Honoring the Legacy of the Honorable J. Paul Taylor

In 2020, Mr. Taylor celebrated his 100th birthday. He was born in Chamberino, New Mexico, to parents of Hispanic and Irish ancestry. Mr. Taylor spent more than three decades as a teacher, principal, and associate superintendent in the Las Cruces Public School system. After he retired, he served as a Representative for District 33 in the New Mexico legislature for nine consecutive terms (18 years). During his tenure he was known for his support of programs to help indigent and disabled New Mexicans, and as an advocate for arts and culture. Mr. Taylor has been called "the conscience of the New Mexico legislature" (http://www.ftfm-mesilla-nm.org/).
TORTUGAS PUEBLO

As a long-time neighbor and friend of J. Paul Taylor and New Mexico State University, Tortugas Pueblo is honored to be associated with the 16th Annual J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium, Justice for Farmworkers. We are especially proud to provide a blessing for this event from the top of Tortugas Mountain.

Tortugas Pueblo has longstanding ties with farmworkers. Our ancestors were the first farmworkers in this valley. We also value our relationship with NMSU, as students, staff, neighbors, and stakeholders in Tortugas Mountain. Finally, we appreciate the legacy of J. Paul Taylor, who represented Tortugas Pueblo in Santa Fe for many years and who was a champion for Justice.

Tortugas Pueblo is a product of different cultures and religious beliefs. The members of Tortugas Pueblo include descendants of the Tiwa and Piro tribes who inhabited the Rio Grande Valley from Isleta Pueblo south to present day Socorro, New Mexico and east to Gran Quivira, New Mexico. Many of these indigenous Native Americans traveled south with the Spanish from northern New Mexico as they retreated to the area of El Paso del Norte (El Paso, Texas), during the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. When the Spanish returned to northern New Mexico in 1692, many of these people remained in the south including the descendants living in Tortugas Pueblo.
Dr. Dan Arvizu became Chancellor and the 28th Chief Executive of the New Mexico State University System (NMSU) on June 1, 2018. NMSU is New Mexico’s land-grant institution founded in 1888 and is presently one of the nation’s foremost Hispanic-serving universities. NMSU is a NASA Space Grant College and is home to the very first Honors College in New Mexico. Dr. Arvizu is the second alumnus and first Hispanic to be hired as the NMSU System Chancellor and Chief Executive. Chancellor Arvizu has set a new vision and strategic direction for the NMSU system that focused on student success and upward mobility, elevating research and creativity, and amplifying outreach and economic development. He previously served in various roles at Emerson Collective including Chief Technology Officer, STEM Evangelist, and Senior Advisor. He also currently serves as a Venture Partner for Sustainability for Ridge-Lane Partners, Ltd. and as a Precourt Institute Energy Scholar at Stanford University.

Dr. Arvizu has had a long-distinguished career in advanced energy research and development, materials and process sciences, and technology commercialization. He started his career in 1973 at Bell Labs, and after four years transferred to Sandia National Labs, where he spent the next 21 years, 14 years in executive roles. In 1998, he joined CH2M Hill Companies, Ltd for 6 years, his last two years as a CTO. In January of 2005 he was appointed the 8th Director of the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado and became the first Hispanic Lab Director in the history of any of the 17 U.S. DOE’s National Labs. He retired in December of 2015 and is presently Director Emeritus.

Dr. Arvizu serves on a number of boards, panels and advisory committees including the State Farm Mutual Insurance Board of Directors, the Singapore International Advisory Panel on Energy, and the Stanford Precourt Institute for Energy Advisory Council. In 2004, he was appointed by President George W. Bush, and subsequently in 2010 reappointed by President Barack Obama (twice confirmed by the full Senate), to serve six-year terms on the National Science Board (NSB), the governing body of the $8.5 billion National Science Foundation. He was twice elected NSB Chairman by his peers and served in that role for four years (2012-2016) where he testified annually on NSF’s budget before Congress. He was the first Hispanic Chair of the National Science Board, founded in 1950.

