

# The Illustrious Awards

## Honoring Distinguished Latinos

III

by

*Dr. María Teresa & Néstor Montilla, Sr.*

Friday, September 14, 2018 - 6:00PM

**The Harold M. Proshansky Auditorium**

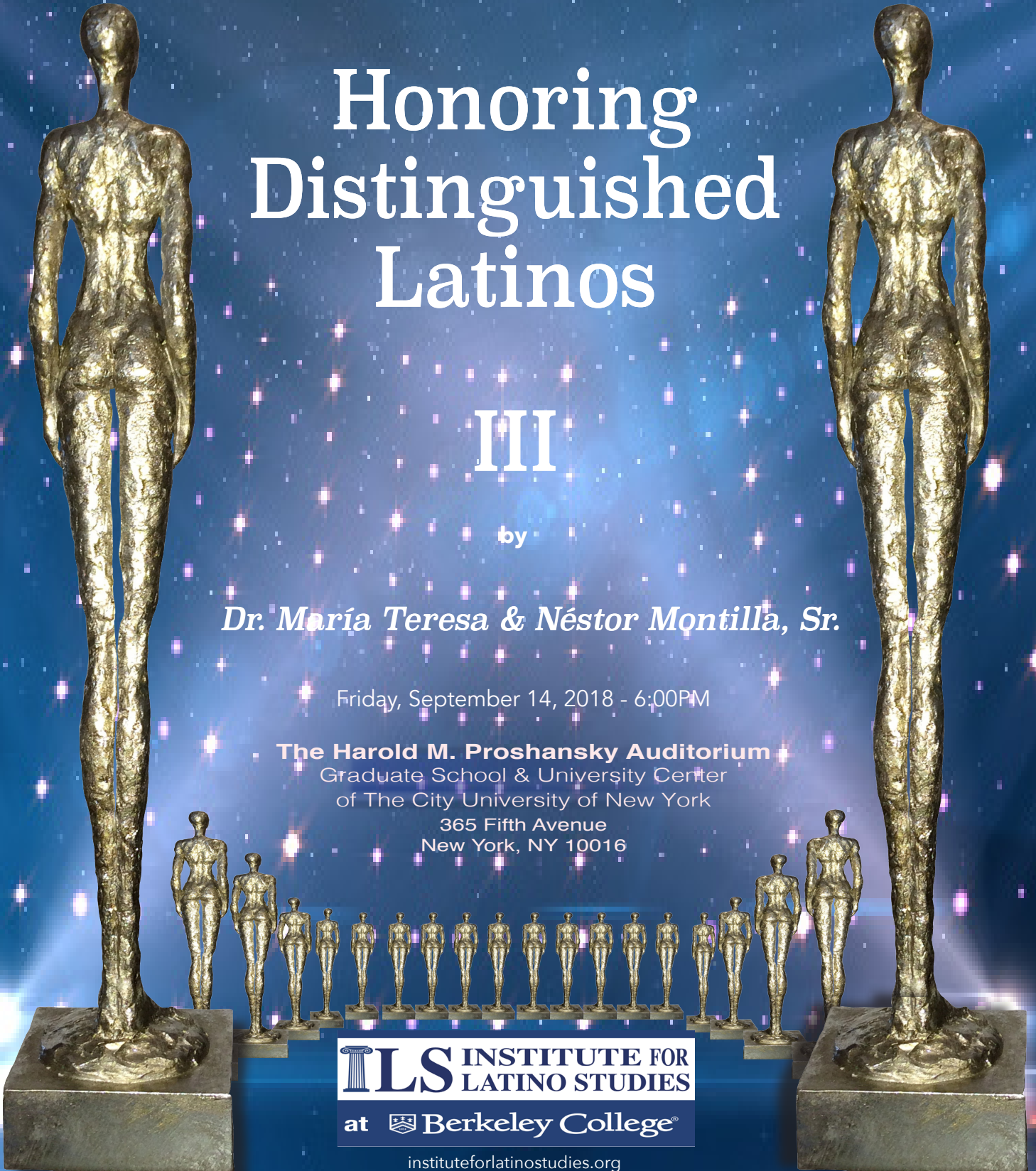
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# Felicitaciones!



