



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

Sandra Baltazar Martínez  
[martinezsb25@g.ucla.edu](mailto:martinezsb25@g.ucla.edu)

**Central Coast’s Latina youth, education, and economic mobility at the core of new research**

*Researchers will present findings during a May 3 symposium in Oxnard*

**April 29, 2025 (Los Angeles, CA)** — For the past two years, researchers have been documenting barriers and opportunities within the Latino community in the Central Coast.

On Saturday, May 3, three university professors, graduate students, and community leaders will provide attendees with insights into the Latina wage gap in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, barriers and opportunities for Latinas’ economic mobility in the childcare sector, and trends among Oxnard’s young adult Latina workforce.

The symposium, “The State of Latinas in the Central Coast: Ensuring that all Residents Access Opportunities for Prosperity and Economic Well-Being” will feature [Veronica Terriquez](#), director of the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC); [Ana Luz González-Vásquez](#), project director for the POWER in Workforce Development at the UCLA Labor Center; [Karina Chavarria](#), associate professor of sociology at Cal State University Channel Islands; and [Ivan Vega](#), policy and health equity manager at Future Leaders of America. [Senator Monique Limón](#) (District 21) and [Supervisor Vianey Lopez](#), Ventura County Board of Supervisors (District 5) will be in attendance.

“All this work has been done in conjunction and in collaboration with community leaders and young people from the Central Coast,” said Terriquez, a sociologist whose research focuses on youth transitions to adulthood, social inequality, and civic engagement. “We are spotlighting research on Latinas because they comprise more than 40% of the female workforce in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, and they are significantly underpaid. Moreover, Latinas, including many who are still high school students, are civically engaged and have excellent proposals on how to uplift their entire communities. My colleagues and I are hopeful that state and local leaders can hear from researchers and young Latina leaders as they consider programing and draft legislation that aims to improve the lives of residents all along the Central Coast.”

This research and presentations were supported by the [Latina Futures 2050 Lab](#), the City of Oxnard, the Stuart Foundation, the Weingart Foundation, the McCune Foundation, the Edwin and Jeanne Woods Family Foundation, and the Henry Mayo Newhall Family Foundation. Terriquez serves as Latina Futures' cofounder. The initiative, housed at the CSRC, was created in 2022 with the intention of focusing on research gaps surrounding Latinas and their intersectional identities in the United States. The research is meant to enhance opportunities for representation, visibility and influence across different sectors.

During the May 3 event, researchers will provide information during a panel discussion or via poster presentations. Topics include the wage gap, child care and senior care; educational pipelines; labor patterns and conditions of Latinas in Oxnard; Indigenous women's experiences; labor conditions of female farmworkers and former farmworker youth; civic engagement patterns after high school; and the State of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Youth Survey conducted by Future Leaders of America.

This symposium is co-sponsored by the [UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center](#), [Latina Futures 2050 Lab](#), and [Future Leaders of America](#).

### **Event details**

**Symposium:** State of Latinas in the Central Coast: Ensuring that All Residents Access Opportunities for Prosperity and Economic Well-being

**Date:** Saturday, May 3, 2025

**Time:** 11:30am- 3 p.m.

**Location:** Hilton Garden Inn, 1975 Solar Drive, Oxnard, CA 93036

### **Interview/photo opportunities:**

- 11:30 am-noon: Network & gallery of poster presentations
- 2:15 p.m.: Roundtable with researchers and Q&A

### **Researcher bios**

#### **Karina Chavarria**

Karina Chavarria is an assistant professor of sociology at California State University Channel Islands. She earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles, an M.A. in social science from the University of Chicago, and a B.A. in English and sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Chavarria's research takes an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating approaches from sociology, education, ethnic studies, to examine the relationship between structured educational inequalities, particularly as they impact marginalized youth across race/ethnicity and immigration status, and youth's agency in enacting transformative social change. Her next research project focuses on indigenous cultural traditions of immigrant groups and their

children, particularly, amongst indigenous communities who have settled across Ventura County.

### **Ana Luz González-Vásquez**

Ana Luz González-Vásquez serves as the project director for POWER in Workforce Development at the UCLA Labor Center. With over 20 years of experience in quantitative and qualitative research, she employs participatory and popular education approaches to engage research participants in knowledge production.

In 2006, she managed the National Day Labor Project, the first comprehensive study of day laborers and worker centers across the United States, resulting in a dataset that has informed numerous publications and highlighted labor law violations in informal labor markets. González-Vásquez also co-authored a groundbreaking 2010 report on wage theft among low-wage workers in major U.S. cities and led a comprehensive study on transportation network companies in Los Angeles. In February 2024, she was appointed to the Governing Board of California's Cradle-to-Career Data System, contributing her expertise to build an inclusive data system aimed at closing equity gaps in education and workforce development.

Prior to joining the Labor Center, González-Vásquez was the project coordinator of the UC Irvine Community and Labor Project. At UCI, she conducted a wage theft study on low-wage workers in Orange County and was a lecturer at the law school. González-Vásquez earned a dual B.A. in economics and social science with a specialization in public and community service and a minor in Spanish from UCI. She earned her Master's and Ph.D. in urban planning from UCLA.

### **Veronica Terriquez**

Veronica Terriquez directs UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC) and is cofounder of the UCLA Latina Futures 2050 Lab, an ambitious project funded through a \$15 million California state budget investment and is an important step forward in investing and integrating Latinas in public policy.

She is a leading scholar of youth and leadership development in Latinx communities. Terriquez conducts innovative research that brings a civic engagement and social movement lens into conversation with sociological concerns about migration, education and youth development, and political participation. In addition to pursuing such cutting-edge research, Terriquez has tirelessly dedicated her academic career and much of her adult life to supporting the civic organizing efforts to empower youth, particularly children of immigrants and youth of color.

Terriquez's research has been supported by major grants from the Irvine Foundation, the California Endowment, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Her publications include

awarding-winning work recognized by the American Sociological Association. Moreover, she has received prestigious fellowships from the Stanford University Center for the Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and the Ford Foundation.

Terriquez comes to UCLA from UC Santa Cruz, where she was a faculty member in the Sociology Department. She received her Ph.D. in sociology from UCLA, an M.A. in education from the University of California, Berkeley, and her B.A. in sociology from Harvard University.

—XXX—