He is an elected Fellow of the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Public Administration and in 2016 received the Secretary of Energy’s Exceptional Service Award for more than three decades of energy contributions. He has received numerous awards and recognitions including induction as a member of the U.S. News and World Report STEM Leadership Hall of Fame, induction as a member of the Great Minds in STEM Hispanic Science and Engineering Hall of Fame, and in 2010 was awarded the Hispanic Scientist of the Year by the Museum of Science and Industry, Tampa, Florida. Dr. Arvizu has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from New Mexico State University, and a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University.
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

NM Attorney General Hector Balderas was raised by a single mother in the rural village of Wagon Mound, New Mexico. Growing up on food stamps and in public housing, he learned the importance of compassion and respect. He developed a deep conviction that everyone deserves the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of background. Overcoming all challenges, Hector earned degrees from New Mexico Highlands University and the University of New Mexico School of Law, becoming the first person from his hometown to become an attorney.

In December 2003, Hector returned to Wagon Mound with his wife and three children to give back to his community. At age 29, with no prior political experience, Hector ran for a seat in the New Mexico House of Representatives. He defeated the heavily favored incumbent in the Democratic primary and prevailed in the general election. Hector united Democrats and Republicans to pass legislation to strengthen penalties for sexual predators; establish incentives for clean energy; invest in rural schools; enact criminal justice system reform; crack down on drunk drivers; and protect consumers from price gouging in times of emergency or disaster.

As State Representative, Hector became frustrated by the lack of accountability for officials who wasted and abused taxpayer dollars. Pledging to bring transparency to the government’s financial affairs, he was elected New Mexico’s State Auditor in November 2006, becoming America’s youngest Hispanic statewide elected official at the time. Independent groups and New Mexico’s voters lauded Hector’s record of bringing accountability to state and local government agencies, re-electing him in 2010 with overwhelming support across parties. On Tuesday, November 4th, 2014, Hector was elected the 31st Attorney General for the State of New Mexico, receiving more votes than any other candidate in any race in the state. He was subsequently re-elected to a second term on November 6th, 2018, again receiving more votes than any other candidate in any race on the ballot.

Hector’s core governing principle is that that New Mexicans deserve safe communities and honest, accountable government. He rebuilt the Office of the Attorney General to focus on its role as “the People’s lawyer.” Under his leadership, the Office aggressively investigates and prosecutes officials who abuse the public trust. He tirelessly pursues those who exploit the vulnerable, including human traffickers and sexual predators.

As a champion for children and families, Hector fights to protect New Mexicans from the opioid crisis and other bad actors by bringing enforcement actions against fraudulent businesses that exploit struggling homeowners and against pharmaceutical companies threatening our communities with deceptive practices. He also developed a new family-centric, “education-and-empowerment” model for consumer protection – creating better, faster responses for families who need assistance.

Hector has been honored for his work to increase safety and prosperity for New Mexico families with a variety of awards, including the prestigious New Frontier Award jointly awarded by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and the Harvard Institute of Politics. Hector lives in Albuquerque with his wife Denise and is proud of their three children, Hector Reyes Jr., Mariola, and Arianna.
Monday, March 29th 5:30 – 7:30 PM
Panel 1: The History of Braceros and Farmworker Struggles at the Borderlands

MODERATOR

Dr. Blanca Araujo is an Associate Professor at New Mexico State University. She received her Ph.D. in Critical Pedagogy with a minor in Bilingual Education. She is the Director of Elementary Education at NMSU and the Stan Fulton Endowed Chair in Education for the improvement of Border and Rural Schools. She works with and teaches preservice teachers in the School of Teacher Preparation, Administration, and Leadership. Blanca’s interests are in Social Studies education, teacher education, bilingual education, and transfronterizo studies all within a critical and social justice perspective. She recently finished working on a research study along the US/Mexico Border with transfronterizo Mexican children examining the tools they use to navigate in U.S. schools. She was also a bilingual elementary school teacher for seven years in the Gadsden Independent School District in Anthony, New Mexico.

