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Un Periódico Diferente / A Different Kind of Newspaper

Meralis T. Hood, Nueva CEO de EforAll

Foto del Mes/Photo of the Month

Meralis Hood, EforAll CEO visits Holyoke

From left to right: Meralis Hood, EforAll CEO, Joshua García, Mayor of Holyoke, Tessa Murphy Romboletti, EforAll Holyoke Executive Director, Gabriella Candelario, EparaTodos Holyoke Program Manager, Catalina Herrera, EforAll Holyoke Program Coordinator"

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contents

3 **Portada / Front Page**
Meralis T. Hood, Nueva CEO de EforAll

4 EforAll/EparaTodos Holyoke Announces Winter 2023 Business Accelerator Finalists

5 UCF Puerto Rico Research Hub Receives $500K to Expand Research

6 CENTRO Joins Latinx Arts Consortium of New York

7 **Educación / Education**
Astrónomas de la UPR Río Piedras Reciben Beca Millonaria de la NASA

8 La Mellon Foundation Otorga Millones a la Universidad de Puerto Rico - Río Piedras

9 STCC Receives $3M to support Cybersecurity Center of Excellence at Union Station

10 Latina Students Discuss College Experience with AIC President Benítez

12 **Comercio / Business**
Greater Holyoke Chamber Congratulates Board Member Miguel Rivera

13 **Cultura / Culture**
¡Printing The Revolution! ***The Rise and Impact of Chicano Graphics, 1965 to Now*** exhibition at Dartmouth College

14 Black Citizenship in the Age of Jim Crow Gallery Exhibit at Wistariahurst Museum

15 **Libros / Books**
El libro de los altares: Ensayos de literatura puertorriqueña y dominicana

Making the MexiRican City: Migration, Placemaking, and Activism in Grand Rapids, Michigan

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Editor Manuel Frau Ramos
manuelfrau@gmail.com
413-320-3826

Assistant Editor Ingrid Estrany-Frau

Art Director Tennessee Media Design

Business Address El Sol Latino
P.O Box 572
Amherst, MA 01004-0572

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Meralis T. Hood, Nueva CEO de EforAll by MANUEL FRAU RAMOS

Entrepreneurship for All (EforAll), organización sin fines de lucro cuya misión es promover el desarrollo económico y social a través del emprendimiento inclusivo, anunció a finales del 2022 el nombramiento de Meralis T. Hood como CEO de la organización.

El nombramiento de la puertorriqueña Meralis T. Hood constituye un cambio importante en EforAll, ya que ella es la primera mujer y la primera Latinx en ocupar la silla de CEO. Hood, además de ser una educadora bilingüe, posee una sólida experiencia como directora de organizaciones sin fines de lucro a nivel nacional.

Recientemente, Hood se desempeñó como presidenta de mercado de City Year, Inc., una organización educativa a nivel nacional sin fines de lucro que se asocia con escuelas públicas para ayudar a los estudiantes a mantenerse en el camino para graduarse de la escuela secundaria.

Hood reemplazaría a David Parker, quien por mas de una década estuvo a cargo de esta organización. Durante su liderato, Parker ayudó a lanzar y expandir el programa junto con el fundador y patrocinador de EforAll, Gururaj "Desh" Deshpande. Parker continuará en la organización como miembro de la junta directiva.

La nueva CEO dirigirá el nuevo plan de expansión nacional de la organización con el objetivo de ayudar a 50,000 emprendedores a través de sus programas en inglés y español para 2030. "La experiencia y la pasión de Meralis por nuestra misión es exactamente lo que la organización necesita a medida que continuamos creciendo a nivel nacional. Aporta una comprensión profunda de la necesidad de empoderamiento económico en las comunidades con dificultades económicas", afirma Gail Goodman, presidenta de la junta directiva de EforAll. "Estamos bien preparados para esta próxima etapa de crecimiento gracias al trabajo extraordinario de David de construir un programa que fue probado y es repetible."

Hood supervisará las estrategias operativas y financieras para apoyar el ambicioso objetivo de EforAll. Meralis también se desempeñará como una auténtica defensora de la diversidad, la equidad y la inclusión, defendiendo el emprendimiento inclusivo tanto dentro de la organización como dentro de comunidades a las que sirven.

Meralis elabora su visión de crecimiento con una estrategia de dos caminos. El primero es añadir mas comunidades al número ya existente, identificando otras comunidades en la nación que necesiten de este programa.

En el primer camino se visualiza que EforAll reforzará sus iniciativas hacia comunidades sub-representadas, multiplicando dichos esfuerzos a través del trabajo con líderes y socios estratégicos locales. La nueva CEO resalta que hay tres manera de mejorara los enlaces con la comunidad. "Primero, nos va a ayudar a tener más donantes. El enlace con la comunidad también nos va a ayudar con los mentores y los voluntarios. La tercera sería trabajar con los graduados del programa ya que una vez que se gradúan de nuestro programa se convierten en parte de la comunidad. Entonces pueden ser o voluntarios, o donantes. Pueden estar en muchos lugares en nuestra organización pero tenemos que traerlos de nuevo."

El segundo camino es desarrollar el ofrecimiento virtual. Durante la pandemia, Meralis explica que aprendieron que el programa lo pueden hacer virtualmente. Añade que fue interesante que la organización pudo crecer durante la pandemia, añadieron varias comunidades. "Salieron mucho emprendedores en la pandemia."

Meralis enfatiza que una de las partes importantes del programa es que ofrecen el servicio a los emprendedores sin costo. "Nosotros dependemos de nuestros donantes. Ahora mismo nosotros estamos en 12 comunidades a través del país entero. De esas 12, en 7 de las comunidades tenemos el programa completamente en español y en inglés. Nuestro programa en español es completamente en español – los mentores hablan español y los cursos son en español."

Termina diciendo, "Estoy muy emocionada de unirme a una organización que comparte mi pasión por impulsar la igualdad económica y el impacto social a través de la capacitación, la educación y el apoyo. Sobre todo, a una organización que reconoce la necesidad de ofrecer sus programas tanto en inglés como en español para lograr una inclusión verdadera. Anhelo construir sobre el modelo probado que David ha ayudado a desarrollar y llevar este programa extraordinario a los emprendedores de todo el país."

