

Estamos Unidos de Pennsylvania



21st Annual
Gala
&
Scholarship Awards
Dinner



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

PRESIDENT OF THADDEUS STEVENS
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Pedro Rivera

Saturday, October 4, 2025

RED LION HOTEL HERSHEY
4751 LINDLE ROAD,
HARRISBURG, PA 17111
5:30PM - 9:30PM

ESTAMOS UNIDOS DE PENNSYLVANIA



Estamos Unidos is a service-oriented community-based organization, originated in the Greater Harrisburg area in 2002. It began as a group of volunteers who helped Hispanic children in three main areas: Cultural Heritage, Educational Advancement and Mentoring Programs.

Our Mission

As a Latino/Hispanic organization, our mission is to empower our community through education, arts, traditions, and cultural values to encourage personal growth and enhance leadership.

Welcome to the 21st Estamos Unidos Gala and Silent Auction 2025

WELCOME!



On behalf of the Board of Directors of Estamos Unidos, it is our distinct honor to welcome you to the 21st Annual Gala-Night and Silent Auction. We are truly delighted by your presence as we gather to celebrate our scholarship recipients, recognize our community leaders and generous sponsors, and honor the rich tapestry of cultures, traditions, and customs that define our diverse heritage.

Your support and continued commitment are deeply appreciated. At the heart of our mission is a steadfast dedication to fostering unity and collaboration across communities, while extending our services to those most in need.

We thank you for your openness to learning, sharing, and celebrating the beauty of our diversity. We invite you to enjoy this evening's program, the culinary offerings, and the vibrant entertainment. Your ongoing support of our mission, values, and initiatives is vital to our collective success.

As philosopher Piero Ferrucci reminds us:

"Time is intangible... The past is already past. The future, however promising, is still a fairy tale. Only the present is – and we cannot grasp it. Yet we are always in the present."

Let us embrace this moment—celebrate the present—and continue to uplift others so they too may access the opportunities and privileges we enjoy.

Tonight, let us connect, learn from one another, and celebrate the educational achievements of our scholars alongside the remarkable contributions of Latino and Hispanic American professionals.

Welcome, and thank you for being part of this special occasion.

Dr. Hector R. Ortiz

President, Estamos Unidos de PA

2025 EUP GALA KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Pedro Rivera

President of Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology



Pedro A. Rivera, Ed.D. the 10th president of Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, joined the college on October 1, 2020, after serving as Pennsylvania Secretary of Education. Appointed to the Pennsylvania State Board of Education in 2022, he chairs the Board's Council of Higher Education.

Rivera is a lifelong educator and leader dedicated to ensuring equitable access and funding for education. The White House recognized his transformative efforts in urban education in 2014. A first-generation college graduate, Rivera holds degrees from Pennsylvania State University, Cheyney University, Arcadia University, and the University of Pennsylvania. He serves on various boards and is a Philadelphia native who warmly calls Lancaster home with his wife Erika, son Lucas, and daughter Elena.

2025 EUP EXECUTIVE BOARD



Dr. Hector Ortiz, President

Amanda Batista, Vice President



Ryan Rivera, Co-Treasurer



Karla Gurian, Co-Treasurer

America Schwartz, Secretary



EUP 21st Gala Night, Silent Auction & Scholarship Program

5:00-5:30 p.m.	Reception and Soft Music DJ Nene
5:30-8:15 p.m.	Silent Auction (<i>8:45 p.m. auction items picked up and paid for</i>).
5:45-5:50 p.m.	Welcome MCs Masters of Ceremonies Juan Carlos Lara
5:50-6:00 p.m.	President's and Gala Co-Chairs Remarks, EUP Mission, Services, Partnerships, Sponsors/Supporters/Volunteers, Hector/Amanda
6:00-6:20 p.m.	Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Dr. Pedro Rivera
6:20-6:25 p.m.	Words of Gratitude, Judith Windom
6:30-7:35 p.m.	Dinner/Entertainment
7:00-7:30 p.m.	Cultural Entertainment, MC Fraternidad Folclórica Cultural Morenada Bolivia USA Salsa & Rueda Dance Performance
7:35 -7:55 p.m.	2025-2026 Scholarship Recipients. MC/Amanda Batista
7:55-8:00 p.m.	Estamos Unidos Sponsors Recognition, Dr. Hector Ortiz/MC
8:00-8:20 p.m.	Entertainment DJ Fraternidad Folclórica Cultural Morenada Bolivia USA Salsa & Rueda Dance Performance
8:15 p.m.	Silent Auction Closes - Items can be picked up at 8:45 p.m.
8:20-8:45 p.m.	Performance and Dancing – Adrian Garcia Band
8:45-9:05 pm.	DJ music
9:05 p.m.	Performance and Dancing – Adrian Garcia Band
9:30 p.m. - 9:55 pm.	DJ music
10:00 p.m.	Adjourn

Silent Auction items may be picked up at 8:45 p.m.!!!