PANELISTS

Dr. Yolanda Leyva is a fronteriza historian and writer, born and raised on the U.S.-Mexico border. She is the director of the UTEP Institute of Oral History (IOH) and Associate Professor in the Department of History where she teaches borderlands history as well as oral and public histories. She co-directs Museo Urbano, a museum without walls that highlights the history of the borderlands. She leads “Seeking Refuge,” an oral history project gathering the stories of asylum-seekers at the U.S.-Mexican border. She directs “La frontera speaks,” a video series based on oral histories from the IOH collection that makes border history accessible to the public. She is former chair of the department of History and former director of the Liberal Arts Honors Program. The NCPH awarded her the 2013 Best Public History Project for the NCPH (along with Dr. David Romo) and in 2019, she received the Herbert Feis Award for distinguished contributions to public history from the American Historical Association. She is completing a manuscript on “Interpreting Latinx History in Museums and Historic Sites.” She recently published a co-authored article, “La Cultura Cura: Oral History on the Border” in the Latina and Latino Oral History Journal.
**Francisco Uviña Contreras, Jr.** received his Master of Architecture and Master’s Certificate in Preservation and Regionalism in 2009 from the University of New Mexico where he graduated with distinction. Francisco worked for Cornerstones Community Partnerships, a non-profit organization, from 1994 to 2008 to assist with field assessments, documentation of historic buildings, adaptive re-use design and new design work utilizing traditional building methods as the Architectural/Technical Manager. He was involved in many Indigenous community projects, among the most important have been the San Esteban del Rey Mission in Acoma Pueblo, the Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Mission in Zuni Pueblo, and is currently assisting with some of the historic adobe housing at Santo Domingo Pueblo. Francisco is the co-author and illustrator of Cornerstones’ *Adobe Architecture, A Conservation Handbook*. In the present, Francisco serves as the Director for the Historic Preservation and Regionalism Graduate Certificate Program at the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of New Mexico. He is also the coordinator for the *Patrimonio Histórico+Cultural Iberoamericano* (PHI) in the United States and a member of the Scientific Committee for the Traditional Architecture Journal. Francisco has been involved in many Indigenous community projects, among the most important have been the San Esteban del Rey Mission in Acoma Pueblo, and is currently assisting with some of the historic adobe housing at Santo Domingo Pueblo.

**Dr. David Holtby** served nearly 30 years as an editor and administrator at the University of New Mexico Press before retiring in 2006. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Washington, spent four years as a military intelligence analyst, and completed his doctorate at the University of New Mexico in 1978. He is the author of two award-winning histories of twentieth-century New Mexico: *Forty-Seventh Star: New Mexico’s Struggle for Statehood* (2012) and *Lest We Forget: World War I and New Mexico* (2018).
Carlos Marentes has been a labor organizer and farm worker advocate since 1977. In 1983, he founded Sin Fronteras Organizing Project to support efforts to improve the working and living conditions of the migrant and seasonal farm workers of Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.

Marentes is also the founder and director of the Border Agricultural Workers Project (BAWP), an effort to organize the farm workers of the US-Mexico border, especially the chile pickers, in the fields and in their communities in both sides of the border.

Under the BAWP, Marentes initiated a campaign in the border region for food sovereignty to address the issues of oppression of farm workers and the climate crisis, as a way of promoting a new model of food production and food consumption.

Another effort initiated by Marentes under the BAWP, is the Bracero Project, which is an attempt to rebuild the history of the “braceros”, to bring justice to the Mexican peasants who worked in U.S. during the Bracero Program, from 1942 to 1964, and to use the experience of the Bracero Program to push for new more humane and dignified immigration policies.

He participates in many local, state and national organizations that deal with issues of poverty and economic inequality, and coordinates the International Committee on Migration and Rural Workers of La Vía Campesina and has attended many conferences and workshops in U.S. as well as in Mexico, Europe, India, South Africa and South East Asia, to advocate for migrant workers’ rights.

Marentes has received extensive recognition and many awards, including the prestigious Letelier-Moffitt National Human Rights Award.
Tuesday, March 30th 5:30 – 7:30 PM
Panel 2: Legal Issues Affecting Farmworkers in West Texas and Southern New Mexico

MODERATOR

Felipe Guevara works to improve farmworkers’ pay and working conditions, promote worker protections such as paid sick leave, and strengthen public enforcement of the minimum wage and overtime laws in New Mexico.