Berkeley College congratulates The Illustrious Award Honorees and the Institute for Latino Studies on this momentous occasion. We are proud to celebrate the contributions of prominent Latinos and Latinas in our communities.

Programs offered in New York, New Jersey, and Berkeley College Online®



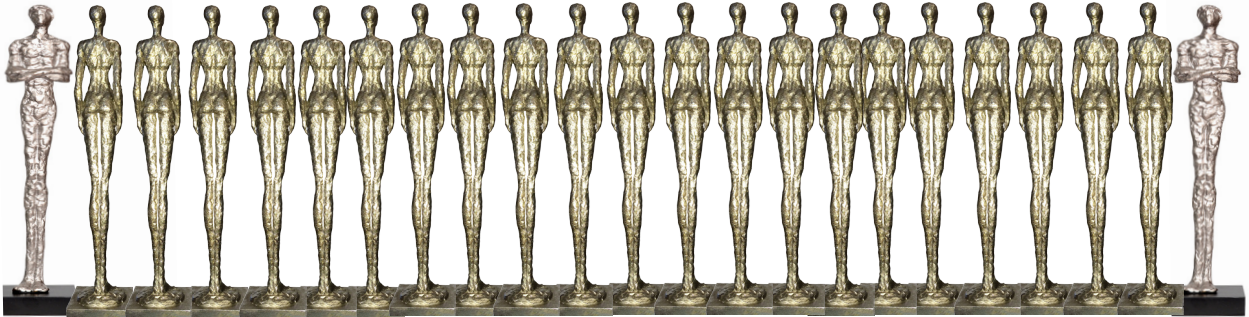
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2018

# The Illustrious Awards

Honoring Distinguished Latinos



A signature research initiative of



**The Illustrious Latinos** project is a multi-faceted research initiative of *The Institute for Latino Studies at Berkeley College* to document and highlight the contributions of Latinos to the advancement of the United States of America.

The research project consists of three installments - 2016, 2017 & 2018, three award ceremonies, three commemorative journals, a 500-page journal compilation and an original documentary featuring the life stories and portrayals of the outstanding Latinos who received Illustrious Awards.

In September 2019, The Institute will host a grandiose ceremony to release the 500-page commemorative journal compilation and to premiere *The Illustrious* documentary showcasing all of the 2016, 2017 & 2018 Illustrious Awards recipients.

Each recipient is presented with one of two different award statues carefully chosen by ILS: both are 18" Resin Male or Female Abstract Sculpture on Base-Hammered Painted Finish Silver, depicting a

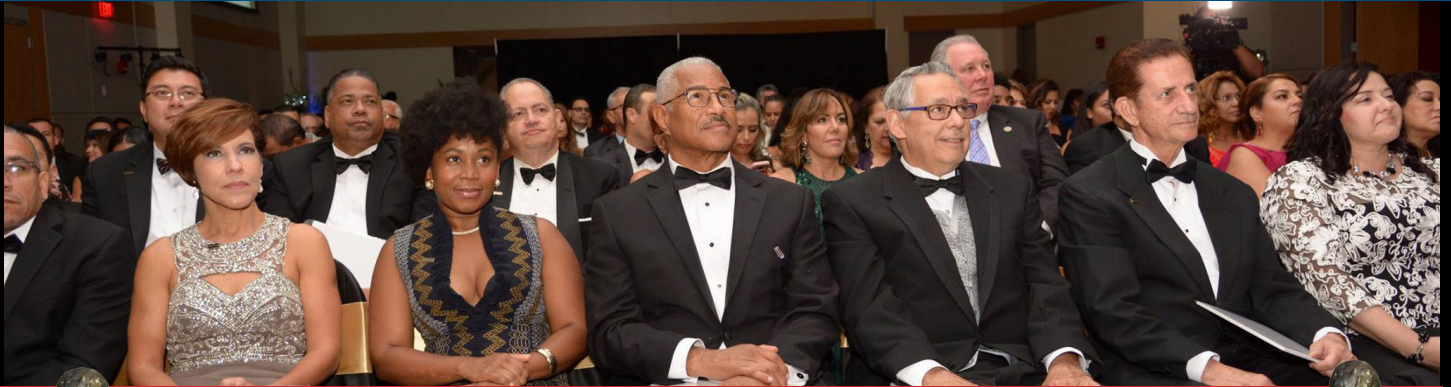
naked man or a woman standing, looking straight forward; one statue shows relaxed arms alongside the body, and chest upright; the other shows arms crossed on chest. The projection is one of simplicity, openness, imperfection, sense of completion, confidence and vulnerability.

