



In Pursuit of Equity,  
Accountability and Success:  
**Latino**  
Students in  
Massachusetts Schools



[www.peaslatinx.org](http://www.peaslatinx.org)

# Meeting the Moment: Protecting Education Pathways for Latino Students in Massachusetts

October 17, 2025 | Worcester State University | 9am - 2pm

REGISTER at: [tinyurl.com/SymposiumOct17](https://tinyurl.com/SymposiumOct17)



## PROGRAM



8:30 – 9:00 AM **Registration**

9:00 – 10:45 AM **Opening Plenary, Sullivan Auditorium**

### ¿Qué está pasando? Grappling with broader forces disrupting educational ecosystems



**Melissa Colón**, Assistant Professor, College of Education and Human Development and Research Associate, Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston



**Barry Maloney**, President, Worcester State University



**Viviana Abreu Hernandez**, President, Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center

Followed by Community Voices Panel

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM **Breakout Sessions**

### 01 Centering Youth Voices: Leadership and Action



**Moderator: Timothy E. Murphy**, urban anthropologist and Professor of Urban Studies at Worcester State University.



**Panelist: Patricia Krugger Henney**, Associate Professor of Urban Education, Leadership and Policy Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston



**Panelist: Alexandra Oliver-Dávila**, Executive Director, Sociedad Latina



**Panelist: Maria Juncos Gautier**, Executive Director, Latino Education Institute, Worcester State University with youth leader

### 02 Policy and Practice: Federal & State Actions Shaping Families and Children's Lives



**Moderator: Thomas Conroy**, Chair and Professor of Urban Studies, Worcester State University and Director of the WSU CityLab



**Panelist: Cristina Araújo Binkerhoff**, Lecturer and Researcher, Boston University School of Social Work and President Brazilian Workers Center



**Panelist: Diana Santiago**, Legal Director, Massachusetts Advocates for Children

### 03 Safeguarding Educational Pathways: From PK-12 to Higher Education



**Moderator: Carmen Veloria**, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Central State Connecticut University



**Panelist: Liya Escalera**, Faculty Member, Harvard Graduate School of Education and Co-Chair of the Higher Education Concentration



**Panelist: Angelica Martinez**, Associate Director of Programs La Vida Scholars



**Panelist: Claudia Ortiz**, Director of Admissions Recruitment at MassBay Community College

### 04 Navigating a New Landscape: Supporting ELs After Federal Disinvestment



**Moderator: Fabián Ardila Torres**, Associate Director of the Gastón Institute of Latino Community Development, University of Massachusetts Boston



**Panelist: Allison Balter**, Special Advisor, Director, Office of Language Acquisition, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education



**Panelist: Ralph Carrero**, Superintendent of Lawrence Public Schools



**Panelist: Meg Burns**, Director of Professional Learning, Multistate Association of Bilingual Education



**Panelist: Jessica Mandes**, Director of Multilingual Schools, Worcester Public Schools

12:30 – 2:00 PM **Crear Comunidad: Hungry for Community**

### Networking Lunch Hosted by WSU Office of University and Community Engagement



**Mary Jo Marion**, Associate Vice President for University and Community Engagement, Worcester State University

For more information contact: [lei@worcester.edu](mailto:lei@worcester.edu)

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