Before joining the Center, Mr. Guevara worked as a legal fellow for the Workers’ Rights Clinic, a clinical program of the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law. Mr. Guevara assisted in the supervision of law students enrolled in the U of A Workers’ Rights Clinic, such as supervising policy projects aimed at changing statewide and national discourses on employment matters. Mr. Guevara also supervised and provided “Know Your Rights” outreach workshops for Tucson low-wage workers and other community organizations and advocates.

In his spare time, Mr. Guevara enjoys spending time with his wife and dogs, traveling, and supporting local sports teams. J.D. from University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law in 2017.

PANELISTS

Ismael Camacho is of Mexican descent and is fluent in Spanish. His valuable skills in speaking, writing, and reading Spanish are indispensable when communicating with Spanish-speaking farmworkers. He received his B.A. from New Mexico State University in 1992 and his Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico in 1997. He was admitted to the State Bar in October 1997.

Ismael’s practice has developed from his 17 years of experience working on behalf of farmworkers, 13 years of experience working for the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General. Ismael was involved in the first-class action case in New Mexico on behalf of farmworkers. Ismael was involved in the enactment of the field sanitation regulation in New Mexico.

Ismael presents “Know Your Rights” to farmworkers through community activities and administrative law.
Abraham Sánchez was born and raised in the borderlands in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He attended Las Cruces High School and studied education and government at New Mexico State University. He has worked for small businesses, non-profit organizations, and large companies. He also worked in local government with the Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections. Abraham continues to serve on local boards and organizations in Las Cruces with a strong passion for social justice, community development and historic preservation. Learning, telling, and preserving our stories is vital to a better future of love and justice in our communities.

Stephanie Welch is the Director of Workers' Rights at the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty. She works to improve farmworkers’ pay and working conditions, strengthen public enforcement of the minimum wage and overtime laws in New Mexico, and promote worker protections such as paid sick leave. Prior to joining the Center, she was an attorney at Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid for 11 years. There she represented farmworkers in federal litigation and advocated for the civil rights of border residents.

Alberto Mesta has practiced law with Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Inc. (TRLA) since 2003. He is the branch manager attorney of the TRLA-EL Paso office where he oversees a staff of 43, including 19 attorneys. He started as a Farm Worker Division attorney at the El Paso migrant farm worker office of Texas Rural Legal Aid, Inc. before its merger with the El Paso Legal Assistance Society to become what is now TRLA. Mr. Mesta was the former chair of the Poverty Law Section of the State Bar of Texas. He has served on the board of directors for the El Paso Bar Association. He is current member of the One Fund El Paso Task Force, which was created by City of El Paso and two El Paso foundations to streamline the process of distributing funds to the victims of the August 3, 2010 mass shooting in El Paso and their families. He is currently a board member with Project Bravo, a community action agency.

He graduated from University of Texas School of Law where he was the managing editor for the Texas Hispanic Journal of Law and Policy and officer with the Chicano/Hispanic Law Students Association. He was the recipient of the David Proctor Scholarship. Mr. Mesta majored in Political Science from the University of Texas at El Paso, (UTEP) where he received UTEP’s Men of Mines for outstanding service to fellow students and the university.
MODERATOR

**Dr. Judith Flores Carmona** is an Associate Professor and Interim Director of Chicano Programs at New Mexico State University (NMSU). She is the daughter of Josefina and Vicente (QEPD). She was born in Veracruz, Mexico, raised in Los Angeles and is a first-generation college student and scholar. Her academic and community work is guided by a sense of responsibility and commitment to social change. Her research interests include critical pedagogy, Chicana/Latina feminist theory, critical race feminism, critical multicultural education, social justice education, and testimonio methodology and pedagogy.