EforAll/EparaTodos Holyoke Announces Winter 2023 Business Accelerator Finalists

HOLYOKE, MA | **EforAll / EparaTodos Holyoke** | January 12, 2023 - Twenty one early stage businesses have been selected to participate in two cohorts as part of the Entrepreneurship for All (EforAll) Winter 2023 Accelerator Program, based in Holyoke and serving entrepreneurs throughout Western Massachusetts. Nine of these aspiring entrepreneurs have been accepted into the organization's EparaTodos Accelerator which will be held entirely in Spanish.

These businesses were evaluated by more than 50 community leaders, EforAll Mentors, industry experts, and entrepreneurs through a rigorous application review and interview process that drew more than 80 applications from all over Western Massachusetts.

This year-long program consists of 96% of the startups having at least one founder of color and 52% of the startups having at least one female founder. This is representative of EforAll's mission to accelerate economic development and social impact through inclusive entrepreneurship in under-represented communities across the country. As part of the Winter 2023 cohort, entrepreneurs will have access to expert mentorship, tailored curriculum, co-working space, and opportunities to win prize money. The entrepreneurs are listed below:

EforAll Winter 2022 Cohort:

- **Gabriel Martinez, 44 General Services:** This construction company provides residential and commercial services, specializing in exterior and interior painting, home rehabilitation, and power washing.
- **Carlos Torres, All Things Anime:** The only store of its kind, this business is operating online and at the Eastfield Mall, selling unique anime apparel, accessories and merchandise.
- **Leritza Ruiz, Bay State K9:** This business is providing pet & service dog training to Western MA. She aims to help dog owners develop a mutually beneficial relationship with their dogs, while prioritizing the dog's needs and the family's lifestyle requirements. In addition, she offers training-based care services such as hikes, boarding and pet sitting.
- **Caring Medical Staffing, LLC:** A nurse-owned and nurse-operated healthcare staffing agency located in Springfield, MA that helps connect nurses with job opportunities.
- **Faded Barber Lounge LLC:** After being a barber working for others for 17 years, Ricardo opened his own barber shop in Chicopee in 2021 and is excited to participate in the program to help grow a strong foundation.
- **Gabe Crivelli, Fishing Friends Inc:** Fishing Friends Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the mission to teach youth about fishing. To give them the opportunity to build character, develop relationships, connect with nature, and learn a new skill. We take kids fishing at local bodies of water to teach them about aquatic biology and our local environment.
- **Raven Torres, Lemonade Dreams:** What started as a fun activity to do with her daughter has grown into a budding new mobile trailer serving lemonade and other specialty drinks.
- **Nick Swindell, Misty City Windows LLC:** A small high end exterior cleaning company that specializes in New York-style high rise window and gutter cleaning.
- **Isaiah Weldon, Mobility Rescue:** After working for a wheelchair repair company, Isaiah found that there was a need for a company that offers towing services for individuals that use a wheelchair.
- **Yaniz Luna, The Nail Sessions:** As a licensed Nail Technician and educator, Yaniz specializes in gel nail extensions, hand painted nail art and structured/basic gel manicures. She was inspired to apply for the accelerator in order to bring forward her dream of running her own nail technician certification program.
- **Kim Prada, Tribe Power Bites LLC:** From stay at home mom to single mom, Kim Prada is the Latina business owner of TRIBE POWER BITES LLC. Specializing in gluten free, guilt free and kid friendly nut butter/oat based snack bites.
- **Yoga with Angelica:** Angelica is a Puerto Rican Yoga facilitator and CSA Survivor from Holyoke, MA. With extensive experience and training she offers trauma-informed, strengths-based Yoga, using philosophy, movement, and invitational language to encourage people to find their sense of agency and empowerment within.

EparaTodos Cohorte Invierno 2023:

- **Gustavo Agudelo, Agudelo Farm & Apiary:** This local farmer and beekeeper has been selling his honey and fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers markets and festivals and is excited to legitimize his business.

continued on page 6

UCF Puerto Rico Research Hub Receives $500K to Expand Research

by **DAVID DUMKE**
Executive Director of UCF Global Perspectives & International Initiatives. ORLANDO, FL | **UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**

This article was originally published in **UCF Today** | January 19, 2023

The **UCF Puerto Rico Research Hub (PRRH)** has been awarded $500,000 in funding to expand its research capabilities to better track key social and economic trends. The funding is part of the FY2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which supports a range of domestic and foreign policy priorities.

"There is no better investment than education and research to understand the impact of the continuous growth of the Puerto Rican population in Florida, particularly in Central Florida," says Fernando Rivera, PRRH director. "Understanding and coming up with solutions to the pressing issues encountered by this important segment of the population is not only important for Puerto Ricans in Florida, but to all who live and call Central Florida home."

Rivera founded the PRRH after Hurricane Maria devasted the island in 2017, resulting in a surge of the Puerto Rican population in Central Florida. The hub provides essential information about Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican population to communities throughout Florida and elsewhere in the United States. Through research, educational, outreach, and partnership activities, the PRRH has become a model for study and engaging with this growing, diverse community.

The funding will allow the PRRH to conduct polls on key social and education issues. It will allow the hub to invest in communication and marketing tools to develop reports, infographics and other educational materials for distribution to scholars, the community, policy makers and others. The PRRH will also hire new research staff, support community focus groups and events that assist with research, purchase technology and software. The information garnered from the PRRH's research will, among other things, enable government officials and community leaders to make more informed decisions as to how best to allocate resources to serve communities with significant Puerto Rican populations.

"This funding will be instrumental in expanding the capacity of the hub, which is vital given the presence of the diaspora here in Central Florida," says Zoé Colón, senior advisor to the PRRH and associate director of Global Perspectives & International Initiatives, who spearheaded UCF efforts to secure the funds. "I am also thrilled about the increased opportunities for students to get involved in research at the hub."

