

# LATINX

## GRADUATION AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY

• JUNE 23, 2023 •



DE ANZA  
LATINX  
ASSOCIATION



DeAnza  
College



## Vision

The De Anza Latinx Association will honor, cultivate, and leverage the collective power, contributions, inclusivity and excellence of Latinx culture, knowledge, and wisdom.

## In Solidarity with the Black Comunidad

As we take time to celebrate your academic achievements tonight, we acknowledge the oppression of our Black brothers, sisters, siblings – our familia. The state violence rooted in this nation's racism is killing loved ones and friends. We must also acknowledge those who are at the intersection of our communities, and uplift Afro-Latinx voices. As you start your next chapter, remember that this struggle will only be overcome if we work together and in solidarity with Black lives, and dismantle the systems that were created to keep people of color from rising.

## In Solidarity With Our Asian and Pacific Islander Comunidad

We have witnessed the alarming rise in assaults against the Asian American and Pacific Islander local communities in recent years, and we as the De Anza Latinx Association strongly condemn these racist and violent attacks against our brothers, our sisters, our siblings – our relatives. While our struggles are unique, there are so many parallels that remind us again and again that our oppression – and our liberation – are all connected. As we work toward ending systemic racism, discrimination and other systems of oppression, we are resolved to work toward a more equitable and inclusive society and to protect one another in the process.

## A Message to the Graduates

On behalf of the De Anza Latinx Association (DALA) faculty and staff members, we would like to send our sincere congratulations to our 2023 graduating class! This class has triumphed through some difficult times, navigating a “new normal” that we are still defining and creating. Nevertheless, like our ancestors, our Latinx students have been resilient, persistent and continue to pave the way for those that follow in generations to come. We are so proud of you and cannot wait to see the change you will create in our community. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2023!!

## Un Mensaje para los Graduados

De parte del profesorado y empleados miembros de (DALA) De Anza Latinx Association les mandamos nuestras sinceras felicitaciones a nuestros/as graduados/as, clase del 2023! Mientras navegamos en una “Nueva Normalidad” que aún estamos definiendo y creando, esta clase ha triunfado. Sin embargo, al igual que nuestros antepasados, nuestros estudiantes Latinx han perseverado, demostrando firmeza y abriendo camino para las generaciones venideras. Nos sentimos tan orgullosos de todas y todos ustedes y esperamos con certeza ver los cambios que harán en nuestra comunidad. Felicidades a los que se gradúan con la clase del 2023!





# Program

## Opening Dance Performance La Cumbiamba Colombiana

## Blessing and Land Acknowledgement

**Adriana Garcia**

*Program Coordinator, Office of Equity, Social Justice and Multicultural Education  
President, Classified Senate*

## Bienvenida

**Christina G. Epinosa-Pieb**

*Vice President, Instruction*

## Student Speaker

**Ileana Meraz**

*A.A.-Transfer, Political Science*

## Presentation of ADELA Scholarship Recipients

**Verónica Acevedo Ávila**

*Instructor, English and Reading*

**Felisa Vilaubi**

*Counselor, English Performance Success and Adult School Transitions*

## Student Speaker

**Kathia Hernandez-de Orta**

*A.A.-Transfer, Psychology*

## Presentation of Graduating and Transferring Students

**Ruben Ábrica-Carrasco**

*Instructor Emeritus, Spanish Language and Culture*

**Dr. Steve Nava**

*Instructor, Sociology*

*Co-Coordinator, Latinx Empowerment at De Anza (LEAD)*

## Special Recognition of Alicia Cortez

**Angélica Esquivel**

*Program Coordinator, Vasconcellos Institute for Democracy in Action (VIDA)  
and Higher Education for AB540 Students (HEFAS)*

