

## Inaugural Class

**Dulce Anayasaenz**, Board Member and Treasurer of the Colorado Latino Forum



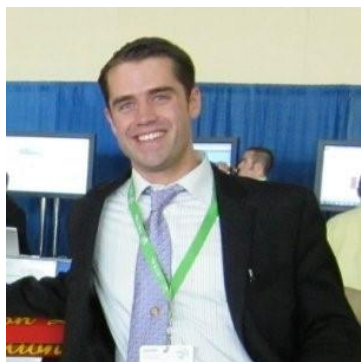
Anayasaenz is a realtor, entrepreneur and political strategist. Anayasaenz co-founded University of Denver Students for Comprehensive Immigration Reform while at DU. Upon graduation, she began advocating for education equity in southwest Denver. Anayasaenz has worked with Conservation Colorado working with Latino families to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change. Anayasaenz has been appointed to the Colorado Civil Rights Commission and the Denver Latino Commission. She is a board member and treasurer of the Colorado Latino Forum. She is an alumni of the Circle of Latina Leadership, Front Line Leaders Academy and Emerge CO. Most recently, she was the National Regional Field Director for Bernie 2016.

**Cristóbal (Chris) Garcia**, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations at the UNC



García is the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations at the University of Northern Colorado where he is responsible for expanding alumni engagement through volunteer management, social and web-based communications, career development programming, and external relations. He also serves on several boards and committees that support his passions. These include the the Weld County Workforce Development Board, 13'ers Young Professionals Board for the Colorado Nature Conservancy, and the Success Foundation for Greeley/Evans School District 6.

**Andrew Graves**, Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)



Graves is a Policy Advisor with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), International Program. He facilitates international research collaborations and leads technical assistance and policy analysis projects designed to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies worldwide. Currently, his portfolio is focused on projects in the Middle East, North Africa, and Mexico, which cover a range of technologies including geothermal energy, renewable grid integration, industrial energy efficiency, and renewable desalination. Graves also serves as DOE's liaison to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), based in Abu

Dhabi, and works to support senior DOE officials in international engagements and bilateral energy dialogues with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, among others.

# U.S.-Mexico Leaders Initiative

**Christopher Kelly**, Executive Assistant to the Vice President in the Office of Communications at Howard University



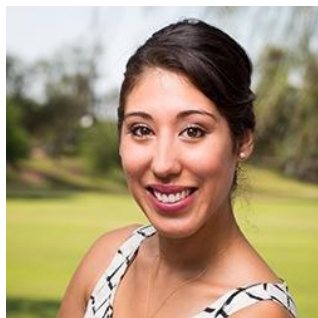
Kelly is the Executive Assistant to the Vice President in the Office of Communications at Howard University. He previously worked at Prince George's County Department of Social Services where he worked with administration to oversee and manage 245 staff members in the Child, Adult, & Family Services Division. He has worked in the areas of civic/community engagement, public relations, and political affairs. He is devoted to public service and regularly volunteers in the community by performing community service projects, mentoring youth, and participating in speaking engagements. In 2006 he was recognized by the Mayor of the city of Baltimore for his commitment to public service. In 2007 he was awarded the State of Maryland Local Government Volunteer Award. In 2010 he received the U.S. Department of Commerce Award for Superior Federal Service. In 2017 he was recognized as the first Latino Prince George's County 40 Under 40 honoree for Public Service.

**Amanda Knarr**, Research Program Coordinator for Western Hemispheric Affairs at the Business Council for International Understanding



Knarr currently manages the Western Hemispheric Affairs at the Business Council for International Understanding. BCIU functions as a liaison for the international business community and domestic and foreign governments. She maintains relationships with government entities, and stays abreast to the cultural, economic, and political landscape of the region.

**Armida Lopez**, Policy Advisor for Phoenix City Councilwoman Kate Gallego



Lopez is the Policy Advisor for Phoenix City Councilwoman Kate Gallego and the Director of Latino Outreach at Open Primaries. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, a Master's of Advanced Studies in infant and Family Practice, and a Master's in Social Work with a concentration in Policy, Advocacy/Administration, and Communities. Lopez grew up in Yuma, Arizona, and has focused her professional career on local and state politics in Arizona with an emphasis on the importance of the U.S.-Mexico relationship.

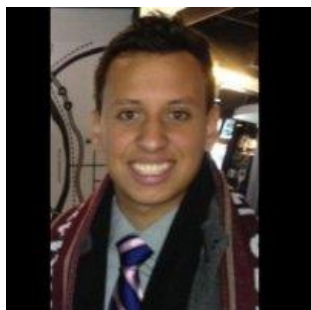
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**Eric Puente**, President of the Mexican American Bar Association of Dallas



Puente is a native of Dallas, TX. Eric is licensed to practice law by the Supreme Court of Texas and is admitted to The United States District Court, Northern District of Texas. He is a partner at the law firm of Puente & Hindieh, PLLC. Eric proudly served his country during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. After honorable discharge from active duty he transitioned to the U.S. Navy Reserve. Mr. Puente currently serves as a board member of the Dallas Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association, and is the current President of the Mexican American Bar Association of Dallas.

