23rd Annual LEAP CONFERENCE

Loud and Proud Voces sin Barreras

Education Conference & Legislative Day

MARCH 27-28, 2023
HOTEL MURANO, TACOMA
STATE CAPITOL, OLYMPIA

www.leapwa.org
Welcome to the 2023 LEAP Conference and Legislative Day at the Hotel Murano! We are proud to once again bring together students from across the state to celebrate our community and elevate our voices after nearly 4 years of delays. This year, we seek to especially celebrate our resilient culture by honoring LEAP's roots and our history. Our presence here today is proof of the resilience of our culture, and just like those who have come before us, we will organize and redefine the current conditions of our existence.

A pillar of LEAP is civic engagement and this year will provide opportunities for Latino/a youth to get involved and lend their voice to democratic ideals that will strengthen their communities. Our conference attendees will visit Olympia and voice their concerns for important issues. We recognize the youth of today as our leaders in the movement for justice and equity, and their voices are an important part of the American narrative, especially at this time in our history. Now more than ever, we look to young people to get involved in civic life and to remain engaged in our government as they enter adulthood. In doing so, we know the traditions of our resilient culture live on in the youth assembled here, who echo strength and unity of activists and advocates who came before. We hope in the next two days you will learn, grow and find your voice in the narrative of our nation.

We want to thank all the schools and their districts for sending their students to this year’s conference. We are appreciative of all the workshop presenters and keynote speakers that took the time to be here to engage and share valuable information with the attendees. Through our united efforts, we will continue to move our communities toward an equitable and fair society. Thank you for being a part of this movement, and for inspiring us to take action as well.

CHAPERONE REMINDERS:

- Schools are required to coordinate their own transportation to Olympia tomorrow. LEAP does not provide transportation to the state capitol. Buses can drop students off using the circle around the Winged Victory Monument in front of the legislative building. Ambassadors will meet you near the monument, so look for your district’s Ambassador. We ask all groups to arrive in Olympia no later than 9:00 a.m.

- Dress code on this day is business professional for all conference attendees, but please remind students to wear comfortable walking shoes. Students may also wish to dress formally for the baile on Tuesday.

- For those staying in Hotel Murano - please remind your students that extra charges are incurred by consuming the snacks and drinks provided by the hotel in the rooms.

- Chaperones are responsible for their students at all times and must enforce their own curfew and behavior expectations.
Ary Colin Esparza
LEAP Coordinator/Toppenish SD

Ary was born and raised in Mexico City before moving to the Tri-Cities where she attended Kennewick High School. Though being an undocumented first-generation college student was challenging, she obtained a BA in Public Health in 2021 after five years at the University of Washington. After graduation, she spent a year in the Yakima School District as a 6th-grade math and substitute teacher. In her free time, she enjoys baking pan dulce, crocheting new projects and practicing cumbias on her accordion.

Antonio Garcia
LEAP Coordinator/Granger SD

After graduating from Grandview HS in 2017, Antonio moved to Seattle for college. Motivation from his parents and family helped pave the way throughout his journey at the University of Washington, where he obtained a BA in English. While being involved with various different organizations throughout high school and college, he found that he loved to give back to his community and see the growth blossoming. He thrives to ignite the spark of possibility and commitment that dwell within his students’ hopes and dreams.

Elsy Olivares Rodea
LEAP Coordinator/Franklin-Pierce SD

Elsy was raised in Puyallup, Washington, where she attended Gov. Rogers High School. After high school, Elsy went on to Pacific Lutheran University where she majored in Hispanic Studies and minored in sociology, criminal justice and Latino studies. Elsy’s passion includes helping her community wherever she can. Her motivation and passion comes from family, friends and teachers who pushed her to believe in herself.

Richard Maltby
LEAP Director

Richard has lived all but two years of his life in the Seattle area. After graduating from Cleveland High School, he attended Western Washington University and earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Education. Richard went on to teach in the Kent and Seattle School Districts before taking the reins at a GED learning center at a non-profit agency in South Central Seattle. He joined Sea Mar in 2011 and managed the At-Risk Youth Programs until August of 2022, when he was appointed the position of LEAP Director.
AGENDA - DAY 1
Monday, March 27, 2023

9:00 a.m.  Registration & Resource Fair | Rotunda

12:00 p.m.  Welcome | Ballroom

1:00 p.m.  Lunch | Ballroom
Keynote: Ricardo Ruiz
Sea Mar Scholarships: Kenia Diaz

2:00 p.m.  Workshop #1

3:00 p.m.  Workshop #2

4:00 p.m.  Break & Room Check-In
Book signing in Ballroom

5:00 p.m.  Legislative Day Prep | Ballroom
Chaperone workshop hosted by LWB

6:00 p.m.  Dinner | Ballroom
Performance by CeAtl Tonalli

7:00 p.m.  District Meetings
### AGENDA - DAY 2

**Tuesday, March 28, 2023**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Legislative Day</td>
<td>Olympia</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>North Steps</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Documentary</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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* Pastries and muffins will be available Wednesday morning in the lobby, prior to check-out.
Keynote Speakers