Please be sure to stop at the registration desk to claim and pay for your items that you won!

ESTAMOS UNIDOS DE PA FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT

Hector Richard Ortiz, Ph.D., DTM



Dr. Hector Ortiz is the Program Manager for Diversity and Inclusion at Penn State Health System. Previously, Dr. Ortiz served as Senior Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships, at the Office of Advancement and Strategic Initiatives, at Central Penn College. From 2015 to 2020, Dr. Ortiz served at Central Penn College as an assistant professor and Director of Graduate Studies. From 2011 to 2015, Dr. Ortiz was Director of the Office of Health Equity, Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Hector is a leadership Harrisburg Area graduate, class of 2005. Hector holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, a master's degree in diplomacy, and a doctorate in international relations from Guayaquil State University. Dr. Ortiz also received an honorary-causes doctorate in public service, from Central Penn College in 2011 and obtained the Highest Toastmaster Educational Award, and the Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) recognition in 2018.

Hector has obtained the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate from the University of South Florida (2021), the Inclusive and Ethical Leadership Certificate from the University of South Florida, Muma College of Business (2023), and the Healthcare Operations Management from Cornell University (2024). Dr. Hector Ortiz is the founder of several Latino organizations and served for more than a decade on the Harrisburg Area Community College Board of Trustees. Hector serves on various local and national boards and committees. He is the founder and former president of Estamos Unidos de Pennsylvania, a grassroots not-for-profit organization created to promote cultural awareness and post-secondary opportunities for children. He is the co-founder and former president of the Latino/Hispanic Professional Association of Central PA, the co-founder and former charter president of the Latino Hispanic American Community Center, and the founder of the Dauphin County Diversity Forum. He is also a charter member of the Rotary Club of Harrisburg Keystone and served as District Governor of Rotary International, District 7390 (2013-2014). Hector has been in Toastmasters since 2011 and has served as Club President, Area Director, Division-A Director, and District New Club Resource (2019-2020) of Toastmasters International, District 38.

Dr. Ortiz has served on the National Association of Community Colleges (ACCT) Board of Directors, Chair of the National Association of Latino Community College Trustees and serves in the board of Keystone Human Services. Hector has attended and presented at several conferences, symposiums, and summits. Hector has received government and community awards.

Dr. Ortiz is the President of H & R Communications and Consulting Services. He is an inspirational speaker and a consultant in diversity, leadership development, communication, and translation/interpretation services. Dr. Ortiz is the author of *The Creative Energy of Positive Thinking: A Basic Approach to the Genuine Concept of Happiness and Six Assets to Grow Personally and Advance Professionally*.

ESTAMOS UNIDOS DE PA GALA CHAIR

Amanda Batista, M.P.A

Welcome! This evening, we celebrate our 21st Annual Latin Gala honoring our 2025-2026 college scholarship recipients as well as our accomplishments as an organization that has served the Harrisburg community for over 20 years!

As a former scholarship recipient (2012) and a long-time member/volunteer of EUP (over 20 years), I just want to express my sincere gratitude on how rewarding it is to Chair this year's gala! I love to do this because I too received a scholarship, and I am so grateful for all EUP has done for me over the years! I have had the honor of meeting some amazing individuals who I consider my mentors and close family.



A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to our Scholarship Recipients! You make us proud and continue to strive for greatness!

Enjoy the good company, great food, networking, fellowship and celebration! Please visit the silent auction and purchase items; there are great deals for a good cause! Also, consider making a tax-deductible donation to our organization. Again, your contributions are what keep our organization alive and provide more scholarships.

As in the past, the success of our Gala has largely been due to the contributions of our sponsors who have gone out of their way to provide financial support to make this event possible. Every year, the money we raise has been used for our educational programs, including providing scholarships to college students. Education is one of the vehicles we use to break the poverty cycle. Our sincere thanks to the Gala committee members, board members and advisors, our dedicated volunteers and to all our amazing sponsors!

Thank you for being part of our 21st Annual Latin Gala to continue to raise funds for EUP, including its services and its outreach! Enjoy the evening!

