

Hispanic Heritage Month



Hispanic Heritage Month is an annual celebration of the history and culture of the U.S. Latino and Hispanic communities. Hispanic Heritage Month, first recognized as a week-long celebration in 1968, was extended in 1988 to a month, from September 15 through October 15. The month commemorates how those communities have influenced and contributed to American society at large.

“Poetry,” the Mexican writer Octavio Paz reminds us, is a “suspension bridge between history and truth.” In that spirit, this excerpt from [“Kite,” by Briceida Cuevas Cob](#) reflects the importance of remembering, honoring, and celebrating.

Memory
is a kite.
Little by little you let it go,
enjoying its flight.



In keeping with the 2023 national theme -- *Todos Somos, Somos Uno: We are all, we are one* -- we feature achievements of a few of the Manhattanville doctoral program alumni. These individuals exemplify a profound sense of pride in their Hispanic heritage, which not only fueled their personal and professional accomplishments but also inspired them to give back to their communities. Join us as we celebrate their academic achievements, professional successes, and the meaningful impact they make in their respective fields.





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Dr. Mayda Gonzalez-Bosch, a 2024 EdD alumna of the Manhattanville Dissertation Completion Pathway grew up in Cuba where most of her family still lives. She identifies as Hispanic and a first-generation college student. Earlier this year, Mayda, previously Associate Dean of Health Professions at Bergen Community College, was hired as the new associate vice president for health professions, to oversee the degree programs within SUNY Orange's Health Sciences and Wellness academic community. Mayda, who also holds a M.D., brings experience and leadership to healthcare education.

Mayda's dissertation was a qualitative study of faculty preparedness to teach community college students with learning disabilities. Her research underscores her unwavering dedication to under-served and marginalized students, including students with learning disabilities, and her commitment to work with faculty to ameliorate issues that might emerge in the classroom that could contribute to students' fears of stigmatization.



In August 2024, Mayda was honored as one of the Top 50 Women Leaders in Education. Ranked 7th on the prestigious list compiled by Women We Admire, a leading organization for women executives across North America, Gonzalez-Bosch was recognized for her transformative leadership in education. Read more [HERE](#).



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Anibal Soler, Jr. is a current doctoral student in the Dissertation Completion Pathway of the Manhattanville Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership, anticipating defense of his dissertation proposal for a study of credit recovery options.



On May 1, 2024, Anibal started his role as [Superintendent of Yonkers Public Schools](#), having previously served as Superintendent of the Schenectady City School District. In Yonkers, Anibal is leading New York's 3rd largest school systems with almost 23,000 students in grades K-12. Yonkers had the honor in September to welcome Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor to the ribbon cutting of the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community School. [Read more HERE.](#)



Anibal, who identifies as Latino, know firsthand the transformative power of representation and mentorship for young men of color, as he asserted in this [August 2024 opinion piece](#). Across various districts in New York State, Anibal has started or supported a chapter of My Brothers' Keeper, a program launched by President Barack Obama in response to the death of Trayvon Martin, which works to improve the lives of boys and young men of color. In this piece, Anibal described a "changing narrative for New York, where people of color are at the forefront of educational leadership."



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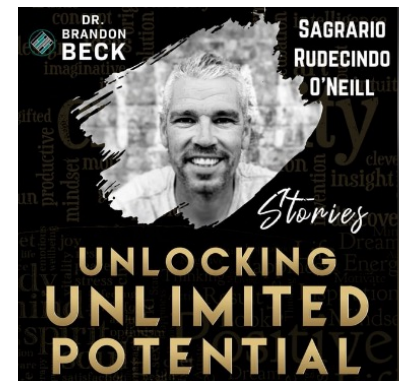
Dr. Sagrario Rudecindo-O'Neill, a 2022 EdD alumna of the Signature (PK-12) Leadership pathway, is a proud daughter of an immigrant mother from the Dominican Republic. Soon after earning her EdD, she was [selected to serve as a member of the NYSED Blue Ribbon Commission](#). In 2021, Sagrario was also the inaugural recipient of the Judith Johnson Memorial Award, in recognition of her commitment to support racially minoritized populations and taking action to redress racial injustices.



Sagrario, whose research was a critical qualitative study of white elementary school principals' leadership of race initiatives in an era of CRT backlash, has contributed her expertise generously at Manhattanville Doctoral Program events. She also serves as an adjunct of doctoral and graduate courses in the Educational Leadership Department. Brava!



In May 2024, Sagrario was interviewed by Dr. Brandon Beck (also a Manhattanville EdD alumnus) in an episode on how **Joy Unlocks Genius**, for Brandon's Unlocking Unlimited Potential Stories Show. [Listen HERE.](#)





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Dr. Raymond “Ray” Sanchez, a Champion of Educational Equity, is a 2019 alumnus of the Manhattanville EdD Dissertation Completion Pathway. Ray, who serves as the Superintendent of the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns, was recognized as [2025 Superintendent of the Year](#) by the New York State Council of School Superintendents. Council President, Lars Clemensen, said, “Throughout his career, Ray has been a leader in the superintendency, from driving advocacy initiatives that increased resources in high-need communities across New York State and as an educational leader, creating trajectory-changing opportunities for his students.”



Dr. Sanchez, ever generous with his time and talent, provided the keynote for the DEI Summer Institute hosted by SW-BOCES. Pictured above with Dr. Hope Weinberg, also a Manhattanville EdD alumna.

Dr. Sanchez’s commitment to equity is deeply rooted in his Hispanic background. With Dr. Joanne Marien, doctoral faculty in Educational Leadership, Ray Sanchez, conceptualized the innovative Changemakers Program -- a transformative experiential learning endeavor aimed at empowering Latina high school students. First launched in 2023, with Ossining School District, this initiative, in partnership with Open Roads, was expanded in 2024 to serve Ossining, Tarrytown, and Peekskill School Districts. Dr. Madeline Sanchez-Diamond, also a Manhattanville EdD alumna, joined the collaborative effort.

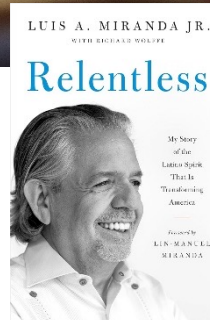


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As Manhattanville's first Latino president, Dr. Frank Sánchez was honored with the Trailblazer Award from the Westchester Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Michael Dunn, Chair of the Board, Manhattanville University, stated that Sánchez's "recognition with the Trailblazer Award is a testament to his unwavering commitment to our community and his visionary leadership." Frank D. Sánchez, PhD, began his term as 15th president of Manhattanville in July 2023.

In 2021, Manhattanville joined a distinguished group that are designated as Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) by the U.S. Department of Education. To qualify as an HSI, Hispanic students must comprise at least 25% of the full-time equivalent student body. Currently 40% of Manhattanville's student body identifies as Hispanic. With this designation, Manhattanville will continue its long tradition of providing pathways to students' success, supporting Latinx students in its commitment to expand opportunities for all members of the diverse campus community.



President Sánchez recently had a Fireside Chat with Luis A. Miranda Jr. about Miranda's book, *RELENTLESS: My Story of the Latino Spirit that is Transforming America*.

The theme for Manhattanville's Hispanic Heritage Month was *Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together*. This event was the kick-off for a month of celebrating the diversity and vibrancy of Hispanic and Latinx heritage.