



AVISO NEWSLETTER

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BOARD UPDATES

Eight IAHSE Board Members attended the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) Gala on June 13, 2024 for their 2024 Chicago Awards. IAHSE joined MALDEF in commemorating the significant contributions of the night's honorees in the Latina/o/e/x community. Congratulations to Karina Ayala-Bermejo, the Honorable Patricia Mendoza, and the late, great artist Rodriguez!

EVENTS

- The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation will be hosting their annual Raíces Public Policy Conference on September 19th, 2024, at the Rosemont Convention Center. For more information, [click here](#).
- Our 46th Annual Conference will be October 11, 2024 at the Hilton Chicago/ Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center. More information will be available at a later date.

IAHSE will be participating in two 5K events to bring awareness to two major causes. We are inviting you to join us in these events!

While donations for these events are appreciated, they are completely optional. If you choose to register and join us, please make sure that you join IAHSE's teams.

- [Out of the Darkness Community Walk for Mental Health - Saturday, September 14th.](#)
- [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital - Saturday, September 28th.](#)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The Language Equity and Access Act Passes both the Illinois House and the Senate and await the governor signature to become law. The Language Equity and Access Act requires state agencies to create language access plans and provide translation and interpretation in more than a dozen languages. It also designates the Governor's Office of New Americans to support agencies in creating and implementing their language access plans.

DID YOU KNOW?

(20 ILCS 65/) [Data Governance and Organization to Support Equity and Racial Justice Act](#). Department on Aging, Department of Central Management Services, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Corrections, Department of Juvenile Justice, Illinois Department of Labor, Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Department of Human Services, Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Transportation, and the State Board of Education are required to establish common processes and procedures for all of the following:

- (A) Cataloging data.
- (B) Managing data requests.
- (C) Sharing data.
- (D) Collecting data.
- (E) Matching data across agencies.
- (F) Developing research and analytic agendas.
- (G) Reporting on program participation disaggregated by race and ethnicity.
- (H) Evaluating equitable outcomes for underserved populations in Illinois.
- (I) Defining common roles for data management across agencies.

Every July 1, these agencies shall report statistical data on the racial, ethnic, age, sex, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and primary or preferred language demographics of program participants for each major program administered by the Board or the Department. Except as provided in subsection (b), when reporting the data required under this Section, the Board or the Department shall use the same racial and ethnic classifications for each program, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) American Indian and Alaska Native alone.
- (2) Asian alone.
- (3) Black or African American alone.
- (4) Hispanic or Latino of any race.
- (5) Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone.
- (6) White alone.
- (7) Some other race alone.
- (8) Two or more races.

Ensure that all major programs can report disaggregated data by race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity, and primary or preferred language.

CONOCE A TU IAHSE COMPAÑER@

We will be featuring IAHSE members in our monthly newsletter highlighting our diverse and talented Latino/a/e/x membership. This month's edition, we will be featuring our board member Edwin. If you wish to be highlighted or nominate another IAHSE member, please email us at IAHSE.Assoc@illinois.gov.

Name: Diane Casas

Current State Agency & Title: Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Project and Community Outreach Manager

What city are you based in? Chicago

How long have you worked for the State of Illinois? On March 2nd I celebrated my four year anniversary. I started right when the global pandemic hit.

What interested you in working for the State of Illinois & the current agency you are working for?

This is a very good question. The agency regulates over 120 professions and over 1.2 million licenses. And with that comes the need to advocate, educate and communicate to the community at large. Therefore my background in sales and marketing prepared me to be in the role I am in today. I am out in the field attending job fairs, community town halls and more recently IDFPR on the road, a new initiative started to provide assistance to licensees. I must say it is a different role from my advertising days, as this is more rewarding. Fluent in español, people feel comfortable when I can speak in their native language, it is easier to build that trust in the Latine community. Also, I am part of the Boards and Committees team, I identify and recruit quality candidates to serve and volunteer their time that include the governor appointed boards that each profession is assigned to.

What are your hobbies? I enjoy gardening, as it is very soothing and therapeutic. Every year I learn something new about it in discovering new ways to grow vegetables, and how to decorate my yard with colorful flowers and plants alike. I also love to read and amongst one of my favorite authors are Elizabeth Gilbert and Brené Brown to name a few, I have a whole collection of their books. City of Girls by Elizabeth Gilbert is a good summer read that I highly recommend.

Fun fact about you? Dynamic Di is a nickname that was created several years ago when one of my nieces and I were in a playful wrestling match. We would greet each other by fist and chest pumping each followed by a loud yelp of each other's nickname. She goes by Nat-tuff and I Dynamic Di. Thinking back, this name suits my personality.

Any achievements that you wish to share? Professional and/or personal? My proudest moment to date was earning my undergrad degree later in life. As I pursued an academic path, I balanced a career, a family life and served as a caretaker to my elderly parent. It was a challenging time yet I got it done. And by no means does this define who I am, it was a personal goal of mine, a "que si se puede y se pudo" accomplishment.

Anything else you wish to share with your IAHSE colleagues? A motto I live by is "be part of the solution and not the problem". Give back to your community, join an organization and share your skill sets, showcase who you are and always be networking. You never know when the next opportunity is headed your way.

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