PANELISTS

**Dennis Daily** - is department head of Archives and Special Collections at the New Mexico State University Library, where he works with manuscripts, records, rare books, photographs, maps and audiovisual collections that illuminate the history and cultural heritage of southern New Mexico, the Southwest and the U.S./Mexico borderland. Among these collections are the voluminous professional and personal papers of J. Paul Taylor. Dennis earned his Master of Library and Information Science from the University of North Texas and a bachelor’s degree in journalism from NMSU. He has worked with archives and special collections in both public and academic library settings in New Mexico and Colorado.
Francisco Garcia is the Executive Director of IMEX has served as the Director for the office of Migrant Education, within the US Department of education as a member of Senior Executive Services. Mr. Garcia has also worked as a consultant in the field of workforce skills development for the future and presented at numerous conferences throughout the country. He began his career in Education as the fifth-grade teacher in Caldwell, Idaho which lead to numerous leadership positions in the Education filed. He has served as a consultant to the US Commission of Civil Rights. Presented to the National Security Council on human right issues., presented before the White House and Congress on issues related to the migrant education, child labor and immigration.

Laura Henry is the State Coordinator for the Migrant Education Program for the Public Education Department (PED). Laura has been working to improve the health, nutrition and educational outcomes of New Mexico students and families for over 14 years. As the State Coordinator for the Migrant Education Program (MEP), Laura works closely with participating school districts in the rapid identification and recruitment of eligible migrant students to ensure that their educational needs are met, while overcoming educational disruption and other challenges resulting from repeated moves. The goal of the Migrant Education Program is to ensure that all migrant students reach challenging academic standards and graduate with a high school diploma (or HSED) that prepares them for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment. It is the goal of the state to facilitate this by not only providing support services for students and their families but by also removing barriers so that students can fully engage and feel supported in their educational environment.
Dr. Georgia Lane retired after 30 years in education. During that time, she earned a Bachelor’s of Elementary Education from University of Texas at the Permian Basin, a Master’s degree from NMSU and Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Sarasota.

Dr. Lane has served students, teachers, and parents in many capacities. In each capacity, from teacher to superintendent, she was able to provide exemplary leadership.

At the post-secondary level, she served as an adjunct professor for online and campus-based courses at Western New Mexico and the University of Texas at El Paso. This course of study focused on curriculum and instruction and classroom management. She is currently implementing federal grants for the Three Rivers Education Foundation to provide an opportunity for migrant farmworkers to earn their High School Equivalent Certificate.

Martha A. Estrada serves as the NMSU CAMP Director and is Co-Chair of the 16th Annual JPTSJ Symposium. Martha served as the founding CAMP Director at the University of Washington (2010-2011) and CAMP Director at Northern New Mexico College (2011-2015). In 2015, Martha served as College Readiness Coordinator with the state GEAR UP grant. In 2018, Martha returned to NMSU CAMP (full bio under JPTSJS Committee).
Thursday, April 1st 5:30 – 7:30 PM
Panel 4: Health Disparities, Food, and Financial Insecurities for Farmworkers

MODERATOR

Zaira Martin is a senior majoring in Government, Spanish, Gender & Sexuality Studies and Criminal Justice. She is an Honors student and serves as Chief Justice for the ASNMSU Supreme Court. Zaira is also a research assistant and ambassador for the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP).

TESTIMONIES

Carolina García was born in Las Cruces, NM. She is the fourth of nine siblings. She grew up in a small home in the farmlands of La Mesa, NM, which was offered by the farm her father, Mr. José García, worked for. She lived there until she was a teenager. Because of her father’s hard work, they were able to purchase a larger home for their family. Carolina graduated from Gadsden High School in 2002. Seeing her father work so hard for the family made Carolina eager to make her father proud. She pursued her dream of becoming a Registered Nurse. In 2008, she graduated from Doña Ana Community College with her associate’s degree in Nursing. Carolina began her nursing career at Memorial Medical Center in Telemetry. Her hard work and dedication lead her to become a Team Leader in 2015, and since then, she continues to be the hard-working person her father taught her to be. Carolina is a mother of 2 beautiful children, Mia and Aciel. She desires to be the best mom to her children and support them like her parents have supported her, especially her father. He was the best role model for her and her siblings, since he was such a dedicated and hard-working man that wanted nothing but the best for his children. Carolina praises her father as her HERO and he will always be in her heart.
Consuelo “Connie” Domínguez was born in El Paso, TX and is the second eldest of her nine siblings. Connie and her siblings grew up in a modest home provided by her father’s workplace in La Mesa, NM. Despite living in a small home on a chile farm, she knew her father, Mr. José García, always gave them what he could, and always provided food on the table. They lived in this home until she was a teenager and by then her father was able to build a bigger and better home in Vado, NM. Connie graduated from Gadsden High School in 1999. She continued with her education being the first of her siblings to attend college. Growing up she knew her father struggled to provide, but he never failed as a father; he gave them nothing but the best. Connie was determined to make him proud of the daughter he raised, so she attended Doña Ana Community College and graduated with her associate’s degree in Community Health Science in 2002. She then became a Phlebotomist and has worked in the medical field for the past 17 years. Currently, she works for Quest Diagnostics. Connie is now pursuing her dreams in the beauty industry as an esthetician and plans to run her own business soon. This is something she loves to do and has always been her passion. Her father always reminded her and her siblings to pursue their dreams. Her father’s support and perseverance made Connie the hard-working person she is. Connie is married to José Luis Domínguez and is the proud mother of four beautiful children: Marc, Aiden, Ashton, and Amaris. Her goal and priorities are to provide the same care and love to her family as her father showed her and her siblings. Her father’s determination and dedication to his children will forever be in her heart.