**Shaila Ramos-Garcia**

*Program Coordinator, Undocumented Student Support*

## Reconocimientos y Apreciaciones Appreciation for Chancellor Judy C. Miner

**Sofia Abad-Guzman**

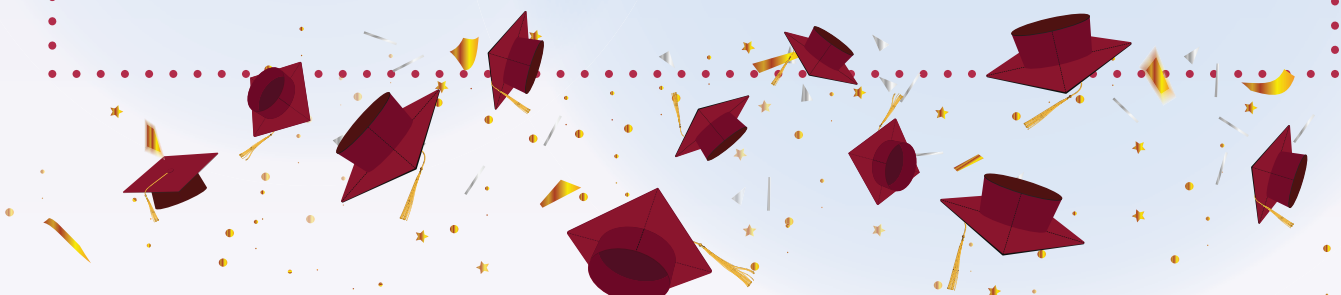
*Program Coordinator, Occupational Training Institute*

**Dr. Yvette Campbell**

*Director, STEM Success Program*

## Music for Closing and Reception

**Mariachi Estellar**



# ¡Felicidades a Nuestros Graduados!

*(Italics indicate the institution to which the student is transferring)*

## **Vicente Alcala-Perez**

A.A.-Transfer, Psychology  
*Sonoma State University*

## **Manny Alcantar**

A.A., Facility and Sustainable  
Building Management  
*University of Arizona*

## **Daphne Alcaraz Briseño**

A.A.-Transfer, Sociology  
*San José State University*

## **Ana Gabriela Alzate Norena**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Business and  
Computer Information Systems  
A.S.-Transfer, Business Administration  
*San José State University*

## **Kevin Aparicio Sanchez**

A.A.-Transfer, Political Science  
Certificate, Leadership and Social  
Change  
*San José State University*

## **Aiden Arteaga**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Social and  
Behavioral Sciences  
*San José State University*

## **Stephanie Banderas**

A.A.-Transfer, Psychology  
*University of California, Santa Cruz*

## **Naxely Linda Belmont Perez**

A.A.-Transfer, History  
Certificate, Humanities  
*University of California, Los Angeles*

## **Jessica Kaylee Rios Berdejo**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Social and  
Behavioral Sciences  
Certificate, Leadership and Social Change  
*University of California, Davis*

## **Nicole Borquez**

A.A.-Transfer, Communication Studies  
*San José State University*

## **LuzElena Cabrera Canela**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Social and  
Behavioral Sciences  
*San José State University*

## **Karina G. Campos**

A.S.-Transfer, Early Childhood Education  
Certificate-Advanced, Transfer Studies:  
IGETC/CSU

## **Brenda Cardenas**

A.S.-Transfer, Business Administration  
*California State University, Chico*

## **Suzette Carrasco Gaeta**

A.A., Paralegal Studies

## **Gloria Berenice Castro Barreras**

A.S.-Transfer, Computer Science  
*San José State University*

## **Ivette Contreras Hernandez**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Social and  
Behavioral Sciences  
Certificate, Leadership and Social Change  
*University of California, Santa Barbara*

## **Cesar Antonio Cornejo Martinez**

A.A.-Transfer, Kinesiology  
*Dakota Wesleyan University*





**Joselyn Cortez Aguilar**

A.A.-Transfer, Sociology  
*California State University, East Bay*

**Cristian Cuauhtemoc Duran**

AS-Transfer, Business Administration  
*San Diego State University*

**Alyssa Karina Espinal**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Science, Math and  
Engineering  
*University of California, Berkeley*

**Kimi Fernandez Mendez**

A.A.-Transfer, English  
*San José State University*

**Omar Fimbres**

A.A.-Transfer, Administration  
of Justice  
*San José State University*

**Samantha Garcia Ildefonso**

AS-Transfer, Early Childhood  
Education  
Certificate, Child Development  
*San José State University*

**Arleene Jane Garcia-Contreras**

A.A.-Transfer, Kinesiology  
*San José State University*

**Andres Garcia-Gutierrez**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Arts and Letters

**Paloma Teresa Garcia-Gutierrez**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Science, Math  
and Engineering  
AA-Transfer, Kinesiology  
Certificate, Women's Studies  
*San Francisco State University*

**Jazmin Gonzalez**

A.S.-Transfer, Business Administration  
*California State University, East Bay*

**Alexandra Hernandez**

A.A., Film, Television and Electronic Media

**Karla Michelle Hernandez**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Social and Behavioral  
Sciences  
*Santa Clara University*