U.S. Rep. Darren Soto (Kissimmee), whose father is Puerto Rican, was instrumental in including funding for the PRRH in Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill last summer. This was later lumped into the year-ending omnibus, which included all outstanding appropriations bills. "Rep. Soto has been a champion for the Puerto Rico Research Hub since day one and want to thank him for believing that education and research are pathways to advance and enhance the lives of our community members," Rivera says.

UCF will publish research findings through a public awareness campaign, and include these findings in a new magazine being jointly produced by the PRRH and the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) – Rio Piedras, which will begin publication in 2023. UCF will also disseminate findings to members of Congress, and officials in states and localities with significant Puerto Rican population clusters.

THE PUERTO RICO RESEARCH HUB is the center of activities dedicated to the study of Puerto Ricans at the University of Central Florida. The purpose of the Research Hub is to investigate, disseminate knowledge and promote creative solutions to pressing issues affecting the Puerto Rican population, its diaspora, and surrounding communities. The mission of the UCF Puerto Rico Research Hub is to investigate the Puerto Rican population and demographic trends to better inform public policy decisions including housing demands, job creation, health issues, social integration, and education. The main areas of emphasis include research, student engagement, outreach, and partnerships.

DAVID DUMKE is the Executive Director of UCF Global Perspectives & International Initiatives. His responsibilities include overseeing all the programs and centers under the Global Perspectives umbrella, working with faculty, departments, and colleges to identify international opportunities, and establishing international partnerships which support academic programs, dialog, and collaborative research. He also co-hosts the WUCF-TV Global Perspectives show.

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CENTRO Joins Latinx Arts Consortium of New York by **CARMEN CRUZ** | CENTRO - Communications Coordinator

NEW YORK, NY | **CENTER FOR PUERTO RICAN STUDIES at HUNTER COLLEGE – CUNY** | January 18, 2023 - **The Center for Puerto Rican Studies (CENTRO)** is pleased to announce that it has joined the Latinx Arts Consortium of New York (LxNY) and will be in company with some of the most recognizable Latinx organizations in New York City including frequent partners like El Museo del Barrio, Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña, Pregones, and Teatro SEA.

LxNY is a collaborative peer network dedicated to celebrating the city's diverse cultural landscape while advocating for adequate funding in arts and culture for Latinx organizations. As a member, CENTRO will have the opportunity to deepen its collaboration with other organizations and artists by showcasing the rich cultural heritage and impact of Puerto Ricans in the diaspora.

CENTRO CENTER FOR PUERTO RICAN STUDIES HUNTER CUNY

"We are excited to join this dynamic and vibrant community, and we look forward to collaborating with our fellow members to create transformative and radical projects that benefit Latinx New Yorkers" said Ángel A. Ruiz Laboy, Director of Arts and Culture at CENTRO.

Through this collaboration, CENTRO will be able to support and promote the work of artists and cultural practitioners with a much wider audience. Additionally, the partnership will allow CENTRO to continue uplifting the Puerto Rican diasporic experience and its intersections with the Latinx community of NYC while harnessing the collective power of the consortium to enrich the city's diverse cultural landscape.

To learn more about LxNY, please visit www.lxnyarts.org.

About The Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College (CENTRO) - Founded in 1973 by a coalition of students, faculty, and activists, the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College (CENTRO) is the largest university-based research institute, library, and archive dedicated to the Puerto Rican experience in the United States. CENTRO provides support to students, scholars, artists, and members of the community at large across and beyond New York. CENTRO produces original research, films, books, and educational tools, and is the home of CENTRO Journal—the premiere academic journal of Puerto Rican Studies. The aim of CENTRO is to create actionable and accessible scholarship to strengthen, broaden, and reimagine the field of Puerto Rican studies.

About Latinx Arts Consortium of New York (LxNY) - Formed in 2020 by organizations serving Latinx communities and artists across New York City, LxNY aims to transform the historical underfunding of Latinx arts by advocating for the equity-driven missions of our cultural institutions, nurturing our deep relationships with community, and stewarding our hard-fought legacies into the future. Advancing cultural work as essential work, LxNY honors the expertise of our multigenerational arts leaders and culture bearers, harnessing their collective experience to better serve the city's diverse cultural landscape.

EforAll/EparaTodos Holyoke Announces Winter 2023 Business Accelerator Finalists continued from page 4

- **Luis Laboy, Baystate Championship Wrestling:** Luis has his own wrestling school where he trains and teaches boys and girls in the community. He focuses on helping the kids in the community and keeping them together, holding sporadic wrestling "shows" for the community as well as competing professionally with some of his wrestlers.
- **Aura Vazquez, Borinquen Sweets by Aura:** Aura is dedicated to the confection of cakes for all kinds of events, her cakes are inspired by a Puerto Rican recipe she uses for all her creations . Aura seeks to establish this part-time business and little by little dedicate herself more to it until she opens her own space.
- **Alejandra del Sol Lebau, Del Sol Massage:** Alejandra has her massage business specialized in techniques from Mexico, specifically Oaxaca where she grew up. Alejandra has a lot of education in terms of massages and seeks to create a different and unique place to offer her services.
- **Julio Cubero, Draglio Music Academy:** Julio opened doors to the music school in the city of Holyoke. He's from Puerto Rico and learned music in the island. He teaches all kinds of instruments, including "cuatro", guitar, piano and more, focused on having affordable prices for the community.
- **Jennifer Rivera, Jenni's Kitchen:** Jenni is the owner of Jenni's Kitchen, a mostly Puerto Rican food business specializing in catering, food sales from home, events, etc... Jenni recently quit her day job to dedicate 100% to her business as it is growing substantially.
- **Benito Torres, La Arecibeña Family Torres Farm:** Benito is dedicated to making typical Puerto Rican sweets. These are sold at different events and the farmers market when he has the opportunity to participate.. He's already working on being in a commercial kitchen to expand his creations. Benito also grows his own veggies to sell.
- **Jacqueline Bones, Lovely Affairs:** Jacqueline is an entrepreneur who started her event decoration business a short time ago and she has managed to create a clientele as well as decorate several events and has his instagram account.
- **Yamaira Rivera, YR Accounting and Tax Services:**Yamaira has plenty of experience and studies in the accounting area. She wants to open her own business from her home and help clients, especially the Latino community.