The Pedregon Family reside in Hatch, NM. Their youngest daughter, Jessica, is currently a CAMP Scholar pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Animal Science at New Mexico State University. The family has worked in agriculture for a major part of their lives and will share their story, their struggles and how they have learned to overcome and prosper.

Karla and Sergio are the proud parents of Sergio, Jr., Paola, Jessica, and Angel. Karla is a housewife and farmworker. Sergio worked in construction before dedicating himself to agricultural work. The oldest son, Sergio, Jr., is a graduate of Universal Technical Institute and works as a diesel mechanic. Paola is a full-time student at Doña Ana Community College studying Early Childhood Education with the hopes of becoming a teacher. Angel, the youngest, wants to become a firefighter, or soccer player, when he grows up.
**Ricardo Trejo** serves as the NMSU CAMP Recruitment Coordinator. A native from Southern New Mexico, Ricardo was born in Deming, NM, but was raised on both sides of the U.S Mexican Border. As a seasonal farm worker, Ricardo grew up alongside his family working in agriculture. Ricardo’s work experience, travels, and continued collaboration with local communities, has propelled him to help local and rural communities across Southern New Mexico (full bio under JPTSJS Committee).

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**Friday, April 2nd 5:30-7:30pm**  
**Film: Hailing César followed by a Q & A with Filmmaker**

**MODERATOR: Martha A. Estrada, JPTSJS Co-Chair**

**FILMMAKER: Eduardo Chávez**

As the grandson of both the legendary civil rights activist César Chávez and the Cuban revolutionary Max Lesnik, Eduardo Chavez is the scion of two revolutionary families. Eduardo's political and activist background influenced his feature documentary, "Hailing Cesar," released April 2018.

Since its debut, Eduardo has screened Hailing Cesar and spoken at 50+ universities in 3 different countries. In addition to being a director, speaker & activist, Eduardo is the co-founder of Latindia Studios and a member of the Speakers’ Board for the Chavez Institute for Law and Social Justice.

For Eduardo's next film, his goal is to humanize the immigration crisis in the U.S. through personal stories of immigrants and high-profile individuals.
Dr. Cynthia L. Bejarano, Co-Chair and NMSU CAMP Principal Investigator
Cynthia grew up in Anthony, New Mexico. She went to Gadsden High School and attended NMSU for her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Her Ph.D. is from Arizona State University’s former School of Justice Studies (School of Social Transformation). She has served as a farmworker advocate since 1994 working with farm working families and farmworker service providers in the Paso del Norte borderlands region. She has served as the Principal Investigator of the U.S. Department of Education’s College Assistance Migrant Program since 2002 at NMSU. Cynthia has taught at NMSU since 2001 and is a Regents Professor in the Gender and Sexuality Studies/Interdisciplinary Studies Department. Her research areas and advocacy include immigration and migration and social justice, farmworker youth and education at the border, and border violence and gender-based violence at the U.S.-Mexico border. She has dedicated her adult life to questions of social justice as it relates to marginalized communities.