**Brenda Hernandez**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Science, Math and  
Engineering  
*University of California, Davis*

**Jennifer Hernández Calderon**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Social And Behavioral  
Sciences  
A.A.-Transfer, Psychology  
A.A.-Transfer, Sociology  
*San José State University*

**Yareli Sarahy Hernandez Perez**

A.S.-Transfer, Business Administration  
*San José State University*

**Kathia Hernandez-de Orta**

A.A.-Transfer, Psychology  
*University of California, Santa Cruz*

**Ashley Huerta**

Certificate-Advanced, Transfer Studies:  
IGETC/UC  
*University of California, Berkeley*

**Maria Ibanez**

A.A.-Transfer, Communication Studies  
Certificate, Communication Studies  
*San José State University*



**Athena Haydee Insuasti**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Science, Math  
and Engineering  
*California State University, East Bay*

**Sergio Isaiah Jimenez**

A.A.-Transfer, History  
*San Diego State University*

**Brandon Linares Leon**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Business and  
Computer Information Systems  
AS-Transfer, Business Administration

**Brian Loaiza Tovar**

A.A., Graphic Design  
*California State University, East Bay*

**Misak Maranon-Davis**

A.A.-Transfer, Psychology  
*University of California, Santa Cruz*

**Stephanie Belen Martinez**

A.S.-Transfer, Business Administration

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A.A.-Transfer, Psychology  
*San Francisco State University*

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A.S.-Transfer, Administration of Justice  
Certificate-Advanced, Transfer Studies:  
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*University of California, Irvine*

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A.A. Liberal Arts: Science, Math  
and Engineering  
*San José State University*

**Chelsea Julianna Mata**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Social and  
Behavioral Sciences  
AA-Transfer, Social Justice Studies:  
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AA-Transfer, Sociology  
*University of California, Santa Barbara*

**Saira Mendoza**

A.A., Business Administration

**Ileana Monserrat Meraz**

A.A.-Transfer, Political Science  
Certificate-Advanced, Transfer Studies:  
IGETC/UC  
*University of California, Davis*

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A.A.-Transfer, Psychology

**Nathalie Wendoline Miranda  
Guadarrama**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Business and  
Computer Information Systems  
A.S.-Transfer, Business Administration  
*San José State University*

**Mayra Moniz**

A.A., Paralegal Studies  
A.S.-Transfer, Administration of Justice

**Alejandra Montes**

A.A.-Transfer, Sociology

**Lizeth Palma Cuesta**

A.A.-Transfer, Communication Studies  
*San José State University*

**Alexandra Natalee Perez**

A.A., Management



**Janett A. Perez**

AS-Transfer, Business Administration  
*San José State University*

**Dania Quiroz Lara**

A.A.-Transfer, English  
*San José State University*

**Emely Ramirez Mendez**

A.S.-Transfer, Business Administration  
*San José State University*

**Monserath J. Rangel**

A.A.-Transfer, Psychology  
*University of California, Davis*

**Emanuel Rivera**

A.A.-Transfer, Anthropology  
*San José State University*

**Lesli Adelaida Rodriguez Lizaola**

A.A.-Transfer, Sociology  
*San José State University*

**Alondra Rodriguez Lomeli**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Social and Behavioral Sciences  
A.A.-Transfer, Anthropology  
*University of California, Santa Cruz*

**Jose Luis Rodriguez**

*San José State University*

**José Enrique Román Madrigal**

A.S.-Transfer- Mathematics  
*San José State University*

**Yanci Natalia Rosales Huevo**

A.A.-Transfer, Anthropology  
*University of California, Los Angeles*

**Julián Ruano Pérez**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Science, Math and Engineering  
A.S., Energy Management and Building Science  
Certificate-Advanced, Energy Management and Building Science

**Mireya Y Ruiz Robledo**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Business and Computer Information Systems  
A.A., Business Administration  
*San José State University*

**Maria Ruiz**

AA-Transfer, History  
*Arizona State University*

**Alexandra Ruiz Morales**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Social and Behavioral Sciences  
A.A.-Transfer, Psychology  
University of California, Santa Cruz or  
*San Francisco State University*