Astrónomas de la UPR Río Piedras Reciben Beca Millonaria de la NASA

RÍO PIEDRAS, PR | **UNIVERSIDAD DE PUERTO RICO – RÍO PIEDRAS** | 23 de diciembre de 2022- La propuesta denominada "Allanando el camino para la investigación astrofísica en Puerto Rico", de la autoría de la doctora Mayra Lebrón, especialista en física, astronomía y profesora del Recinto de Río Piedras de la Universidad de Puerto Rico (RRP-UPR), fue avalada por la Administración Nacional de Aeronáutica y el Espacio (NASA, por sus siglas en inglés), para recibir un millón de dólares.

Dra. CARMEN PANTOJA y **Dra. MAYRA LEBRÓN**

La subvención provista por NASA-EPSCoR, al Departamento de Ciencias Físicas de la Facultad de Estudios Generales (FEG) y al Departamento de Física de la Facultad de Ciencias Naturales (FCN), tendrá un periodo de vigencia de tres años, desde septiembre del 2022 hasta agosto del 2025.

La propuesta –titulada en inglés Paving the Way for Astrophysics Research in Puerto Rico- permitirá que profesores y estudiantes universitarios puedan adquirir experiencia en el análisis de datos infrarrojos, esenciales para realizar investigaciones astrofísicas en diversos temas.

Los estudios que se llevarán a cabo están enfocados en dos áreas principales: estudio del universo cercano y el estudio de las estrellas en formación y sus interacciones con la nube materna. Los proyectos harán uso de datos de archivo de los grandes telescopio espaciales de NASA, así como del nuevo telescopio espacial James Webb Space Telescope.

Estos proyectos estarán dirigidos por la doctora Mayra Lebrón y cuenta con la colaboración de los doctores Carmen Pantoja (UPR-Río Piedras), Héctor Arce (Universidad de Yale), Alberto Noriega-Crespo (Space Telescope Science Institute), Paul Goldsmith (NASA-JPL) y Alex Raga (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México).

Lebrón Santos, directora del proyecto, afirmó que "esto proporcionará a los científicos en Puerto Rico las habilidades necesarias para aprovechar al máximo los datos de las misiones espaciales actuales y futuras de la NASA, como el telescopio espacial James Webb (JWST) y el telescopio espacial Nancy Grace Roman".

Más sobre la investigación espacial

Según explicó la doctora Lebrón, una de las áreas de investigación será el estudio del universo cercano. "Nuestro grupo ha seleccionado una de las regiones más retantes, la Zona de Exclusión del Universo (*ZoA*, por sus siglas en inglés). La *ZoA* se refiere a las direcciones en el cielo que coinciden con el plano de la Vía Láctea, y, por lo tanto, es una parte del universo que es invisible para telescopios ópticos. El estudio de estas regiones requiere el uso de otras longitudes de onda como el infrarrojo. Con este proyecto esperamos producir un catálogo de galaxias en infrarrojo de estas regiones poco exploradas", aseguró.

Las galaxias que este equipo de científicos se propone estudiar, en su mayoría, es la primera vez que se les identifica y, en algunos casos, la primera vez que se observan. Los resultados de estos estudios ayudarán a trazar la extensión de los cúmulos de galaxias y la presencia de nuevos cúmulos de galaxias en el universo cercano.

"Utilizando datos en infrarrojo de archivo -añadió Lebrón- esperamos establecer nuevos criterios de selección de galaxias para investigaciones posteriores con radio telescopios. Esto ayudará a optimizar el tiempo de uso del telescopio para estudios de hidrógeno neutro en muestras de galaxias. Uno de los aspectos más novedosos de nuestro trabajo es un proyecto piloto en el que utilizaremos algoritmos de **Inteligencia Artificial y *Machine Learning* (AI/ML)**, para la búsqueda de galaxias en imágenes infrarrojas y el posterior análisis de datos".

Otra área de interés del grupo es el estudio de las estrellas en formación y cómo afectan sus alrededores. Ellos saben que las estrellas se forman en las regiones más densas dentro de grandes nubes de hidrógeno molecular. No obstante, Lebrón manifestó que su grupo "tiene gran interés en entender las fases violentas que ocurren durante la formación de las estrellas, en particular investigamos los flujos y chorros de material que se producen durante el nacimiento de las estrellas".

De hecho, una de las regiones seleccionadas se encuentra en la famosa nebulosa de Orión, que es una de las regiones de formación de estrellas masivas más cercanas a la Tierra. "Estos chorros de material han sido observados con el telescopio espacial Spitzer, pero con el nuevo telescopio espacial James Webb veremos detalles de la producción de los mismos con resoluciones nunca antes vistas. Se utilizarán varios instrumentos para estudiar la distribución espacial del chorro y la emisión del material chocado", declaró la investigadora.

Se espera que los resultados de este proyecto provean la data necesaria para modelar con más exactitud los procesos de formación de estrellas.

La Mellon Foundation Otorga Millones a la Universidad de Puerto Rico - Río Piedras

RÍO PIEDRAS, PR | **UNIVERSIDAD DE PUERTO RICO – RÍO PIEDRAS** | 2 de enero de 2023 – La Mellon Foundation aprobó dos subvenciones para el Recinto de Río Piedras de la Universidad de Puerto Rico por un total de $2,948,000.00.

La primera de ellas es por $1,948,000.00, gestionada por el profesor Pedro Reina Pérez y respaldará durante cinco años un nuevo programa para becar estudiantes (Becas Mellon-MAGAC) que interesen completar la maestría de Gestión y Administración Cultural de la Facultad de Humanidades. Asimismo, permitirá el reclutamiento de un (a) profesor(a) visitante a tiempo completo (Profesor visitante Mellon MAGAC); creará un fondo semilla para apoyar proyectos de conclusión estudiantiles de gran promesa; iniciará un fondo de apoyo a viajes para profesores y estudiantes; apoyará parcialmente el Harvard Puerto Winter Institute en alianza con la Universidad de Harvard; y financiará la actualización de equipos y materiales electrónicos.