Martha A. Estrada, Co-Chair and NMSU CAMP Director
The granddaughter of a Bracero from Jalisco and first-generation Mexican American, Martha has dedicated her professional career to serving students and families in higher education. For seven years, Martha served as the NMSU CAMP Academic Advisor before making her way to Seattle to serve as the founding CAMP Director at the University of Washington. She returned to her home state to serve as CAMP Director at Northern New Mexico College. Most recently, Martha served as the College & Career Readiness Coordinator for the New Mexico Higher Education Department’s GEAR UP Program. At the national level, Martha has served as the Western Stream Representative for the National HEP CAMP Association, the National HEP CAMP Association’s Student Internship Selection Committee, the HEP CAMP National Conference Planning Committee, and as a reader for the HACU National Scholarship Program. Martha holds bachelor’s degrees in Journalism and Spanish, as well as a master’s degree in Educational Management and Development with an emphasis in higher education administration, all from NMSU. As the first in her family to attend and graduate college, Martha is passionate about working with students and their families to ensure they have the tools and resources necessary to succeed throughout their college career.
**Cynthia Bartow,** Committee Member and NMSU CAMP Administrative Assistant  
Cynthia grew up in a small town outside the city of Manila, Philippines, she then moved to Las Cruces, NM in 2016. She grew up in a developing country where every day you are reminded that most people live without the fundamental resources, and that poverty and hunger is a norm for most people. At a young age, Cynthia learned that college education is important. Both her parents worked hard to make sure that she and her 3 siblings graduate from college. She has set her foot to help work with CAMP students, family, and the community to whatever administrative need necessary to be successful in their college and professional life.

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**Zaira Martin,** Committee Member and NMSU CAMP Ambassador and Researcher  
Zaira is a senior majoring in Government, Spanish, Gender & Sexuality Studies and Criminal Justice. She currently serves as a CAMP Ambassador and student researcher working. Zaira also serves as Chief Justice for the ASNMSU Supreme Court.

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**Ricardo Trejo,** Committee Member and NMSU CAMP Outreach & Recruitment Coordinator  
A native from Southern New Mexico, Ricardo Trejo was born in Deming, NM, but was raised on both sides of the U.S Mexican Border. As a seasonal farmworker, Ricardo grew up alongside his family working in agriculture. With the help of NMSU CAMP, he attended NMSU and earned his bachelor’s in Business Administration in 2014. His academic spirit led him to study abroad in Amsterdam; he was involved in student life and gained experience giving back to his community through volunteerism. In 2017, Ricardo served as an AmeriCorps Vista for Roadrunner Food Bank, a non-profit organization that works with local communities to help end hunger. Ricardo earned his Master’s in Public Administration from NMSU in 2020 and is currently working as the Recruitment and Outreach Coordinator for NMSU CAMP. Ricardo’s work experience, travels, and continued collaboration with local communities, has propelled him to help local and rural communities across Southern New Mexico.
Zelong Jiang, Committee Member and NMSU CAMP Computer Tech
Zelong was born in China and is a graduate of Arrowhead Park Early College High School. He is a diligent college student majoring in Accounting and Finance.

Yvette Cortez, NMSU CAMP Advisor
Yvette comes from a migrant family where her father worked in the fields across New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Colorado for over 30 years. As a young child, Yvette migrated with her family from state to state facing the daily struggles and challenges of a migrant family. This motivated her to earn her undergraduate degrees in Business Administration and Human Resources with an emphasis in managerial leadership, and a minor in Spanish from New Mexico State University. Yvette’s passion is to help students identify and reach their academic goals, as she can relate to the challenges that students encounter daily at the university level.

Joshua Rex, NMSU CAMP Tutor Coordinator
Joshua is a Mindfulness Coach and serves as CAMP Tutor Coordinator and University Instructor. Joshua brings to his classes and workshops a sense of play and curiosity through integrating his extensive training in transformational coaching, Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, Neuro-Linguistic Programming, Energetics, and Quantum Storytelling. Before teaching for CAMP. He taught yoga and dance and worked for 2 decades in behavioral health assisting people from age 5 to middle age with life skills to support them in achieving their academic, personal, and professional goals. He recently completed his Master’s degree in Teaching Dance and is passionate about training teachers to bring Mindfulness and Movement to the way we do education in the U.S.