The award statues convey illustriousness; and are presented only to deserving imperfect individuals who have done meaningful acts that inspire respect and admiration.

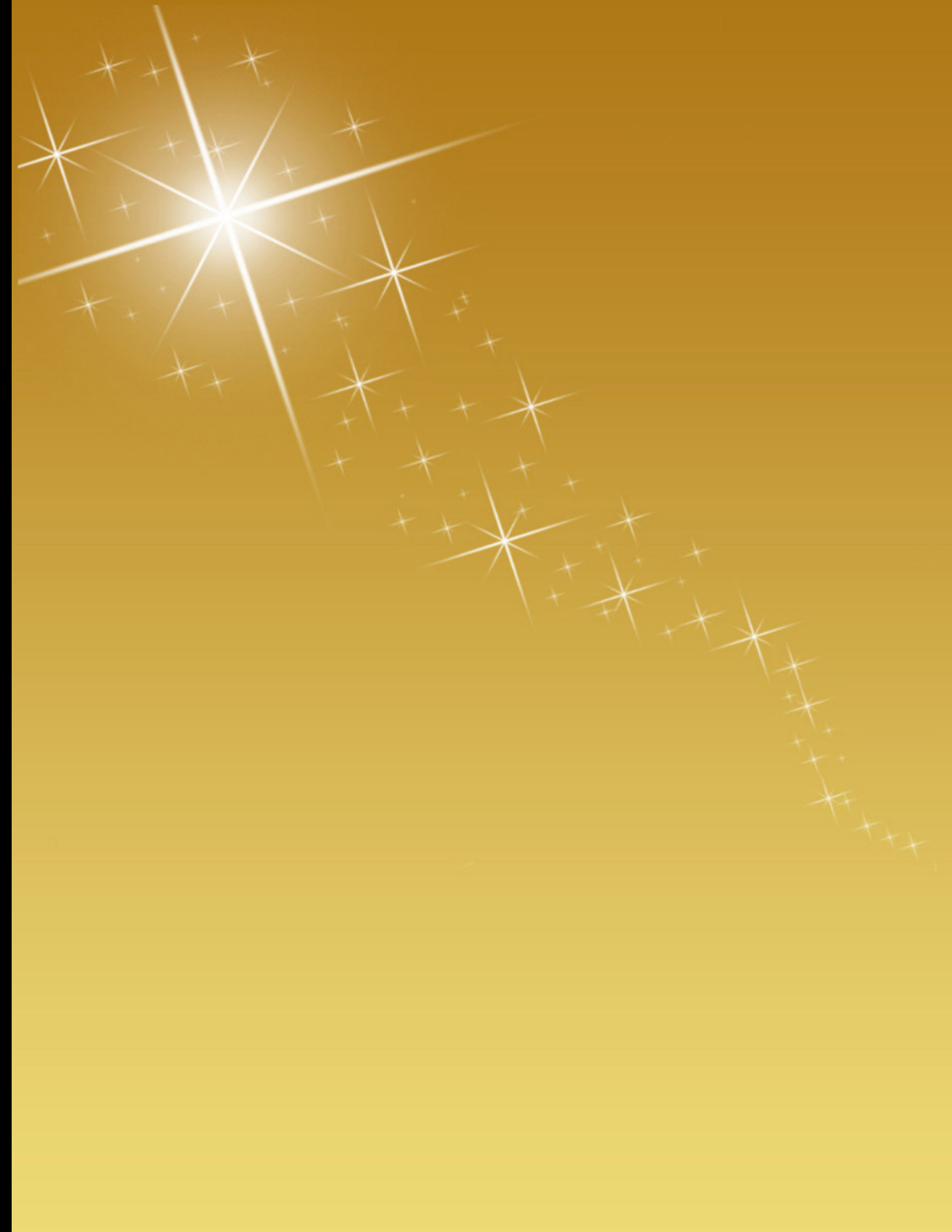
The word *illustrious* means being eminent, distinguished, acclaimed, notable, noteworthy, prominent, preeminent, foremost, leading, important, influential, renowned, famous, famed, well-known, celebrated, legendary, esteemed, honored, venerable, august, highly regarded, well-thought-of, of distinction, brilliant, glorious, stellar...