La segunda subvención —por $1,000.000.00— es para el desarrollo del programa "Puerto Rico Afro: Tiznando el país- Visualidades y Representaciones", dentro del Instituto Interdisciplinario y Multicultural (INIM) de la Facultad de Estudios Generales y tiene a la Dra. María Elba Torres Muñoz como investigadora principal y directora del proyecto; a la Dra. Janine Santiago quien es catedrática asociada, como co-directora e investigadora; a la Dra. Silene Vargas Díaz, como evaluadora; y a la Sra. Maritza Rodríguez Nieves, como administradora. Puerto Rico Afro: Tiznando el país- Visualidades y Representaciones es una iniciativa en colaboración con la Alianza de Museos de Puerto Rico.

Este proyecto de investigación y educación transdisciplinaria llevará educación sobre artes visuales, cultura y cine a varias comunidades, con énfasis en una mirada decolonial desde la perspectiva de la afrodescendencia, con el objetivo de presentar un paradigma anti racista a los jóvenes estudiantes, a la comunidad de nuestros mayores o de envejecientes que en muchos casos ha sido rezagados y a centros culturales y a los pueblos de la isla. Esta iniciativa innovadora en Puerto Rico pone a la UPR-RP y a estas docentes en la avanzada de una educación pertinente y transversal en discursos de raza, historia, cultura y etnicidades.

Para la Dra. Angélica Varela Llavona —rectora interina del Recinto de Río Piedras de la UPR—, "estas dos subvenciones son un nuevo testimonio de la excelencia académica que caracteriza al principal recinto de la Universidad de Puerto Rico y de la confianza con la que nos distingue una institución del calibre de the Mellon Foundation, entidad a la que agradecemos profundamente por este apoyo".

"Felicito cálidamente a los doctores Pedro Reina Pérez y María Elba Torres Muñoz por estos logros, así como a su equipo de colaboradores, con la certeza de que estas generosas subvenciones tendrán los frutos esperados por todos", agregó la doctora Varela.

Por su parte, el Dr. Luis A. Ferrao, presidente de la UPR dijo que "con estos fondos se abre camino para que los estudiantes interesados en continuar su maestría en Gestión y Administración Cultural de la Facultad de Humanidades puedan solicitar la beca y obtengan un impulso económico para completar su grado. Reconozco las gestiones de los profesores Pedro Reina Pérez, de la Facultad de Humanidades, y a la Dra. María Elba Torres Muñoz, de la Facultad de Estudios Generales, por lograr tan importantes subvenciones para beneficio de nuestra institución, estudiantes y cultura de Puerto Rico. De la misma manera, agradezco a la Fundación Mellon por su fiel compromiso con las artes, las humanidades y la educación".

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STCC Receives $3M to support Cybersecurity Center of Excellence at Union Station

SPRINGFIELD, MA | **OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN RICHARD E. NEAL** | January 17, 2023 – Congressman Richard E. Neal joined Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, Springfield Technical Community College President John B. Cook and Springfield Redevelopment Authority Executive Director Amanda Pham to announce a $3 million earmark to establish a Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (CCE) within Springfield Union Station.

The allocation was made possible through Congressionally Direct Spending (CDS) from the Department of Education. Neal included funding for this project in the Fiscal Year 2023 spending bill that was signed into law on Dec. 29, 2022.

From left, STCC President **John B. Cook**, U.S. Rep. **Richard E. Neal**, Bay Path University President **Sandra J. Doran**, Elms College President **Harry E. Dumay**, and AIC President **Hubert Benítez**.

"The threats facing our nation at both the national and local level are significant, and having the cutting-edge technology capable of countering these threats is of the utmost importance," Neal said Jan. 17 in an announcement at Union Station. "Union Station has become a world-class intermodal transportation hub for the Greater Springfield community, and it will now serve as home to a state-of-the-art cybersecurity training center. This will give the brightest young minds in our region the resources they need to combat these threats, ultimately expanding the region's skilled workforce and shoring up the resiliency of our cybersecurity in western Massachusetts and beyond."

Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno stated, "I want to thank Congressman Richard Neal, who once a mayor always the heart of a mayor, who continues to provide exemplary leadership for our Springfield and Union Station. This $3 million will support STCC and the transformative and dynamic Cybersecurity Center of Excellence at our historic Union Station, which supports my administrations workforce development objectives around cybersecurity initiatives by promoting diversity and supporting more of that good four-letter word, JOBS!"

"Congressman Richard E. Neal has again delivered, and STCC could not be more thrilled to partner in the launching of a Cybersecurity Center of Excellence for Western Massachusetts," Cook said. "We are tremendously grateful for these federal dollars which provide a unique investment in students, community college and the workforce needs of a key sector. Thank you, Congressman Neal, for championing Union Station and helping build our local cyber resiliency."

"The Springfield Redevelopment Authority congratulates STCC on their award and are excited to welcome the CCE here at Union Station," Pham said. "This endeavor would not have been possible without the support from our federal and state partners. We thank Congressman Neal for his continued support toward this effort by way of this transformative award. This center will strengthen cybersecurity resilience in Western MA while empowering our workforce to meet the needs of this evolving industry. Western Mass is home to many higher education institutions and we are encouraged by the collaborative partnerships being made – all to better the lives of our students and community at large."

Funding will be used to establish the CCE, which will be developed and operated in collaboration with the MassCyberCenter, and serve as a regional CCE for western Massachusetts and beyond. The project brings together a consortia of area higher education institutions, business and civic leaders and facility professionals. The CCE will provide invaluable hands-on training and professional opportunities for students to develop a career in the burgeoning cyber workforce and will be an integral part of the Massachusetts Cybersecurity Consortium.

Under guidelines issued by the Senate and House Appropriations Committees, members of Congress requested CDS funding for projects in their state for fiscal 2023. CDS requests were restricted to a limited number of federal funding streams, and only state and local governments, and eligible non-profit entities, were permitted to receive CDS funding.

This project is one of 15 CDS projects submitted by Congressman Neal, totaling over $20 million in investments throughout the First Congressional District of Massachusetts.

In October, STCC received $1.46 million from the MassCyberCenter and the administration of Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito in addition to $500,000 from the city of Springfield.