**Jesse Rodriguez**, Director of Latino Affairs and a Communications Consultant for the California State Senate Republican Caucus



Rodriguez is Director of Latino Affairs and a Communications Consultant for the California State Senate Republican Caucus. In this role, he supports members understand issues facing the Latino community and builds partnerships with Latino organizations across the state. He also presents members opportunities in traditional and social media platforms to share the legislation they are working on. Additionally, Rodriguez serves as Co-Chair for the California Latino Capitol Association Foundation, a 501(C)(3) organization that provides a platform for Latino capitol staffers to connect and develop professionally through a series of panels, mixers, and mentorship.

**Lorna Romero**, Vice President of Communications and Advocacy at Molera Alvarez



Romero is the Vice President of Communications and Advocacy at Molera Alvarez, a government and public affairs firm, where she leads public relations strategies and assists with policy development and analysis. She also specialized in public relations and government affairs while serving as an Associate Director at Veridus LLC. Romero was previously the Director of Legislative Affairs for Governor Brewer, and served as Governor Brewer's policy advisor on commerce and economic development issues

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**Nicholas Saliba**, Consultant at George W. Bush Presidential Center



Saliba is a consultant for the George W. Bush Institute and a Fellow with the Maguire Energy Institute in the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He has been a writer and researcher for the 4% Growth Project, the North America Scorecard Project, and the North Working Groups of the George W. Bush Institute. Most recently, Saliba has focused on advocating North American economic integration and looking for ways it can be strengthened. He has also co-authored numerous studies and articles, and spoken on issues pertaining to finance, economics, and public policy in the energy sector. In 2013, he was the co-author of the book

"The Energy Logjam: Removing Regulatory Obstacles to Fuel the Economy," published by the George W. Bush Institute.

**Claudia Sandoval**, Senior Consultant at Saxony Partners



A native of Dallas and daughter of immigrant parents from Mexico, Sandoval graduated from Southern Methodist University where she received her Master of Science in Systems Engineering. She is currently a technology consultant at Saxony Partners, was a fellow in the inaugural class of Latino Center for Leadership Development, and was shortly after elected to the Cockrell Hill City Council in May 2016. In May 2017, Sandoval was elected by her fellow councilmembers to serve as Mayor Pro Tem after serving on the council for just one year. She was also selected as a delegate for the U.S. Young Leaders Delegation to Taiwan in March 2017 and serves on the IGNITE Texas State Council

promoting political power in young women. She currently also serves on the Sigma Lambda Gamma Education Foundation Board of Trustees, and has previously served on the SMU Hispanic Alumni Board.

**Miguel Solis**, President of the Latino Center for Leadership Development (LatinoCLD)



Solis serves as the LatinoCLD where he oversees the creation of programs and services. Solis' professional experiences include serving as a staff member on President Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign, an eighth-grade U.S. history teacher, and a central staff member in Dallas ISD. He became the youngest school board member ever elected to the Dallas ISD Board of Trustees on November 5, 2013 through special election. On June 26, 2014, Solis was selected by his fellow Trustees as the Board President, making him the youngest ever to serve in the position. He has been appointed to the Citywide Poverty Task Force and Joint Committee on Education by Dallas Mayor

Michael S. Rawlings. He is also an Aspen Institute Rodel Fellow having been selected as one of the nation's most promising young political leaders.



# U.S.-Mexico Leaders Initiative

**Katie Stansell**, Economic Growth & Global Initiatives Program Assistant at George W. Bush Presidential Center



Stansell is the Economic Growth & Global Initiatives Program Assistant at George W. Bush Presidential Center. She is an MBA Candidate at Southern Methodist University. Stansell provides support toward the Bush Institute's Working Groups, which include government officials, former Ambassadors, and educators that convene at the U.S.-Mexico border and the U.S.-Canada border to discuss and encourage the conversation about the benefits of a North American framework.

**Simon Tafoya**, Senior Director for Policy and Federal Relations for Gov. John Hickenlooper



Tafoya currently serves as Senior Director for Policy and Federal Relations for Governor John Hickenlooper of Colorado. Tafoya joined the office of Governor Hickenlooper in 2012, where he has led efforts from the Governor's office on economic development, technology, telecommunications and cybersecurity, among other issues. Tafoya's previous work includes serving as legislative staff in Washington D.C. for the office of Senator Harry Reid of Nevada and later in the office of Senator Mark Udall of Colorado. He received his Bachelors of Arts from Colorado College and a Masters of Public Affairs and Urban and Regional Planning from Princeton University.

**Daniel Torres**, Director of Immigrant Integration in the Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.



Torres serves as the Director of Immigrant Integration in the Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. Previously, Torres was the Chief of the Immigration Branch at the California Department of Social Services. He was Deputy Director of Programs and New Initiatives at California Rural Legal Assistance Inc. Torres was an attorney at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation. He was a clinical instructor at the University of California, Davis School of Law Immigration Law Clinic. Torres earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Davis School of Law.