**Gabriela Eunice Sandoval Medina**

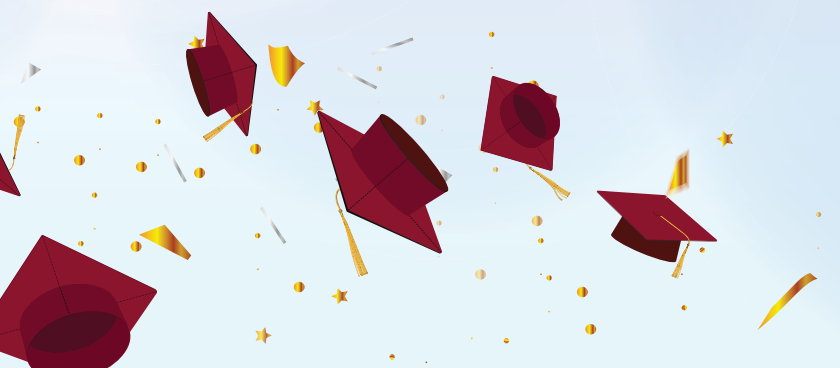
A.A., Liberal Arts: Business and Computer Information Systems  
*San José State University*

**Lorena Sandoval Mayo**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Business and Computer Information Systems  
A.S.-Transfer, Business Administration  
Certificate, Medical Reception  
*San José State University*

**Katalina Marie Santiago**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Science, Math and Engineering  
A.A.-Transfer, Kinesiology  
Certificate-Advanced, Transfer Studies: IGETC/CSU  
*California State University, Long Beach*





**Tatiana Andrea Serrano Zeledon**

A.S., Facility and Sustainable  
Building Management

**Jonathan Miguel Silva**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Arts and Letters  
*California State University, Monterey Bay*

**Mayra Gabriela Snell**

A.A., Liberal Arts, Social and  
Behavioral Sciences  
A.A.-Transfer, Psychology  
*San José State University*

**Fatima Yadira Soria**

A.S.-Transfer, Business Administration  
*San José State University*

**Daniel José Taveras**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Social and  
Behavioral Sciences  
A.A.-Transfer, Political Science  
*University of California, Berkeley*

**Brian Bennett Tilden**

A.S.-Transfer, Business Administration  
*San José State University*

**Nancy Denice Valenzuela**

A.S.-Transfer, Business Administration  
*San José State University*

**Melissa Valtierra Lopez**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Business and  
Computer Information Systems  
A.S.-Transfer, Business Administration  
*San José State University*

**Cristina Lisseth Vargas Santos**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Social and  
Behavioral Sciences  
A.A.-Transfer, Psychology  
*San Francisco State University*

**Rebecca Marie Vasquez**

A.A.-Transfer, Psychology  
*San Francisco State University*

**Frances Vejar**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Social and  
Behavioral Sciences  
A.A.-Transfer, Social Justice Studies:  
General Studies  
Certificate, Leadership and Social Change  
*California State University, Stanislaus*

**Mariajose Velasco Camacho**

A.A.-Transfer, Economics  
*California State University, Chico*

**Scarlett Velasquez**

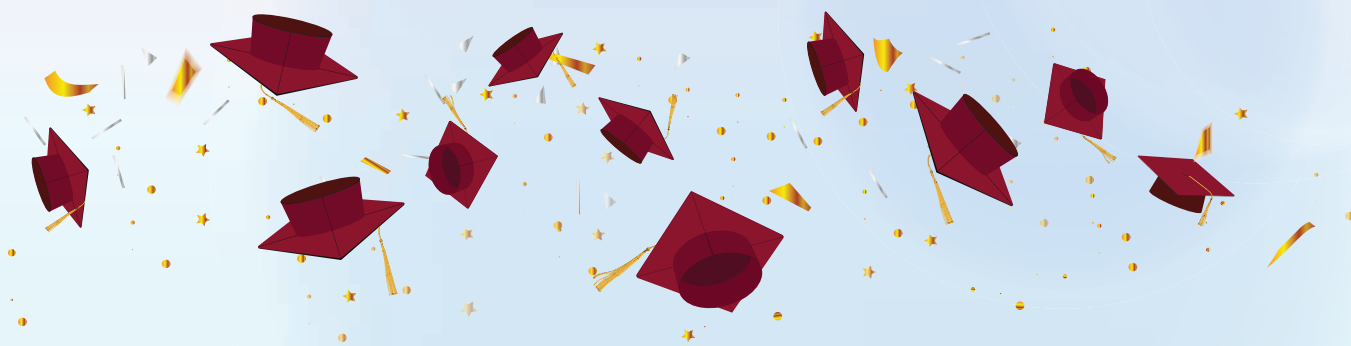
A.A., Paralegal Studies  
A.S.-Transfer, Administration of Justice  
*San José State University*