STCC will staff and operate the facility in partnership with a consortia of area higher education institutions (Bay Path University, UMass Amherst, Western New England University, Elms College, and Springfield College), each of which bring a range of undergraduate certificate and degree programs in IT/Security, Cybersecurity, Computer Science and Programming, Digital Forensics, and Criminal Justice.

Latina Students Discuss College Experience with AIC President Benítez

SPRINGFIELD, MA | **AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE** | January 18, 2023 – American International College (AIC)- Latina students who have demonstrated leadership qualities at American International College (AIC) have been invited to the table, in both the literal and figurative sense.

Meeting students, staff, and community members over a meal is how AIC President Hubert Benitez prefers to gather. And on January 18th, the first day of the College's spring 2023 semester, a group of about a dozen young women, ranging from first-year students to doctoral candidates, were invited to a *Latina Leaders Luncheon with President Benitez.*

The luncheon, organized by the AIC Core Academics (ACE) program, was designed as a way for students to learn more about the initiatives underway at the College to better serve Hispanic students, as well as for President Benitez to hear from the students about their experiences on campus.

ACE is a Student Support Services program for first-generation college students to help them to achieve success, including their development as leaders. ACE Program Director Terrence O'Neill hopes this lunch meeting is the first of many, representing diverse groups of students.

Among the AIC initiatives underway to better serve Hispanic and Latino students is the College's effort to become a Hispanic Serving Institution, defined as a college or university with a full-time undergraduate Hispanic student enrollment of at least twenty-five percent. Earning this designation would allow AIC to apply for federal grants to expand its educational opportunities and programs for Hispanic students.

Other initiatives impacting Latino students include AIC's participation in the Immigration Focused Alliance, which is a group of "American college and university leaders dedicated to increasing public understanding of how immigration policies and practices impact our students, campuses, and communities."

AIC also continues to expand its international reach with partnership agreements recently signed with Universidad Andres Bello Santiago de Chile (UNAB), which ranks among the top fifty academic institutions in Latin America, and Universidad Catolica de El Salvador (UNICAES), among others. Among the goals of these compacts is to explore shared student and academic programming.

While a few of the students at the luncheon expressed nervousness about speaking with the College president, many said they were also grateful for the opportunity. "I feel honored to be chosen to represent as a Latina at AIC, and to be in a school with such a diverse population," said Sophomore Shayliez Rosario, a psychology major. She added, "It makes me feel seen."

Founded in 1885, **American International College (AIC)** is a private, co-educational, doctoral-granting institution in Springfield, Massachusetts comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Health Service, and the School of Education. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.

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Greater Holyoke Chamber Congratulates Board Member Miguel Rivera

HOLYOKE, MA | January 9, 2023 – Miguel Rivera and Lidia Rodríguez were born in Ponce, PR. They were married in January 2013. Mr. Rivera has a Bachelor's degree in Marketing and a Master's in International Business while Mrs. Rodríguez has a Bachelor's degree in Business Law.

In 2010, they both obtained their life and health insurance licenses and became agents. In 2013 they moved to Massachusetts. Miguel and Lidia started Rewarding Insurance Agency in 2018.

Upon moving their location to Holyoke in 2020, working out of the Greater Holyoke Chamber, Miguel and Lidia have served the greater Holyoke and Springfield communities with Life Insurance, Retirement Solutions, and Critical Illness Insurance.

After 5 years of successful growth, they are excited to announce that they have added Health Insurance and Medicare Advantage to their lines of coverage. They are contracted with the leading Medicare Advantage carriers in Hampden County, including: Commonwealth Care Alliance, Fallon Health, United Health Care and Health New England.

A Medicare Advantage plan is offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide members with all the Medicare Parts A and B benefits. Additional benefits may include cost savings or subsidies toward hearing, dental and vision care. Many plans also provide transportation to medical appointments. With many of their clients being elderly, lacking transportation, or of low-to-moderate income, this will prove to be a great asset in their commitment to better serve their community.

With access to more than 15 tops of the line insurance carriers, they provide their clients the best choices of coverage.

Rewarding Insurance Agency is a Latino-owned business with more than 1,000 clients that emphasizes helping seniors and their families evaluate their coverage options, review their existing plans, and process their claims. Their mission is to protect families financially and to give them access to services and resources that help improve their quality of life.

Lidia Rodríguez, Miguel Rivera y Sophia Isabel.

Their office is conveniently located in downtown Holyoke, steps away from clinics, adult day programs, pharmacies, senior living communities, social security administration offices, and the bus station.

Appointments are preferred, but will always take the time to accommodate a walk-in. **Se Habla Español**.

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¡Printing The Revolution!
The Rise and Impact of Chicano Graphics, 1965 to Now exhibition at Dartmouth College

HANOVER, NH | **DARTMOUTH COLLEGEE** | December 8, 2022—The Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College presents the Smithsonian American Art Museum's (SAAM) traveling exhibition ¡Printing the Revolution! The Rise and Impact of Chicano Graphics, 1965 to Now, on view from February 4 through June 11, 2023. Drawn from SAAM's permanent collection, this exhibition features 119 artworks by more than 74 artists of Mexican descent and allied artists active in Chicanx networks. Originally organized by E. Carmen Ramos, former acting chief curator and curator of Latinx art at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, with Claudia Zapata, former curatorial assistant for Latinx art, the exhibition is presented at the Hood Museum by Michael Hartman, Jonathan Little Cohen Associate Curator of American Art, with Beatriz Yanes Martinez, Hood Museum Board of Advisors Mutual Learning Fellow.

In the 1960s, activist Chicano artists forged a remarkable history of printmaking that remains vital today. Many artists came of age during the civil rights, labor, anti-war, feminist, and LGBTQ+ movements and channeled the period's social activism into assertive aesthetic statements that announced a new political and cultural consciousness among people of Mexican descent in the United States. ¡Printing the Revolution! explores the rise of Chicano graphics within these early social movements and the ways in which Chicanx artists since then have advanced innovative printmaking practices attuned to social justice.

