

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 15TH-OCTOBER 15TH



WHY?

The purpose of National Hispanic Heritage Month is to recognize the contributions of Hispanic and Latinx Americans to the country's history, heritage, and culture.

HISPANIC OR LATINX?

Hispanic and Latinx are often used interchangeably, but they mean two different things.

Hispanic usually refers to people that speak Spanish and/or descend from Spanish-speaking populations.

Latinx is a gender neutral term used to refer to people from or descended from people from Latin America (everything below the U.S., including the Caribbean).

For example:

- someone from Brazil is Latinx but not Hispanic because they speak Portuguese in Brazil;
- someone from Spain is Hispanic, but not Latinx because Spain is a European country.

HISTORY

National Hispanic Heritage Month started as National Hispanic Heritage Week, which was signed into law by President L. Johnson in 1968. In 1988, this week was expanded into a month by a law signed by President R. Reagan.

Why does it start in the middle of September?

There are five countries in Latin America that celebrate the anniversary of their independence on September 15th: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. In addition, Mexico, Chile, and Belize celebrate their independence in September (9/16, 9/18, and 9/21, respectively).

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ADRIANA SALERNO

BATES COLLEGE

Adriana is a Venezuelan mathematician. She earned her undergraduate degree at the Universidad Simón Bolívar and her Ph.D. at the University of Texas. Her main area of research is number theory, and she is also interested in communication and teaching math to a more inclusive and diverse STEM workforce. Adriana is editor-in-chief of the inclusion/exclusion blog for AMS and was part of our AWM Speaker Series in Spring 2019.

ANTHONY VÁRILLY-ALVARADO

RICE UNIVERSITY

Tony is a Costa Rican mathematician. He earned his B.S. at Harvard University and his Ph.D. at UC Berkeley. His main area of research is arithmetic geometry. Tony is committed to disseminating mathematics at all levels and is interested in creating opportunities for students from underrepresented backgrounds to engage in the discovery of mathematics. Tony is the founder and director of *Patterns, Math & You*, a program for middle school students.

ROCHELLE GUTIÉRREZ

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Rochelle received her B.S. from Stanford University, and her M.S. and Ph.D. from University of Chicago. Her main area of research are issues of identity and power in mathematics education, paying particular attention to how race, class, and language affect teaching and learning. Rochelle gave a Hugo Rossi presentation on campus last year about issues of diversity and equity in mathematics education.

PAMELA E. HARRIS

WILLIAMS COLLEGE

Pamela is a Mexican-American mathematician. She received her B.S. from Marquette University, and her M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her research interests are algebra and combinatorics. Pamela helped create and develop www.Lathisms.org, and she co-organizes research symposia and professional development for the national conference of SACNAS. Pamela became the first member of her family to graduate from high school and has shared her life experiences as a young Dreamer in multiple interviews.

GABRIEL SOSA CASTILLO

COLGATE UNIVERSITY

Gabe is a Colombian mathematician. He received his B.S. from Universidad de Costa Rica and his Ph.D. from Purdue University. His research interests include combinatorial and computational commutative algebra, graph theory, and mathematics education. He is one of the co-founders of www.Lathisms.org. He was at JMM this past January as part of *MAA Invited Paper Session on Inspiring Diversity in Mathematics: Culture, Community, and Collaboration*.