**Mayra C Velasquez**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Science, Math  
and Engineering  
Certificate-Advanced, Transfer Studies:  
IGETC/CSU  
*San Francisco State University*

**Jocelyn Velazquez Torres**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Business and  
Computer Information Systems  
A.A.-Transfer, Economics  
A.S.-Transfer, Business Administration  
*University of California, San Diego*



**Jessica Villanueva**

Certificate, Cybersecurity

**Gianna Alyssa Villarreal**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Business and  
Computer Information Systems  
A.S.-Transfer, Business Administration  
*San José State University*

**Kitshia Denisse Zambrano Meza**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Science, Math  
and Engineering  
A.A.-Transfer, Psychology  
*Sacramento State University*

**Joseph Alexander Zapata**

A.A.-Transfer, Psychology  
*San José State University*

**Alejandro Zapien Mejia**

A.A., Liberal Arts: Social and  
Behavioral Sciences  
A.S.-Transfer, Administration of Justice  
*San José State University*

**¡ADELA Scholarship  
Recipients!**

**Gustavo Avila Perez**

**Naxely Belmont Perez**

**Alyssa Espinal**

**Brenda Hernandez**

**Ashley Huerta**

**Kaylee Flores**

**Brian Loaiza**

**Emanuel Rivera**

**Lesli Rodriguez Lizaola**

**Yanci Rosales Huevo**









## **¡Mil Gracias to our Sponsors!**

**Thank you to our generous donors for helping us provide scholarships and this ceremony for our students!**

### **“In Memory of Mi Madre o Mi Padre” Sponsors**

**Armando Benavidas and Alicia Cortez**

In Memory of Guadalupe M. Cortez

**Christina G. Espinosa-Pieb and Wolfgang Pieb**

In Memory of Florencia Guzmán Espinosa

**Jose Luis and Sylvia Rueda**

In Memory of Miguel Rueda Herrera

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Truly A. Hunter

### **Madrina y Padrino Sponsors**

Andrea Santa Cruz

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### **Additional Thanks**

Achievers, Inc.

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California School Employees Association (CSEA)

Chancellor Judy C. Miner, Foothill-De Anza Community College District

Foothill College and Smithwick Theatre

Foothill-De Anza Community College District Police

Foothill-De Anza Foundation

Mango Crazy Catering

Office of Communications, De Anza College

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Office of the President, Foothill College

Operations and Custodial Staff, Foothill College

Our Ceremony Volunteers





### **DALA Tri-Chairs**

Maritza Arreola

Patricia Guitron

Melissa Maturino

### **Latinx Graduation Ceremony Chair**

Christian Rodriguez

### **Latinx Graduation Ceremony Committee Members**

Sofia Abad, Verónica Acevedo Ávila, Nathaly Aguilar, Maritza Arreola, Yvette Campbell, Martha Espinosa, Angélica Esquivel Moreno, Adriana Garcia, Patricia Guitron, John Jimenez, Melissa Maturino, Eric Mendoza, Shaila Ramos, Liliana Rivera, Jesus Ruelas, Nubia Sanchez, Andrea Santa Cruz, Grisel Vasquez, Felisa Vilaubi

### **Felicidades to Our Retiree Alicia Cortez**

Alicia Cortez, who is retiring as dean of Equity and Engagement, has served our students, the college and the community at large for more than 30 years. She was born on the East Side of San José, a daughter of immigrants, and she understands our students' experience and can connect with them in more ways than one.



Over the years, Alicia has held many roles, which have led her to be an empathetic and supportive leader who moves in spaces with care and love. It is her strategic approach that has paved the way for many initiatives that promote equitable education for ALL students. While doing equity work can be challenging, Alicia doesn't shy away from the challenges. She faces them head on – a true chingona! We admire her grace, compassion and willingness to fight for what is just.

Alicia will be missed, but her legacy and impact, as well as her students, will continue to carry the work forward to make our De Anza campus a space for all students to thrive. Her work does not end here; she will go on serving as a member of the board of trustees for the Gavilan Joint Community College District, where she will continue to advance student success initiatives and create institutional policies. We wish her the best and look forward to witnessing what she will accomplish in this role. ¡Ajúa!