Illustrious people are far from perfect; however, they light up everything around them.

# ILLUSTRIOUS AWARDS PHOTOS 2016 & 2017



Photos by Eduardo Hoepelman





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# SPECIAL MESSAGE



**The accomplishments of illustrious Latinos  
have gone unnoticed for too long**

Miguel Pérez  
Syndicated Columnist



**W**e come from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela, Panamá, Costa Rica, México, and Spain. We represent 21 nationalities. We are the most diverse group that ever came to this country.

Our taste in food, music, and many other ingredients of our culture are similar, but not always the same.

We share the same language, but with some dialectal variations. We represent all the races in the rainbow. We are Latino Americans.

As we migrated north, searching for the *American Dream*, many of us settled in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, becoming a noticeable portion of the population in recent years. Yet, what is often not so noticeable is that we are also the achievers --major players in maintaining the *American Dream alive!*

The accomplishments of illustrious Latinos in the tri-state area; people who have made tremendous contributions in every field of endeavor --have gone unnoticed for too long. Our illustrious doctors, communicators, professors, law enforcement officials, artists, inventors, writers, philosophers, politicians, media executives, lawyers and business leaders -- to name a few -- have been at the forefront of their fields, but relegated to invisibility in the media and in society.

And thus it becomes our responsibility to make sure that our most outstanding Latino American citizens are properly recognized.

If young Latinos lack role models, it's not because they don't exist. It's because they don't know them!

At the *Institute for Latino Studies at Berkeley College*, our mission is to introduce our youth to their unrecognized heroes!





# The Illustrious Awards

Honoring Distinguished Latinos

## PROGRAM

6:00PM Welcome Cocktail Reception/Live Music  
by *Gimagüa*

### 7:00PM Awards Ceremony

Opening  
Honorees Procession

Welcoming Remarks by  
Victoria Stone

Nathaniel Cruz  
Vice President, Hostos Community College

Dr. María Teresa Montilla,  
ILS Executive Director

Salutation by  
Michael Smith, Berkeley College President

Lifetime Achievement In-Memoriam: Frank Bonilla, Ph.D.  
Arts

Business & Entrepreneurship  
Communications

Lifetime Achievement: Ramón Antonio Veras, Esq.

Education  
Leadership  
Literature

Lifetime Achievement: Ruben Díaz, Sr.

Medicine  
Politics  
Religion  
Behavioral, Social Sciences & Humanities  
Sports

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# ILS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**L**atinos have been present in the American Continent for more than five centuries, long before the founding of the United States in 1776. Remembered by achievement if not by name, our ancestors were the men and women who first ranched cattle, introduced the metal plow, developed irrigation systems, innovated mining techniques, spun wool into blankets, produced the bounty of fields and factories, and defended our freedom. While many of their names may be lost to history, their collective contributions to American civilization must never be forgotten.

