



## 2021 Hispanic Initiatives - EPA Forum

### “Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope”

Wed, Oct 6 & Thurs, Oct 7, 2021 / 1:00 – 4:45 pm EDT

### AGENDA

#### [Executive Leadership Hispanic Initiatives MS Team](#)

Day 1: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 / 1 pm – 4:45 pm EDT ( <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> )	
<b>Welcome/Introduction</b> <b>Our Purpose: 2021 Hispanic Initiatives</b> <b>(1:00 – 1:10 pm)</b>	Nigel Simon, Director, Office of Program Management, OLEM  <i>***Special Acknowledgement of Two HEP SEPMs:            Eliana De Leon, MPH, OECA Co-HEP SEPM            Victor A. Zertuche, OECA Co-HEP SEPM</i>
<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> <b>(1:10 – 1:20 pm)</b>	Administrator’s Office
<b>Ice Breaker</b> <b>(1:20 – 1:30 pm)</b>	Diversidad de Musica <b>Moderators:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandra Rivera, Program Manager and Hispanic Employment Program Council Chair, OMS</li> <li>Mitty Mohon, Offshore Oil and Gas Coordinator and Hispanic Employment Program Council Vice Chair, R6</li> </ol>
<b>State of Hispanics – FY-21 Presentation</b> <b>(1:30 – 2:30 pm)</b>	JuanCarlos Hunt, Director, OCR  Michael Nieves, Assistant Director, OCR Affirmative Employment, Analysis and Accountability Staff
<b>Latina Panel on underrepresentation and career advancement SES and GS</b> <b>(2:30 – 3:50 pm)</b>	<b>Latina Panel on underrepresentation and career advancement SES and GS</b> The underrepresentation of Latinas in the Senior Executive Service at EPA continues to be a challenge, with only 7 total for the Agency reported in the last MD-715. Career SES Latina female hires have increased since the initial hire in 2000, but progress has been slow.  Join us for this lively session to discuss perspectives from existing Latina leaders on issues affecting less than expected representation of Latinas in the SES and ways to overcome barriers and promote career advancement.  <b>Moderator:</b> Cristina Fernandez, Director Air and Radiation Division, R3 <b>Panelists:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lilian Dorka, Director, External Civil Rights Compliance Office, OGC</li> <li>Sally Gutierrez, Senior Advisor, Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response, ORD</li> <li>Cecilia Tapia, Director, Laboratory Services and Applied Science Division, R7</li> </ol>

	<p>4. Dennisses “Dee” Valdes, Branch Chief, Environmental Response Team, OLEM (<i>Retired</i>)</p> <p>5. Maria Martinez, Branch Chief, Permitting &amp; Water Quality Branch, R6.</p>
<b>Quick BREAK (3:50 – 4:00pm)</b>	10 Minutes
<b>Hispanic Recruitment and Outreach Efforts (4:00 – 4:35 pm)</b>	Vique Caro, Director, Office of Administration and Resources Management, OMS
<b>Closing and Day 1 Recap (4:35 – 4:45 pm)</b>	Lilian Dorka, Director, External Civil Rights Compliance Office, OGC

<b>Day 2: Thursday, October 7, 2021 / 1 pm – 4:45 pm EDT</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>	
<b>Welcome Back/Overview of Day 1 (1:00 – 1:10 pm)</b>	Tania L Allen, Diversity & Outreach Branch Manager Office of Human Resources, OMS
<b>Ice Breaker (1:10 – 1:20pm)</b>	<p>Trivia: ¿Quién soy?</p> <p><b>Moderator(s):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Paula Flores-Gregg, Program Analyst, White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, R6</li> <li>2. Paula Rodriguez, Information Security Officer and Hispanic Employment Program Manager, OLEM</li> <li>3. Gloria (Ashley) Gaines, Human Resources Staffing Specialist and Hispanic Employment Program Manager, RTP</li> </ol>
<b>Overcoming Barriers to Career Advancement / Latino and Diverse Ally Leaders. (perspectives from outside of EPA) (1:20 – 2:40 pm)</b>	<p>Join a diverse panel of invited leaders as they discuss their career paths, from implementing certain strategies to overcoming challenges and barriers to advance and thrive in their careers. Panelists will discuss the most common obstacles and ways to overcome them through resiliency and creative approaches. Walk away gaining insightful advice that will help you towards developing and evolving your professional journey.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Tomas Torres, Director, Water Division, R9</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ismael Martinez, Acting Director, Office of Civil Rights and Diversity, U.S. Agency for International Development.</li> <li>2. Omar Eaton-Martinez, Assistant Division Chief, Historical Resources for Prince George's County Parks &amp; Recreation</li> <li>3. Deni Taveras, County Council Member (District 2) for Prince George's County</li> </ol>
<b>Help, I’m Stuck!! Best Practices on Career Advancement</b>	Are you ready to move up or on from your current position? Do you have the skills required to be given the next opportunity? Hear from fellow EPA

<b>GS Career Panel (2:40 – 3:40 pm)</b>	<p>colleagues on best practices used to overcome challenges that helped them move on to the next phase of their career.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Michael Nieves, Assistant Director, Affirmative Employment, Analysis and Accountability Staff, OCR</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Olivia Balandran, Staff Director, Outreach, Community Involvement and Engagement Office, Office of Public Affairs, R6</li> <li>2. Laura Montoya, Hispanic Employment Program Manager, OW</li> <li>3. Maria Lopez-Carbo, Environmental Protection Specialist, OW</li> <li>4. Daniel Alejandro Haskell, Environmental Engineer, R9</li> <li>5. Carlos Pachon, Environmental Protection Specialist, OLEM</li> </ol>
<b>Quick BREAK (3:40 – 3:50pm)</b>	<p>10 Minutes</p>
<b>Breakout Networking/ Mentoring Session with Senior Executives (3:50 – 4:40 pm)</b>	<p>MS Teams Breakout Rooms (20 Mins group session)</p> <p>Forum participants will be broken out into virtual groups and have an opportunity to talk to various EPA SES/SL/STs from across the agency.</p>
<b>Closing (4:40 – 4:45 pm)</b>	<p>Matthew Tejada, Director, Office of Environmental Justice, AO</p>

Last Updated: 9/9/2021