More than reflect the need for social change, the works in this exhibition revise and celebrate notions of Chicanx identity; spur local, national, and global political activism; and encourage a broader and more inclusive understanding of US and international history. By employing diverse visual and artistic modes from satire to portraiture, appropriation, conceptualism, and politicized pop, the artists in this exhibition have built an enduring and inventive graphic tradition that has yet to be fully integrated into the history of US printmaking.

Sprawling across seven of the Hood Museum's 16 galleries and presented entirely in both Spanish and English, the exhibition reflects the heart of the institution. Explains the Hood Museum's Michael Hartman, "This exhibition's presentation at the Hood Museum reflects our dedication to telling a broader, more diverse and inclusive history of American art. Our new strategic plan emphasizes both the importance of proactively inviting new voices into the museum's spaces and practices, and the value of placing art and people at the center of our work to advance mutual learning, care, and connections. ¡Printing the Revolution! elevates Chicanx artists and those inspired by them, encouraging community engagement with social issues that impact all of us in one form or another."

Adds John R. Stomberg, Virginia Rice Kelsey 1961s Director of the Hood Museum of Art, "This exhibition is a celebration of Chicanx graphics, uplifting the perspectives of Chicanx artists who encourage us to consider US history in a new way. Their creativity helped to raise the visibility of social-justice issues in the United States, and the Hood Museum hopes that visitors will be inspired to consider their personal relationships to the themes presented in the exhibition. From family and personal identity to workers' rights, immigration, and climate change, ¡Printing the Revolution! weaves a narrative that is integral to understanding our shared experience."

continued on page 14

Oree Originol, ***Justice for Our Lives,*** 2014-20, 78 digital images. Smithsonian American Art Museum: Museum purchase through the Patricia Tobacco Forrester Endowment; 2020.51A-MM © 2014 Oree Originol. Photo of installation by Albert Ting.

Black Citizenship in the Age of Jim Crow Gallery Exhibit at Wistariahurst Museum

HOLYOKE, MA | **WISTARIAHURST MUSEUM** | January 11, 2023—For the month of February (**Monday February 6, through Tuesday, February 21, 2023**) Wistariahurst Museum and Garden will display a poster exhibition entitled **Black Citizenship in the Age of Jim Crow** organized and distributed by the New-York Historical Society Museum and Library with lead support for this traveling exhibition provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor.

Black Americans gained monumental new liberties after the Civil War and the end of slavery. The era known as Reconstruction brought freedom, citizenship, and, for men, the right to vote. By the early 1900s, these liberties had been sabotaged by a repressive racial system known as Jim Crow. This exhibit chronicles the long strides forward, bruising setbacks, and heroic struggle for equality that took place during these years.

Erika Slocumb, scholar of Black studies, who has done much research on the local Black community in Holyoke remarked, "The fight for Black citizenship in the age of Jim Crow is interesting because Black folks used soldiering in the Civil War as a means to attain citizenship in the US. Specifically this demand for citizenship came from Black abolitionists in the North, including Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. Du Bois. The Massachusetts 54th Regiment was at the forefront of this call. There were quite a few soldiers from Western Mass who fought in the 54th and were recognized for their bravery not only on the battlefield but also in their call for equal pay and rights in the US Army. I think that it's important to understand that emancipation, while it "freed" enslaved Black people in the US, it did not afford them the opportunities of the protections of the law. Many people fled the Jim Crow south in search of a better life and greater opportunity. And that wave of northern migration and ones that followed are how many of the Black families we have spoken to came to be in Holyoke."

In addition to the exhibit this program provides a large list of resources for teachers and public citizens that includes recommended readings, recommending watching, links to interactive presentations, workshops and educational curriculum and lesson plans for grades k-12.

The general public, historians and researchers alike won't want to miss this exhibit to learn about how national events affected our own local history.

The exhibit will be in the Gallery at Wistariahurst and will be supplemented with artifacts and images from the Black Holyoke collection. The gallery is open Mondays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and Tuesday evenings 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Please visit **https://wistariahurst.org/events-2/** to register for this event.

¡Printing The Revolution! continued from page 13

This exhibition is the first to unite historic civil rights–era Chicanx prints alongside works by contemporary printmakers, including several that embrace graphics that exist beyond the paper substrate. While the dominant mode of printmaking among Chicanx artists remains screenprinting, this exhibition features works in a wide range of techniques and presentation strategies, from installation art to public interventions, augmented reality, and shareable graphics that circulate in the digital realm. The exhibition also is the first to consider how Chicanx mentors, print centers, and networks nurtured other artists, including several who drew inspiration from the example of Chicanx printmaking.

E. Carmen Ramos notes, "The start of the Chicano civil rights movement in the 1960s, or El Movimiento, marked a completely new way of being a person of Mexican descent in the United States. To call yourself Chicano—a formerly derogatory term for Mexican Americans—became a cultural and political badge of honor that expressly rejected the goal of melting-pot assimilation." Since then, the term Chicanx has emerged as a gender-inclusive designation.

As with the Chicano movement itself, the cornerstone of ¡Printing the Revolution! is a focus on cross-generational mentorship. Presented thematically, artworks in each gallery demonstrate how Chicanx mentors, print centers, and networks nurtured artists, including allied artists who drew inspiration from the example of Chicanx printmaking. The exhibition sections are titled "Urgent Images", "A New Chicano World," "Changemakers," "Reimagining National and Global Histories," "Digital Innovations and Public Interventions," and "Shareable Graphics."

Hood Museum - Related Events & Programs

Exhibition tours led by Hood Museum curator Michael Hartman and Beatriz Yanes Martinez will take place on Wednesday, February 8, and Wednesday, February 22, 12:30–1:30 pm, and there will be a winter opening reception on Thursday, February 16, 6:15–7:15 pm, to further celebrate this exhibition.

In coordination with the exhibition, the Hood Museum will present the Poster Engagement Project, developed by the museum's three Board of Advisors Mutual Learning Fellows: Nichelle Gaumont, Beatriz Yanes Martinez, and Jayde Xu. Many posters featured in the exhibition were used in protests, marches, or were plastered community recaptures the original purpose of these pieces while also sparking an interest in the exhibition.

