September 22nd , 2021

12:00 pm – 1:30pm

Register in Advance Here

This webinar will feature two presentations.

Title: *Enhancing Servingness & Improving Undergraduate Education in STEM*

This session will discuss the Multidimensional Conceptual Framework for Understanding "Servingness," providing a definition of the concept of servingness. She talks about the "structures for serving" and gives examples from the book about how HSIs are transforming their structures in practice. She also complicates the "indicators of serving," giving examples from the book about the various ways that HSIs are assessing the extent to which they are serving Latinx and other minoritized students. Dr. Garcia challenges audience members to think about servingness as a multidimensional concept that can be addressed in unique ways by each college and university.

Speaker Biography

Dr. Gina Garcia
Dr. Gina Ann Garcia is an associate professor in the department of Educational Foundations, Organizations, and Policy at the University of Pittsburgh, where she teaches master's and doctoral students pursuing degrees in higher education and student affairs. Her research centers on issues of equity and justice in higher education with an emphasis on three core areas: Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs; postsecondary institutions that enroll at least 25% Latinx undergraduate students), Latinx college students, and race and racism in higher education.

She has made numerous presentations at national conferences and co-authored multiple publications in top journals including American Educational Research Journal, The Review of Higher Education, and Journal of Diversity in Higher Education. She has given talks at over 40 colleges and universities, including Cabrillo College, UC Riverside, Cal State Los Angeles, Community College of Aurora, and Texas State University. Dr. Garcia was the recipient of postdoctoral fellowships from both the Ford Foundation (2016) and the National Academy of Education/Spencer (2017). In spring 2018, she received the Early Career Scholar Award from AERA's Hispanic Research Issues SIG and in fall 2018 she was the recipient of the ASHE CEP Mildred García Award for Exemplary Scholarship (Junior). At the University of Pittsburgh, she was awarded the Iris Marion Young Award for Political Engagement for her work as a grassroots leader on campus elevating the Latinx community.

Notably, she is the author of Becoming Hispanic-Serving Institutions: Opportunities for Colleges & Universities, published by Johns Hopkins University Press, for which she won the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education Book of the Year Award in March 2020. She also edited the book Hispanic-Serving Institutions in Practice: Defining "Servingness" at HSIs, published by Information Age Publishing, which provides stories of success from Title V and Title III directors and grant implementors.

Dr. Garcia graduated from California State University, Northridge with a bachelor's degree in marketing and the University of Maryland, College Park with a master's degree in college student

personnel. She was a STEM retention coordinator at California State University, Fullerton, funded by a Department of Education Title V grant for developing HSIs. She also held a position funded by a National Science Foundation grant, working with community college transfer students who wanted to major in science and math. She graduated from University of California, Los Angeles with a Ph.D. in higher education and organizational change, where she worked with Dr. Sylvia Hurtado at the Higher Education Research Institute. Dr. Garcia is the mother of 2 boys, Jovan and Jaren, and has been a fitness instructor for 18 years.

Title: How the HSI STEM Resource Hub helps build capacity and enhance "servingness" at HSIs ;

The Challenge. The Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) designation has been conferred to over 550 American colleges and universities that meet federal criteria as an accredited, degree-granting, public or private nonprofit institution with 25% or more total undergraduate Hispanic full-time equivalent (FTE) students, a high enrollment of needy students, and low expenditures per undergraduate FTE student. HSIs receive on average 68 cents for every federal dollar as compared with other institutions of higher education and few HSIs have achieved R1 status. To address this gap NSF established the HSI Program, an initiative that aims to increase undergraduate degree achievement by HSI students pursuing STEM degrees, to enhance the quality of HSI STEM education, and to increase the number of meritorious grant awards to HSIs, especially those that receive little to no NSF funding.

The Intervention. The NSF Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) National STEM Resource Hub is led by faculty from New Mexico State University (NMSU), California State University, Northridge (CSUN), and Dona Ana Community College (DACC). The Hub serves as the first and sole NSF hub dedicated to supporting the nation's 550+ HSIs (1832338; 1832345). The Hub's $3 million research grant award is forging a national community of HSI faculty and staff and their allies by providing a free member networking portal (currently over 700) and open access to tools and training for grantsmanship, capacity building, and STEM education. During the most recent 3rd year of the project, over 1800 faculty and staff from across the nation benefited from Hub outputs such as webinars, virtual grantsmanship and STEM disciplinary workshops, podcasts, social media, mentored grantsmanship training (Semillas), certifications, and curated online resources for grant preparation and curriculum development. Independent survey responses by a cross section of Hub participants showed over 65% used Hub resources to prepare proposals submitted to over 20 NSF initiatives in addition to the HSI Program as well as to other agencies such as NIH, USDA, the Department of Education, DARPA, the Office of Naval Research, and DARPA.

Speaker Biography

Dr. Elba Serrano
Dr. Elba Serrano, NMSU Regent's Professor and Lead PI for the NSF HSI National STEM Resource Hub, is a first-generation-to-college scientist and educator who earned her Ph.D. in biological sciences from Stanford University and an undergraduate degree in physics from the University of Rochester. Her laboratory investigates the development of the sensory systems for hearing and balance and the role of neuroglia in brain function.

Serrano is a prominent contributor to the development of national policy for STEM research and workforce development. She has served on the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins, as co-Chair of the NIH ACD Working Group on Diversity, and is a current member of the NIH

BRAIN Multi-Council Working Group. Serrano is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and her achievements in promoting student success have been recognized with a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mentoring in Science, Engineering, and Math (PAESMEM). Her honors include being named one of 100 inspiring Hispanic/Latinx scientists in America in fall 2020.