



SOMOS CMU

THE LATINE FACULTY & STAFF ALLIANCE
NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 4 | October - December 2023 | ERG YEAR 2

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

From our family to yours, happy holidays! We begin the holiday season still celebrating the success of our Hispanic Heritage Month celebration and many evolving plans for the new year.

Join us for our final meeting of the year, our LFSA Holiday Brunch on Tuesday, December 5th, 2023, at 10:00 AM. We will be meeting at the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion, CUC Lower Level Suite 75.



L/R: Chris Olmeda, Jennifer Pablonis and Yazmin Peña

At CMU, we held our very first Hispanic Heritage Month celebration last October 4th, at the Cohon University Center's Rangos Ballroom. Our membership, allies, colleagues and community partners attended to share in the love of culture and traditions of our people. (We think the food was awesome, but we're biased!)

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

Winter Necessity Drive A Success!

Our members and the broader CMU community contributed over 300 winter items and accessories for Pittsburgh's Latino Community Center helping their efforts in supporting Latine families new to our area!

Stories and Recipes!

The LFSA Stories Initiative is a project to capture and tell the stories of our members.

Join us for our LFSA Holiday Brunch!

Our December meeting will be a casual brunch!

Tuesday, December 5th, 2023, 10:00 AM. Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion, CUC Lower Level Suite 75

Our first Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, a success, thanks to **YOU!**

The CMU community came together to join our ERG in celebrating our cultures, traditions and the contributions of our people within and beyond campus.

Hispanic Heritage Month is a long-running celebration in the United States that has grown in prominence and visibility in the last 20 years. While we understand that the term “Hispanic” cannot capture the full spectrum of Latine and Hispanic experiences, HHM serves as a reminder of the importance of diversity and inclusivity in the United States and promotes a greater understanding of the various Hispanic and Latino cultures that make up a significant portion of our country's population.

In many ways, we connect to our history and traditions through food. And this was at the heart of our celebration. To break bread together, is one of those important measures of kindness and trust that translates across cultures, but is certainly at the heart of the Latine and Caribbean way of sharing in community.

Our event on October 4th was an example of breaking bread in community, sharing stories and connecting in a meaningful way. In the words of Sankofa Co-Founder Sylvia Smith, “The true meaning of Sankofa is learning from the past and bringing forth lessons for future generations. Through joining in events like these, we instill a feeling of acceptance rather than tolerance.”



LFSA Co-Lead Yazmin Peña addresses event attendees and special guests.



We were joined by staff, faculty and guests from across CMU and the greater Pittsburgh community, including several NPO's doing great work for our people in the area.

Thank you to so many key supporters of our ERGs, including Michelle Piekutowski, Scott Mory, David Major, Darla Coleman, Michelle Lane, Susan Baida, Angelica Perez-Johnston, Jose Lugo Martinez, Sylvia Smith, Beth Maxwell, Ed Walter, Susan Vigna, Krista Dichiera, Tony Gomez, Belmary Lorcias, Linda Gentile, Beth DeVito, Erica Drayer, Sterling Davis, Sarah Bigelow, Judy von Rheenen, Nick Hernandez and so many others from across CMU.

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

From great food to Salsa dancing, we had "Sabor" to spare!

Our event gave us an opportunity to introduce our friends on campus to different Latine and Caibbean foods. While the spread did not represent every heritage, we were happy to compile a wonderful sampling. We are happy to support local, independently owned restaurants and food vendors, including La Palapa (Mexican), The Colombian Spot (Colombian, Cuban, Caribbean), Pabellón (Venezuelan and Mexican), Ileana's Catering (Dominican/Puerto Rican/Caribbean), Tango (Argentinian).



Above: A big thank you to Tartan Salsa, who kindly joined us and provided guests with a Salsa lesson! Below: David Lanier Major.



Starting clockwise from the top left: Brandon Davis, Sankofa Co-Lead, David Major, Teaching Professor of Strategy; Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, the spread included stuffed arepas, vegan empanadas, tamales, mangú, tostones, amarillos/maduros, arroz moro (arroz con gandules), argentinian stuffed empanadas and much more.

Winter Necessity Drive 2023: A Success! Thank you for Donating!

Thank you to all ERGs who worked hard to secure donations benefitting the Latino Community Center and to all of our CMU community who donated over 300 items for families this season!



L/R: CMU Ombudsperson and ERG Advisor, Jen Pablonis, LCC Representative Liliana López and LFSA Co-Lead, Yazmin Peña.

ABOUT LATINO COMMUNITY CENTER: LCC IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION BASED IN PITTSBURGH, PA WHOSE MISSION IS TO EMPOWER ADVOCATE AND CELEBRATE WITH THE LATINX COMMUNITY IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: WWW.LATINOCOMMUNITYCENTER.ORG/

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