Latinos have also helped lay the groundwork for the practice of religion, law, and governance, as well as the advancement of arts, sciences, education, commerce, sports, and virtually every other endeavor of American life, including the military.

In this spirit, *The Illustrious Latinos Research Project* presents valuable examples of where we, as a people, have come from and how we have contributed to community and national life. The project's commemorative *Tribute Journal* highlights the stories of men and women who have advanced our collective struggle for dignity and equality, enriched the quality of our lives with their knowledge and entrepreneurship, and expressed our shared humanity through words, music, art, craft and calling.

*The Illustrious Tribute Journal* is more than a collection of photos and stories. It is a collective narrative of the multiple ways we have succeeded by contributing to our communities, to the nation, to mankind.

The journeys of the famous, and the not-so-famous individuals featured here matter even more to us than their names or faces.

They inspire all of us to pursue excellence, not for fame or recognition, but moved by our desire, as Latinos and as Americans, to leave this world a better place than we found it.

ILS invites you to share the engrossing stories filling the pages of this journal as an impressive sample of the many contributions Latinos have made to the United States of America and the world.



**Dr. María Teresa Montilla**  
Executive Director  
Institute for Latino Studies (ILS)  
at Berkeley College

**L**a jornada de los latinos en el Continente Americano comenzó hace más de cinco siglos, mucho antes de que se fundaran los Estados Unidos en el 1776. Recordados por sus logros más que por sus nombres, nuestros antepasados fueron los hombres y mujeres que primero criaron ganado, introdujeron el arado de hierro, desarrollaron sistemas de riego, modernizaron las técnicas de minería, tejieron la lana en frazadas, explotaron la riqueza de los campos y las fábricas y defendieron nuestra libertad. Aunque muchos de sus nombres se han olvidado en la historia, su contribución colectiva a la civilización americana no debe pasar desapercibida.

Los latinos también ha contribuido a cimentar las bases para la práctica de la religión, la ley y el gobierno, así como el avance del arte, la ciencia, la educación, el comercio, el deporte y prácticamente todos los aspectos de la vida americana, incluyendo las fuerzas armadas.

En este espíritu, el proyecto de investigación *The Illustrious Latinos Awards* presenta un valioso ejemplo de dónde, nosotros, como pueblo, hemos venido y cómo hemos contribuido a la vida comunitaria y nacional. La publicación de la revista conmemorativa destaca las historias de hombres y mujeres que han continuado nuestra lucha colectiva por la dignidad y la igualdad, que han enriquecido la calidad de nuestras vidas con su conocimiento e iniciativa y han expresado nuestra humanidad compartida a través de la palabra, la música, el arte, destrezas y llamado.

*The Illustrious Tribute Journal* es más que una colección de historias y fotos; es una narración colectiva de las muchas formas en que hemos triunfado, contribuyendo a nuestras comunidades, a la nación y a la humanidad.

La historia de individuos famosos, y los no tan famosos presentados aquí, tienen un significado mayor que sus nombres o sus rostros.

Nos inspiran a buscar la excelencia, no por la fama o el reconocimiento, sino motivados por nuestro deseo, como Latinos y como americanos, de hacer de este, un mundo mejor de lo que lo encontramos.

ILS le invita a compartir las historias que llenan las páginas de esta publicación como ejemplos impresionantes de las contribuciones que los Latinos han hecho a los Estados Unidos de América y al mundo.

# EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



**Néstor Montilla, Sr.**  
Illustrious Awards Producer

**T**he *Illustrious Latinos* project aims at documenting and highlighting the contributions of Latinos to the United States in the areas of arts, business, communications, education, government, judiciary & law, the military, leadership, literature, medicine, politics, religion, humanities, social sciences, advocacy and sports. The nomination process was opened and announced in January 2018 with a deadline of June 30, 2018. Nominations of recipients were made by boards of education, institutions of higher learning, private sector corporations, professional associations, organizations, chambers of commerce, community organizations, government institutions, and the general public in the identified fields of work.

