



AVISO NEWSLETTER

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Celebrating Women's History Month with IAHSE!

As we commemorate Women's History Month, IAHSE proudly celebrates the remarkable contributions of Hispanic/Latina women across all levels of government in shaping the landscape of our state government. Their dedication and resilience have been instrumental in making Illinois the great state it is today.

Did you know? As of December 31, 2023, the number of state employees in coded agencies who identify as women stands at 2,168, surpassing those who identify as male at 1,419. This statistic underscores the invaluable role of women in every facet of state governance, from policy-making to service delivery, truly driving progress and excellence in Illinois.

Notably, IAHSE's executive committee is composed entirely of remarkable women, with the majority of our board members also being women. These extraordinary Latina state employees inspire us with their unwavering commitment to positive change, both within government and within our organization.

Let's honor their outstanding contributions not only during Women's History Month but every single day as we collectively strive for a more inclusive, equitable, and empowered state and workforce. Together, we can continue to build a brighter future for all.

EVENTS

- The Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education (ILACHE) conference will be April 26, 2024 in Northern Illinois University. For more information, [click here](#).
- Latino Unity day will be May 7-8 in Springfield. May 7th will be a half day event. May 8th will be a full day event with an evening reception starting at 6:00 PM by the Latino Caucus. More information coming soon, including registration, please check our [events section our website](#) periodically.
- 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.

BOARD UPDATES

The Board of Directors has been actively engaged in various meetings and events with stakeholders on behalf of the membership. Most recently, a group of Board Members, including President Mitsi Gallardo, convened with Deputy Governor Grace Hou. This meeting proved to be productive in establishing an initial rapport with the Deputy Governor and informing her and her staff about the critical key issues facing our members today. Additionally, board members met with representatives of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation (ILLCF). This served as an introductory meeting for both organizations, aiming to lay the groundwork for potential future collaboration in representing members and the Hispanic community at large in Illinois. Lastly, Board Member and past President Carlos Charneco was present in Springfield during the Governor's Budget address, representing IAHSE. During his trip, he engaged with several key legislators to discuss the significant issues impacting membership within certain agencies.

JOIN IAHSE!

Are you a member? If not, join now! It is IAHSE's mission to increase and secure the number of Latino employees at all levels of State government to ensure the full delivery of State services and resources to the Latino community. A strong representation of Latinos is vital to promote change. Your membership is very important to continue our mission and we invite you to join over 400 IAHSE State employees throughout Illinois! Please review our membership options on our [membership form](#).

BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

If you've been a paying member for at least a year, the board extends a warm invitation for you to consider joining the Board of Directors! Elections will be taking place later this year. Additionally, we have numerous volunteer opportunities available. Since IAHSE is run entirely by volunteers, we greatly appreciate any assistance our members are willing to offer. For more information, please e-mail IAHSE.Assoc@illinois.gov

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

HB5172

Amends the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. Specifies that the notice in contested case hearings must include an enclosure that notifies the recipient of the ability to request interpretive assistance for the hearing and to receive language assistance in translating the contents of the notice. Provides that an administrative law judge has the duty to inquire and determine whether a self-represented litigant or witness in a hearing needs interpretive assistance to participate in or understand the hearing. For more information on the bill and to track the status, [click here](#).

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We will be featuring IAHSE members in our monthly newsletter highlighting our diverse and talented Latino/a/e/x membership. If you wish to be highlighted or wish to nominate another IAHSE member, please email us at

IAHSE.Assoc@illinois.gov. This month, we will be featuring IAHSE member Rocio Casillas.

Current State Agency & Title:

Illinois State Board of Education, Special Education Department,
Principal Consultant



What city are you based in? Chicago

How long have you worked for the State of Illinois? 3 years

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

I was looking to make an impact at the state level on special education departments across the state.

What are your hobbies? Reading thriller novels, yoga, and very recently took up baking.

Fun fact about you? I zip lined through a rain forest & hiked the side of a volcano in Costa Rica last September.

Any achievements that you wish to share? Professional and/or personal?

I recently joined the Associate Board for After School Matters. After School Matters is an organization that works towards creating after school programming for teenagers all across Chicago.



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