Publication

Lavishly illustrated with three double gatefolds, the English-language exhibition catalogue ¡Printing the Revolution! features more than one hundred works drawn from the Smithsonian American Art Museum's leading collection of Latinx art. It includes essays by the Smithsonian's E. Carmen Ramos and Claudia Zapata, as well as contributions by Tatiana Reinoza, assistant professor of art history at the University of Notre Dame, and Terezita Romo, an art historian, curator, and writer. ¡Printing the Revolution! is considered to be the definitive book on the history of Chicanx printmaking. Publisher: Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC, in association with Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford; Year Published: 2020; Number of Pages: 340

For more information about the exhibition, contact Hood Museum of Art

Anna Kaye Schulte: anna.kaye.m.schulte@dartmouth.edu • (603) 646-2821

El libro de los altares: Ensayos de literatura puertorriqueña y dominicana

por **MIGUEL ÁNGEL FORNERÍN** | SANTO DOMINGO, RD | **EDITORIAL SANTUARIO** | Septiembre 9, 2022 | 350 páginas

Dedicado a René Rodríguez Soriano, este libro es un acto de recordación a Marcio Veloz Maggiolo y Carlos Esteban Deive. Teniendo en cuenta los trabajos de Paul Ricoeur sobre la memoria y la imaginación, el autor se afirma en que el acto de la escritura es una forma de redefinir la memoria y entre sus trabajos está relacionarnos con el pasado y con nuestros muertos.

El libro de los altares: ensayos sobre literatura puertorriqueña y dominicana conforma un conjunto de exposiciones que van desde el vanguardismo en las letras borinqueñas hasta la epistemología social de Juan Bosch. Por él desfilan juicios y valoraciones sobre las obras de Julia de Burgos, Jan Martínez, José Alcántar Almánzar, Tulio M. Cestero, Freddy Gatón Arce, Carmen Natalia, Franklin Gutiérrez, Olga Nolla, Carlos Roberto Gómez Beras, Pedro Mir, Tony Raful, José Enrique García, entre muchos otros. El lector valorará estos ensayos, entre otras cosas, por su sencillez e intento de buscar la universalidad de una literatura caribeña en movimiento.

MIGUEL ANGEL FORNERÍN, Es poeta, ensayista y crítico literario dominicano. Doctor en literatura de Puerto Rico y el Caribe. Profesor del Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe y de la Universidad de Puerto Rico en Cayey. Ha publicado los libros: *Dulce amor de primavera* (poesía), 1984; *Teoría y práctica en la poética de León David* (ensayo), 1987; *La espía que me amó y Yo soy esta ciudad* (poesía), 1996; *Detrás de los infiernos*, (poesía) 1997; *Puerto Rico y Santo Domingo también son...,* 1999; *La dominicanidad viajera*, 2002; *I passi dell'ebrio* (antología poética traducida al italiano por Givanni di Pietro), 2004; y Ensayos sobre literatura puertorriqueña y dominicana, 2004. Ha sido profesor invitado de la Universidad de Bordeaux 3 y la Universidad de Poitiers de Francia en 2003 y 2007. Tiene en prensa el libro "Andrés L. Mateo y la aventura espiritual de la dominicanidad".

Making the MexiRican City: Migration, Placemaking, and Activism in Grand Rapids, Michigan by **DELIA FERNÁNDEZ-JONES**

CHAMPAIGN, IL | **UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS** | February 28, 2023 | 304 pages

Groundbreaking and revelatory, Making the MexiRican City details how disparate Latino communities came together to respond to social, racial, and economic challenges.

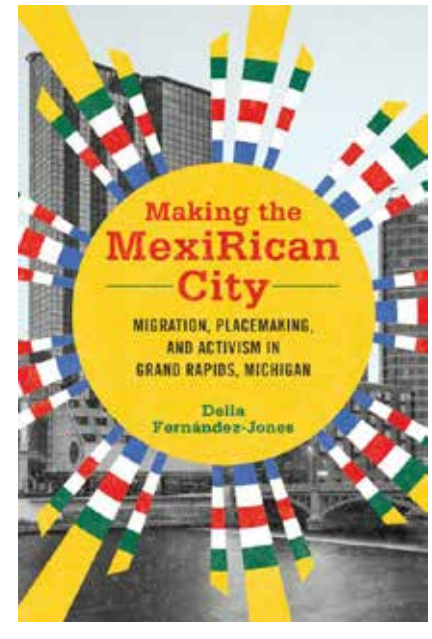
Large numbers of Latino migrants began to arrive in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in the 1950s. They joined a small but established Spanish-speaking community of people from Texas, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. Delia Fernández-Jones merges storytelling with historical analysis to recapture the placemaking practices that these Mexicans, Tejanos, and Puerto Ricans used to create a new home for themselves. Faced with entrenched white racism and hostility, Latinos of different backgrounds formed powerful relationships to better secure material needs like houses and jobs and to recreate community cultural practices. Their pan-Latino solidarity crossed ethnic and racial boundaries and shaped activist efforts that emphasized working within the system to advocate for social change. In time, this interethnic Latino alliance exploited cracks in both overt and structural racism and attracted white and Black partners to fight for equality in social welfare programs, policing, and education.

Review

"This is an original, indispensable, and beautifully poetic book that weaves together stories of migration, placemaking, and activism to show how Mexicans and Puerto Ricans made a home in Grand Rapids. With rich oral histories and archival research in Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the U.S., Delia Fernández-Jones has written an insightful and inspiring book that makes a vital contribution to fields of Latino and Midwestern history."--**Felipe Hinojosa**, author of Apostles of Change: Latino Radical Politics, Church Occupations, and the Fight to Save the Barrio

About the Author

DELIA FERNÁNDEZ-JONES is an assistant professor of history at Michigan State University. Dr. Fernández-Jones is a historian of Latinx life whose work focuses on intra-ethnic Latinx communities and pan-ethnic subjectivities among Latinx in search of greater political, social, and economic rights in the twentieth century. Her publications include "Finding MexiRican Placemaking in Michigan," in *Building Sustainable Worlds: Latinx Placemaking in the Midwest* (University of Illinois Press, 2022), 86-108.



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