Hundreds of nominations were received by the Institute for Latino Studies (ILS). Every nominee was formally notified based on contact information provided.

The ILS' Illustrious Selection Committee, composed of members of ILS Board of Directors, reputable advisors, and distinguished leaders, conducted a four-step screening process based on the following criteria:

1. Nominee must be of Latino descent.
2. Nominee has at least twenty years of experience in her/his field (years of experience may be substituted by 5 years per 1 major accomplishment).
3. Nominee must have at least one major accomplishment in her/his field.

The first step was to screen for qualification as per criteria; screening resulted in reducing the number of nominees as listed

on pages 16 & 17.

The second step was to expand selected fields to include sub-divisions, based on areas of nominees' expertise (education was expanded to include administration, faculty, higher and elementary education, etc.).

The third step was to select the top-five nominees in each category and sub-category.


The fourth and final step was to select one honoree per category and sub-category.

Finalists submitted their resumes, and signed a release consent to formally grant permission to ILS, officers and partners to be photographed and interviewed on video and film formats. All interviews, conducted at Berkeley College, Hostos Community College and Borough of Manhattan Community College, were structured and guided by a rigorous qualitative research method. Their life stories and major contributions were video featured and highlighted in the 2018 Illustrious Awards Ceremony. They are included in this *Collectible Tribute Journal* and made available online. They are featured in the film-documentary, *The Illustrious*, whose world premiere has been set for 2019.

The selection process was lengthy, meticulous, comprehensive, and at times, demanding, even humbling. It caused us to rethink some of its aspects, and challenged us to be as accurate as possible in matching merit to area of expertise.

After the process was completed, and all details of the ceremony were tackled, the Illustrious 2018 emerged triumphant as the latest cohort of distinguished honorees to receive Illustrious Awards.

On behalf of Babylon Productions, the Institute for Latino Studies and our partners this year, the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College and the Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies at the Graduate School of The City University of New York, I encourage you, your family, friends, students and conscientious people to preserve this commemorative-collectible-research journal as a rare unprecedented-must-have research treasure highlighting unsung Latino heroes whose stories, successful professions and contributions have indeed made the United States great and, more importantly, a better place to raise a family, build prosperity, live in peace, practice religion, and pursue happiness along many years to come.



The Most Coveted

**Collectible Tribute Journal**  
Vol. 3, Issue 1 Friday, September 14, 2018

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Syndicated Journalist


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*The Illustrious Awards* is a signature project of The Institute for Latino Studies, Research and Development  
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# ABOUT THE RESEARCHERS-PRODUCERS

## Dr. María Teresa & Néstor Montilla, Sr.

Along the past three decades, Dr. María Teresa and Néstor Montilla Sr. have joined efforts to spearhead a national advocacy movement for the socio-economic and political advancement of the people of the Americas.

Néstor Montilla, Sr. has worked in various higher education administration positions at The City University of New York (CUNY), the largest public urban university system in the United States. Currently, he manages adjunct faculty affairs in the Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs at Lehman College, one of the 24 CUNY campuses in New York City.

Previously, he held different directorship positions in government relations, community development, public relations, and international programs and community relations; he also taught at the University as an adjunct faculty. His early career at CUNY includes advisory roles and assisting the Senior Vice Chancellor for University Relations, and being a television producer for public affairs on CUNY Channel 75. His credits include Emmy Award nominations and conceptualizing a multiple Emmy award-winning television series about Latinos in New York. After studying cinematography, graduating from High School and attending law school at the Central University of the East, Dominican Republic. Montilla moved to the United States, where he graduated from college with high honors, earning an associate's degree from Hostos Community College, and both, a bachelor's degree and a Master of Public Administration with specialization in Human Resources and Management from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Subsequently, he pursued a Ph.D. in Political Science with specialization in American Government and Public Policy.

Dr. María Teresa Montilla is the founder and president of The Institute for Latino Studies, Research and Development, whose main undertaking is to study, disseminate and develop the rich literary, intellectual, and cultural heritage of Latinos in the United States.

