareness to eliminate long-standing stereotypes and misconceptions.



Francisco Molina is our new Member Liaison

A message from the Latine Alliance Co-Leads

It is our pleasure to serve as co-leads for our ERG, establishing the framework for what we hope will be an organization that will exist to welcome Latine and Hispanic members of the CMU community, as well as our allies, for years to come. In many ways, our ERG exists to establish community but also embody that which is important to us collectively.

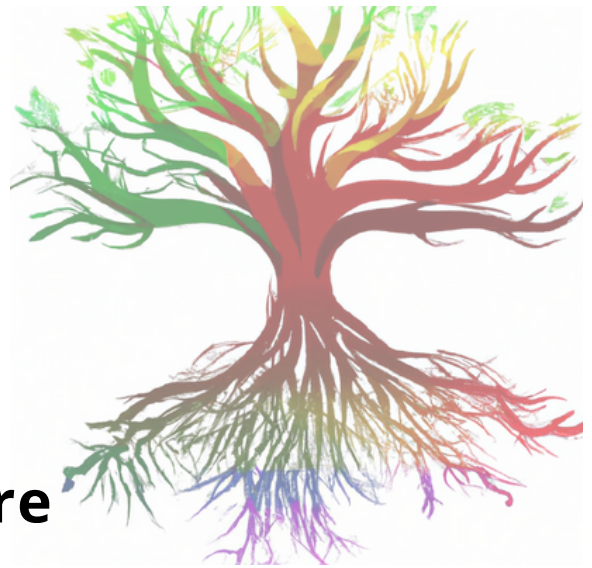
If you're not yet a member, join! If you're a current member, share your ideas with us as we continue to build community. You play a vital role in helping shape future initiatives by becoming involved, providing your feedback and inviting others to join us. Your support means everything! ¡Gracias!

Yazmin and Christian
Latine Faculty and Staff Alliance ERG Co-Leads

Hispanic Heritage Month

United by a love of culture

By Christian Olmeda



Hispanic Heritage Month holds profound significance as a celebration of the rich and diverse cultures, histories, and contributions of Hispanic and Latine individuals in the United States. Running from September 15th to October 15th, this month-long observance honors the independence days of several Latin American countries. Beyond the festive aspects, Hispanic Heritage Month serves as a platform to recognize the influential impact that Latine and Hispanic people have made throughout American history. From arts and literature to politics and science, their invaluable contributions continue to shape the nation's fabric, promoting inclusivity and understanding.

In the important work of dismantling monolithic stereotypes about our community, the importance of Hispanic Heritage Month cannot be overstated. It offers an opportunity for individuals from various backgrounds to come together and appreciate the unique traditions and experiences that celebrate their individual cultural identities while honoring the achievements of our fellow Latin-American and Caribbean countries. This month-long celebration is also about recognizing the contributions and value that our Latine and Hispanic people bring to American society.

Within our own ERG, we have highlighted the trajectory and contributions of some of our members to Carnegie Mellon University and the larger Pittsburgh community. With the success of these past events, we have made elevating our members and their hard work as an important ongoing element for our group. By celebrating our achievements in various fields, the month underscores the importance of equitable representation and encourages continued contributions to the nation's progress. Ultimately, Hispanic Heritage Month serves as a bridge between cultures, one that leverages the strengths of our proud histories and celebrates how we contribute to the future of this country.



Paula Nicho Cúmez
Process and Vision of the Peace Accords, 2007
LFSa visit to the Latin American Cultural Center

SAVE THE DATE The Latine Faculty and Staff Alliance invites you to join us for our Hispanic Heritage Month celebration!

Food, beverages, music and great conversation!
Open to all faculty and staff! More details soon!

October 4th, 2023 - 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM ET
Rangos Ballroom #2, CUC

Winter Clothing Necessity Drive



Benefitting the Latino Community Center!

We are so excited to announce our support of LCC's amazing work in the Pittsburgh Latine and Hispanic community! More details are forthcoming. Make sure you join our ERG to be in the loop on this and other initiatives!

Veterans Alliance ERG Member Appreciation Event

The Veteran's Alliance ERG will be hosting a special event and invite all of our members, those who would like to become members, and the ERG Senior Advisory Committee to come by and get their Veterans Alliance ERG military coin.

September 19th, 2023, 11:30am to 1:30pm
CUC Building, Wean Commons

The LGBTQIA+ Staff and Faculty Alliance ERG invite you to the Big Queer Welcome!

September 8th, 2023, 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Merson Courtyard - Rain Location: Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion

Community Spotlight: Pittsburgh Hispanic Heritage Festival and Farruko Concert!



Join the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on September 30th, 2023 for a full day of activities! See the full schedule and buy your concert tickets here:
<https://www.pmahcc.org/HispanicHeritageFestival>

Culture through stories and food!

We are collecting recipes from our membership and allies. We intend to compile and share them with our community, providing an authentic take on the dishes that mean so much to us all! Have a recipe to share? Send your recipe (or link to an authentic online recipe) to latine-erg-members@lists.andrew.cmu.edu, today!

We also want your stories! We want to know how you came to be a part of CMU, your trajectory or any other story you want to share with our membership and the broader CMU community. Complete our **online form** and tell your story!

Did you know?

CMU offers faculty and staff excellent employee-exclusive discounts and benefits? Visit the [University Discounts](#) page at:

cmu.edu/hr/work-life/discounts/index.html



Tartan Salsa

Have you always wanted to dance salsa or bachata?

Join the [Tartan Salsa Club](#) or [Tartan Connect!](#) Learn from Sammie Walker Herrera, who serves as instructor and promoter for the club.

www.tartansalsa.com