Ricardo Ruiz
Author of
*We Had Our Reasons*

Ricardo Ruiz is a multi-dimensional writer of poetry and prose. The son of potato factory workers, Ricardo hails from Othello, Washington. His work draws from his experience as a first-generation Mexican-American, and from his military service. Ricardo holds an Associate Degree in Business and Accounting from Big Bend Community College, where he was recognized as Student of the Year in both Business and Economics, and English Composition. He also holds a Bachelor of Art in Creative Writing from the University of Washington. While in the military, Ricardo earned the rank of Staff Sergeant while serving on four deployments, two to Afghanistan.

He is passionate about elevating marginalized voices from rural communities and takes pride in being a conduit for cultural connection.

Karen Gamez Lopez
Engagement Director
Fuse Washington

Karen Arlette Gamez Lopez currently serves as the Engagement Director for Fuse, the state’s largest progressive organization. Originally from Sinaloa, Mexico, Karen grew up in Kent WA, and graduated from Green River College and the University of Washington. Karen has been an advocate for immigrant rights since high school, when she began sharing her story as an undocumented student at the capital. Our state-wide advocacy led to the WA State Real Hope Act (aka WA Dream Act) being signed into law in 2014, expanding state financial aid to students like herself. Karen is so proud to have been a part of that movement and is extremely thankful to LEAP for creating these opportunities. LEAP was the catalyst in her advocacy, leading her to continue to advocate at the state and national level for immigrant rights, founding awareness events, organizing conferences, lobbying in DC, helping fundraise thousands of dollars for scholarships for undocumented students, and getting our community registered to vote. Karen strives to serve and uplift immigrants, the Latino/a/x community, survivors of abuse and all other marginalized communities. Karen loves to dance, travel and eat, and she is undocumented, unafraid and here to stay.
Jimmy Matta was raised by migrant farmworkers from Guatemala amid the towering peaks of the Cache Valley in Preston, Idaho and the Central Washington cities of Quincy, Wenatchee and Ephrata. He too began working in the fields at the tender and impressionable age of ten. In 1998 he came to Burien where he moved up the ranks at the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America eventually serving as an international representative of the general president.

As a union labor leader, community advocate, and organizer, Matta has long sought to build bridges between organized labor, business and our diverse communities of Washington. He is currently a regional executive board member and Vice-Chair of The Latino Civic Alliance. He has served as president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (King County) and Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA). Matta has served four years on Burien city council as mayor, where he has championed initiatives and issues that are important for the citizens of Burien.

Policy Priorities

**HB 1228: Building a multilingual, multiliterate Washington through dual and tribal language education.**

HB 1228 focuses on expanding the dual education and tribal education program in our state, which aims to have students from grades K-12 receive an education taught in English and another world language other than English. Dual language programs can help close the academic opportunity gap, foster positive identity development and build welcoming communities that value the diversity of languages and cultures across Washington. Research shows that dual language programs are the best ways to increase student achievement for English learners, while also improving education outcomes for their monolingual peers.

**HB 1470: Concerning private detention facilities.**

This bill seeks to improve conditions at private detention facilities in our state, such as the Northwest ICE Processing Center in Tacoma. It would mandate that private detention facilities be up to the same standards as the public facilities, increasing transparency and accountability. If it is approved, it would address many basic human necessities such as nutritious food, clean clothes, hygiene products and medical care. This bill would also ban the use of solitary confinement. HB 1470 would also allow unannounced inspections from government agencies to ensure these conditions are being upheld.

For more information follow the Latino/a Educational Achievement Project on Instagram at @LEAPWA or contact us by email: leap@seamarchc.org
## WORKSHOPS

### Ni de Aquí Ni de Allá: Chicano Culture & History
**Marcella Godina | Eastern Washington University**
This workshop will examine the Chicano/Mexican experience from the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hildalgo to Arizona’s ban on ethnic studies in 2010. Specific themes discussed include the economic, political and social conditions after the Anglo-American conquest of the southwest, Mexican immigration to the U.S., Chicano labor history, the Chicano movement and other Chicano themes. As well as examine how Chicano Latino have been depicted in film, news, television and other media formats in the U.S. messaging.

### “I am not crazy”--The cry of mi hijo, mi hija
**Dr. Gino Aisenberg | UW Latino Center for Health**
[MONDAY ONLY] Latino youth experience many stressors that impact how they see themselves and their futures. The pandemic has taken away many rituals with family and friends. All these stressors and more can contribute to deep sadness, negative thoughts and fears weighing on our hearts and minds.

This presentation addresses mental health concerns and the impacts on Latino adolescents. Grounded in values of our Latino culture, it provides concrete strategies to foster a positive sense of self, one in which we experience our connectedness rather than suffering alone or in silence.