Respectfully yours,

Vice-President & Gala Chair, Amanda Batista, M.P.A

EUP Scholarship Recipients 2025-2026

Anais Rosas-Calvario



My name is Anais Rosas-Calvario, and I am a dedicated first year college student, passionate about education and creating opportunities for others. As a first-generation student, I've learned the importance of resilience, hard work, and using my voice to uplift my community. I plan to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice with the goal of attending law school and becoming an advocate for underrepresented communities. Beyond academics, I value leadership, creativity, and giving back, and striving to make my family proud while paving the way for others.

Gabriela Ramos



I am not only a First-Generation Latina, but I am also an upcoming senior at Slippery Rock University where I plan to earn my B.S in Science of Education. I will graduate with my degree in the ability to teach PreK-4th Grade. Within the future I plan to continue my studies and hopefully earn a master's degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

I currently serve as a Jumpstart Mentor and work alongside freshman students, guiding them in navigating their first-year campus. I also am a member of Tri Sigma, a Sorority on Campus and work alongside my sisters in giving back and helping bring awareness to our philanthropies while maintaining 20 community service hours a year. I also hold a leadership position of Vice President in the Student Organization of Latinos/Hispanics and Allies.

EUP Scholarship Recipients 2025-2026

Kailey Mary Lopez Rodriguez



My name is Kailey Mary Lopez Rodriguez. I am currently a freshman in college in the nursing program at York College of Pennsylvania where I'm beginning the steps into my future. I aspire to be a Pediatric nurse and work with the kids in the neurology unit as it ties into part of my childhood. I've also been emphasizing my Spanish abilities within my community, at my local church expressing my thoughts and ideas in Spanish and also going out to reach the community and spreading the gospel in both Spanish and English through elements even as poetry being sure to emphasize the importance of God's word and the importance of our culture.

Vanessa Guevara



Vanessa Guevara is a proud Hispanic first-generation college student and young single mother pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at Penn State Lehigh Valley. Blending her passion for psychology with her artistic background, she aspires to specialize in art therapy to promote healing and self-expression. Vanessa is dedicated to empowering minority and Hispanic communities by offering resources, guidance, and inspiration to help others achieve their academic and personal goals. Her commitment to education, cultural pride, and service is honored through the Estamos Unidos Scholarship.

EUP Scholarship Recipients 2025-2026

Sofia Maruri Gaitan



My name is Sofia Maruri Gaitan, and I am a proud immigrant from Colombia. I come from the land of beauty and yellow butterflies, of overflowing nature that paints the landscapes where its people open their hearts to the world with humility.

Seeking opportunities, my mother and I migrated to the United States five years ago. Despite the cultural and language barriers, we've found a new home in Philadelphia. I am a 3rd-year Architecture student, recently graduated from the Community College of Philadelphia, and transferring to Thomas Jefferson University.

My journey has inspired me to pursue a career in architecture with an activist heart, aiming to contribute to a better world through my designs, dedication, and love. Empowering underserved communities and protecting our planet through architecture will be my drive. The Estamos Unidos de PA Scholarship will be invaluable in supporting my education and career aspirations. I will be infinitely thankful and honored for the opportunity. Through my work, I aspire to realize not only my own dreams but also those of others, leaving a lasting mark on the architecture industry and the lives my efforts touch.

EUP Scholarship Recipients 2025-2026

Saraie Valerio Hernandez



Saraie Valerio Hernandez is a proud first-generation Mexican American who has spent the six years advocating for justice in immigrant and Latino communities. Inspired by her mother's activism, she volunteers, protests, and I was involved in MILPA to fight against social injustice and create meaningful change.

Saraie graduated high school with a 3.6 GPA, earning A's in challenging classes and standing out academically and athletically. She was a multi-sport athlete in volleyball, girls' lacrosse, and field hockey, and received the 2024 Pennsylvania Field Hockey All-State All-Academic Team award.

Accepted into 15 universities, Saraie is now pursuing her dream of becoming a registered nurse at Messiah University. She hopes to travel across the U.S. and beyond to provide care for underserved communities, combining her passion for health with her heart for service. Her goal is to bring both physical and spiritual healing—to those who need it most. I am delighted and thankful for selecting me to be the recipient of this scholarship. I am beyond grateful; I will also be happy to volunteer for Estamos Unidos.

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
SPONSORS!!!**



**A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
SPONSORS!!!**



MEMBERS 1st
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



LA
VOZ LATINA
CENTRAL.

COMMUNITY
FIRST FUND
IS NOW **finanta**



Tonight's Entertainment is Brought to YOU by:

Fraternidad Folclórica Cultural Morenada Bolivia USA

Este grupo fue fundado en el 2007, con la misión de fomentar en niños y jóvenes el amor por la cultura boliviana. Durante 17 años de trayectoria ininterrumpida, ha trabajado con dedicación en la preservación de la danza y el folklóre boliviano, transmitiendo tradiciones a nuevas generaciones y representando con orgullo nuestras raíces.

