

# Aviso Newsletter

www.iahse.org



September 2025

## Letter from the Vice President

Dear IAHSE Members,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Vice President of our association for nearly one year. Over the past nine months, I have witnessed firsthand how unity, collaboration, and strength in numbers drive meaningful change.

During this time, our board has increased membership to more than 410 members, with steady growth each month. In addition, the board has organized multiple networking and social events for our members, including one in Springfield, and we remain committed to keeping this momentum going. Our executive board has also engaged with directors at various state agencies to advocate for the concerns and priorities of our members.

This year has served as a reminder of how critical our work is, as our communities, families, friends, and neighbors continue to experience fear and disruption from federal actions directly impacting the Hispanic/Latina/o/e/x community. Last week, I had the opportunity to meet one of IAHSE's founders, which reinforced why our association was created and why it is more important than ever that we remain united—just as our founders were.

As an immigrant and former DACA recipient, I know firsthand the challenges our communities are facing these times. That lived experience is why I am passionate about working for the State and serving on the IAHSE Board.

To support our mission and strengthen representation at the state level, I encourage you to:

- Invite friends, family, and colleagues to consider applying for State positions.
- Encourage colleagues who are not yet members of IAHSE to join our association, so together we can continue building a stronger voice and greater impact.
- Mentor new Hispanic/Latina/o/e/x colleagues in state government and help shape the leaders of the future.

I also hope you will join us for our 37th Annual Conference, which will feature new sessions, a job fair, and our always-popular reception with food and drinks. Tickets are going fast, so if you have not purchased your ticket yet I encourage you to do so on [Eventbrite](#). If you will be in attendance, please say hello to us and other members, as networking professionally will also help with our mission.

Thank you for your continued commitment to IAHSE.

In solidarity,

Edwin Sanchez Molina  
*Vice President, IAHSE*

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# Eventos Sociales



## Chicago Cubs Game



## RINCON GALA



## CONFERENCE PLANNING



## ILLCF RAICES CONFERENCE



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# 37th Annual IAHSE Training Conference & Job Fair

## Featured workshops

### **Treasurer's Office**

Empowering Communities Through Financial Wellness and Education

The workshop will highlight a variety of programs and resources offered by the Illinois State Treasurer's Office. You'll learn about our highly-rated 529 college savings plan, how parents can claim a free \$50 seed deposit for eligible children, how to access free financial wellness resources, and details about the new student loan program. You'll walk away with resources to help plan a brighter financial future for you and your family.

### **Department of Human Rights**

Zoomers to Boomers

The From Boomers to Zoomers: Bridging Generational Gaps in the Office workshop will help participants understand the various generations present at work and understand what motivates them and dealing with them on a daily basis. Both the young and older worker will have many ideas to offer, which will help the organization thrive in the marketplace. Learning how to deal with the generation gaps at work will help you become a better manager or co-worker.

Bonus for IAHSE attendees! We will also discuss how the Latino/e experience differs from mainstream culture across four generations.

### **Department of Innovation & Technology**

AI and How It Works

This session will demystify artificial intelligence by explaining core concepts like machine learning, automation, and data use in simple, accessible terms. Learn how AI is already being used in public service delivery and what it means for your job—whether you're in HR, IT, or community engagement.

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# Legislative Updates

## 2025 Language Equity and Access Status report

The Governor's Office of New Americans (GONA) has filed an interim legislative report which provides an update on the progress being made on implementing Language Equity and Access Act (15 ILCS 56).

The purpose of the Act is "to ensure that all residents of the State have equal access to State services and, in particular, to remove language as a barrier for persons who have limited English proficiency (LEP) and who may, therefore, be excluded from equitable access to State information, programs, services, and activities."

State Agencies are required to implement language access plans, and these plans are reviewed by the Governor's Office of New Americans. The report contains the list of Language Access Coordinators within each state agency.

GONA will continue to provide technical assistance, uplift best practices, and generate guidance for language access coordinators, including those related to: Data Collection, Translation Management, Interpretation Management and Bilingual staffing.

## Data & Research – IAHSE

## Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation - ILLCF

### 2025 Raices Conference

Over half the board was present at the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation (ILLCF) Raices Conference on September 18 at the UIC Forum. The board members were happy to represent IAHSE and its membership. The conference also served as a professional development opportunity to better serve our membership and communities. We thank the ILLCF for being a partner of IAHSE in working toward our mission. We will share with membership the Raices Report as soon as it is published by the ILLCF.



Featured here: IAHSE VP, Edwin Sanchez-Molina with Dra. Rita Guzman (Right- East Aurora School 131 Executive Director of Language Acquisition & Early Learning) & Liliana Olayo (Left- Parent & Board Member- East Aurora SD 131 Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee)

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## Conozca a tu IAHSSE Compañero(a)

### Aisha Price

**Current State Agency & Title:**

Illinois Department of Transportation - IDOT  
Recruitment Section Manager  
Bureau of Personnel Management  
Diversity & Recruitment Section

**City Based In:** Springfield

**How long have you worked for the State of Illinois?**

22 years

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

I began my career with the state in my early twenties and progressed from an assistant to a manager for the Illinois Department of Transportation. I have served in various capacities for the state, but I have discovered that I have a passion for connecting with people to help them achieve their recruitment goals. IDOT administrative staff has an open-door policy and listens to ways I know would help with recruitment. Working for the State of Illinois is fulfilling to me because I serve the public and, either personally or through one of my staff members, meet them where they are, whether that is virtually, in the field, or at local festivals. I find innovative ways to connect with other agencies, universities, and organizations to recruit and retain staff who wish to join IDOT or connect them with the agency that is most suited for them.

**What are your hobbies?** Volunteering at my church, traveling with friends, and bargain shopping.

**Fun fact about you?** I have an albino leopard gecko that has been in my family for over 10 years.

**Any achievements that you wish to share? Professional and/or personal?** I served as the Southern Recruitment Manager at IDOT for 14 years and have now been the Recruitment Section Manager for the past two years. This is an achievement because, as the supervisor, I now have firsthand experience of what the agency needs for the recruitment section to be an even greater success.

**Anything else you wish to share with your IAHSSE colleagues?** I'm proud to be a part of the IAHSSE family and hope to recruit members to join this incredible organization.



**We will be featuring IAHSSE members in our monthly newsletter highlighting our diverse and talented Latino/a/e/x membership. If you wish to be highlighted or nominate another IAHSSE member, please email us at [IAHSSE.Assoc@illinois.gov](mailto:IAHSSE.Assoc@illinois.gov).**

Join IAHSSE Scan QR code or click on the link below:  
<https://iahse.org/joiniahse/>



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**Save the Date**

**37TH ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & JOB FAIR**

**SEGUIMOS PA'LANTE**  
**AMPLIFYING OUR VOICES**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 2025**

OAK BROOK HILLS RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER  
OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS



**To Register**

**[2025iahseconference.eventbrite.com](https://2025iahseconference.eventbrite.com)**

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