**Diana Paola Vergara & Flor Gonzalez | Leadership Without Borders**
[MONDAY ONLY] The objective of this workshop is to provide peers with the knowledge and skills to better support undocumented students. The workshop will focus on understanding the challenges that undocumented students face and strategies for creating a supportive and inclusive environment.

### Finding Your Voice
**Ricardo Ruiz | Author of We Had Our Reasons**
The purpose of the workshop is to introduce poetry and its ability to connect ones inner and outer self. We hope to begin the process by sitting in a quiet space for a brief amount of time and to have one poem written and revised at the end of the session.

### There Grows the Hood
**Roxana Prado Garcia | La Roxay Productions**
[TUESDAY ONLY] Students will be given the tools to dismantle the ways in which the media and the general public talk about our hood(s) and how we can actively resist the messaging.

### Be Boundless: Applying to the University of Washington & Competitive Universities
**Jaime Soto | University of Washington**
This workshop will guide you through the process of applying to UW and learn what you should be doing now to prepare for the college admissions process for competitive universities.
WORKSHOPS

Building Empowerment & Activism
Diana Paola Vergara  |  MEChA de UW  |  [TUESDAY ONLY]
The objective of this workshop is to provide students with an understanding of the historical and cultural significance of MEChA and its role in promoting social justice and activism. Participants will gain knowledge and skills to become empowered agents of change within their communities. They will also learn about higher education and what MEChA has to offer them as high school students.

Financial Aid 101: What is it and how to apply for it!
Hans Torres & Vilma Alvarado Garcia  |  Northwest Education Access
Join Education Advocates, Hans and Vilma, as they share the different forms of financial aid you can use to fund your post-secondary education! Both Hans and Vilma are first-generation college graduates excited to share their knowledge with the community. This workshop will cover information regarding scholarships, grants, loans, work-study and the financial aid applications of WASFA and FAFSA. Come with all your questions!

Undocu Ally Training
Hugo Garcia Villa  |  UW Leadership Without Borders  |  [ONLY FOR CHAPERONES]
This training is designed to develop a better understanding of the challenges and realities undocumented students face on college campuses as well as an awareness of laws and policies that impact undocumented students and their mixed-status families. This training strives to cultivate a more supportive environment for undocumented students in higher education, at the University of Washington and beyond.

SEA MAR MUSEUM: 9635 Des Moines Memorial Drive S, Seattle, WA 98108
Hours: Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Contact: museum@seamarchc.org

Free admission, All ages welcome
Guided Group Tours and School Field Trips (Curriculum available)

The Sea Mar Museum is the first museum in the Pacific Northwest dedicated to sharing the stories and celebrating the rich history of the Chicano and Latino communities in Washington State.
SEA MAR SCHOLARSHIPS

www.seamar.org/scholarships

Apply Today!

Applications will be closed April 30, 2023
¡Muchas Gracias!

The Latino/a Educational Achievement Project (LEAP) is a program of Sea Mar Community Health Centers. LEAP works with community leaders in the movement for justice and equity through civic engagement programming, increased educational opportunities and advocacy and community initiatives. LEAP is determined to improve the academic achievement and civic engagement of Latino/a students with the collaboration and support of school district teachers, administrators, K-12 and college students as well as parents and legislators.

On behalf of our staff at LEAP, we would like to thank all our donors and community partners for your continuous support. Thank you to the many organizations and people who help make the 2023 LEAP Conference & Legislative Day possible.

2022-2023 LEAP Ambassadors

The LEAP Ambassadors assist in facilitating the LEAP Conference and Legislative Day. They are a yearly leadership cohort and receive training on public speaking, policy and social change.

**Granger**  
*Granger High School*

- Bryan Villalovos
- Daniela Cardenas
- Javier Ortiz
- Jocelyn Vidal
- Julysa Morales
- Kaleb Longee
- Maite Flores
- Maria Serrano
- Neyda Mendoza
- Pedro Camacho

**Toppenish**  
*Toppenish High School*

- Alexa Alvarado
- Anjel Ledezma
- Araceli Flores
- Diamond Casiano
- Erick Aceves Estrada
- Isaac Castillo
- Lilanah Deleon
- Lizette Guerrero
- Marisela Mendoza
- Miguel Lustre

**Tacoma**  
*Franklin-Pierce High School*  
*Washington High School*

- Alex Lujano
- Alison Gonzalez
- Axel Urrieta
- Cindy Diaz
- Danapaola Morales
- Destiny Villar
- Jasmine Vazquez
- Kevin Elizondo
- Mario Ayala
- Melissa Gonzalez
Thank You!

Special thanks to the University of Washington Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity for their sponsorship of the LEAP Conference.

You are invited to join us
MAY 17, 6 PM
www.uw.edu/omad/celebration

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON OFFICE OF MINORITY AFFAIRS & DIVERSITY FRIENDS OF THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM
CELEBRATION
53RD ANNUAL | 1971-2023

Stay updated by following us on Instagram! @LEAPWA