Cultural Folkloric Brotherhood Morenada Bolivia USA

This group was founded in 2007 with the mission of fostering a love for Bolivian culture in children and young people. For 17 years of uninterrupted work, it has dedicated itself to the preservation of Bolivian dance and folklore, passing on traditions to new generations and proudly representing our roots.



Tonight's Entertainment is also Brought to YOU by:

Adrian Garcia Band

The Adrian Garcia Band is a blend of jazzy funk with Latin soul and a little tropical salsa sprinkled in for savor. Every member of this musical collective was hand-picked for their aptitude and attitude.

The band's leader is Adrian Garcia, who is a songwriter, arranger, composer musician and band leader. Born in Bridgeport CT and raised between Puerto Rico and South-Central Pennsylvania, it is very easy to hear the cultural synergies and musical influences of these two worlds in his playing.

Adrian has a long list of bands he has recorded and played with throughout his more than 30-year professional career, bands like; Theopolis & the Funk Factory, Last Exit, Grupo Balance, Sonora Los Fantasticos are just a few of the bands he has led or formed a part of. Adrian Garcia Band specializes in Latin rhythms like the Cha-Cha-Cha, Salsa, Merengue, Boogaloo, Bolero, and their ability to pivot to the Blues, Funk, Jazz and neo soul round off this band's musicianship and their overall personality.





ESTAMOS UNIDOS DE PENNSYLVANIA
23RD ANNUAL FIESTA DEL NIÑOS
2025

CHRISTMAS PARTY



UPMC HEALTH PLAN
DAUPHIN
COUNTY

21
D E C

**DOORS OPEN AT 2 P.M.
DOORS CLOSE AT 3 P.M.
PROGRAM 3-5 P.M.**

**JOHN HARRIS HIGH SCHOOL
2451 MARKET STREET ENTRANCE**

Registration is Required by December 12

To register your children 12 years old or younger,
please use QR Code or go to
www.ticketleap.events/tickets/estamosunidospaorg/fiesta-2025

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL OR TEXT

HECTOR (717) 608-0444 OR AMANDA (717) 585-1150

*** CHILDREN MUST BE PRESENT IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A GIFT ***

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 SPONSORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND SUPPORTERS!

LA VOZ LATINA
CENTRAL



HIGHMARK

HERSHEY
THE Hershey Company
GIANT





ESTAMOS UNIDOS DE PENNSYLVANIA
23RD FIESTA ANUAL DEL NIÑOS
2025

FIESTA DE NAVIDAD



LA
VOZ LATINA
CENTRAL



ITNER FAMILY FUNERAL HOME

HIGHMARK

HERSHEY
THE HERSCHEY COMPANY

GIANT

Mth MEMBERS 1st
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Capital

UPMC HEALTH PLAN

**DAUPHIN
COUNTY**

**21
D E C**

**LAS PUERTAS SE ABREN A
LAS 2 P.M.
LAS PUERTAS CIERRAN A
LAS 3 P.M.
PROGRAMA 3-5 P.M.**

**JOHN HARRIS HIGH SCHOOL
2451 MARKET STREET ENTRADA**

Se requiere inscripción antes del 12 de diciembre

Para registrar a sus hijos de 12 años o menos,
usa el código QR o ir a

www.ticketleap.events/tickets/estamosunidospaorg/fiesta-2025

Para cualquier otra información adicional,
llama o envía un mensaje de texto a

Hector 717-608-0444 o Amanda 717-585-1150

* **LOS NIÑOS DEBEN ESTAR PRESENTES PARA RECIBIR UN REGALO ***
GRACIAS A NUESTROS 2024 PATROCINADORES, VOLUNTARIOS Y SIMPATIZANTES!



ESTAMOS UNIDOS DE PA 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Hector Ortiz
Amanda Batista
America Schwartz
Evita Cotta
Judith Windom
Kruger Gaibor
Pearl Sweeting
Ryan Rivera
Mateo Latorraca
Karla Gurian**



ESTAMOS UNIDOS DE PENNSYLVANIA GRACIOUSLY APPRECIATES ALL THE SUPPORT FROM ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS, SPONSORS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS. WE COULD NOT FOLLOW THROUGH WITH OUR MISSION AND PROGRAMS WITHOUT ALL OF YOU! OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ARE ABLE TO SUCCEED BECAUSE OF ALL OF US!

**THANK YOU!
MUCHAS GRACIAS!**

HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME TONIGHT!!!