She has an established career in management with the New Jersey Superior Court, where she served in various positions along twenty-eight years, including official court interpreter, probation officer, and administrator.

María Teresa has extensive experience in training and teaching, having taught courses in behavioral sciences at Fairleigh Dickinson University, The Christian University of New Jersey, New Covenant University in Florida, and Latin University of Theology in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Her experience in community outreach and organizing spans over two decades, and includes proven leadership that has resulted in creation of community based organizations, influencing of public policy and attaining political representation at all levels of government.

She has authored a book, *Latina y Evangélica in the United States*, an analysis of how the church and the Latino culture form an 'effective alliance' of oppression against women; and co-authored with Néstor, two others: *New Jersey Dominicans: A Decade of Accomplishments*; an account of Dominican migration to New Jersey, its causes and accomplishments, and *Los Panfleteros de Santiago (Santiago's Pamphleteers)*, the story of

a rebel youth movement during the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic. Additionally, she has written many teaching manuals, including: *The Church as Agent of Social Change*, *The Church and Sexual Abuse*, and *Why do I do What I Do?*, a personality type identification tool.

María Teresa has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Thomas Edison College in Trenton, NJ, two Masters Degrees, one in Public Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, New Jersey, and a second in Christian Counseling from New Covenant International University, from where she also obtained a Doctorate in Theology.

Néstor and María Teresa have become social entrepreneurs and political strategists. They advance their honorable cause via founding and leading advocacy organizations; implementing programs and initiatives that identify and mentor new generations of leaders; and leading by example to have Latinos occupy their rightful place in US society. María Teresa and Néstor have contributed enormously to make Dominicans and Latinos part of a nationwide discourse on the future of this country and their place in it, as partners.

"It seems clear to me that many of the gains we have made on the electoral markets and the rise of many of our co-ethnics to positions of prominence in the municipal, state and federal spheres of government, have benefited from the measure of devotion the Montillas have invested in creating fora of various sorts to advance a dialogue that expands our views of what is politically possible for us, as an ethnic community," noted Silvio Torres-Saillant, Ph.D., founding director of the CUNY's Dominican Studies Institute and current Dean's Professor in the Humanities, Director of Undergraduate Studies at Syracuse University.

In 2014, Néstor Montilla, Sr. was a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives seeking to represent Congressional District 9 in New Jersey, while María Teresa was a candidate for Mayor of Paterson, the third largest city in New Jersey.

Some of the programs and initiatives the Montillas have conceptualized, spearheaded and/or implemented include:

- Conducting quality research studies about the migratory experience in the Americas. A partial list includes: *New Jersey Dominicans: A Decade of Accomplishment*, *Los Panfleteros de Santiago*; *African American Settlements in Samana*; *Jewish-Dominican Generations*, and *The Illustrious Latinos*.
- Leading the Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey, the Dominican American National Roundtable (DANR), and launching the National Dominican American Council (NDAC).
- Coordinating dozens of national conventions and leadership conferences; publishing numerous conference journals; implementing U.S Census count of Latinos awareness campaign, and conducting voter registration drives.
- Advocating for fair political representation through the re-districting process; and advocating for the passage of legislation.
- Establishing collaborative partnership among the Latino Leadership Alliance, the Institute for Latino Studies and Berkeley College to materialize endeavors of mutual interest, including the *Latino Leadership Academy*, an intense ten-month leadership course, devoted to train new generations of leaders.

# ILS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## **Antonio Ibarria**

Publisher of *El Especial*, one of the largest Spanish-language newspapers in the New York City region. He is praised as one of the most salient Hispanic newspaper owners in the United States. He has succeeded in building and expanding important communications media businesses in NY, NJ and Florida.



## **Branhder Espinal**

President & CEO of Espinal Business Services, an accounting and business financial managing company. He is a professional with over 17 years of experience in accounting, management, sales, marketing, banking and business development. Branhder earned an accounting degree from Regis University in Denver, Colorado.



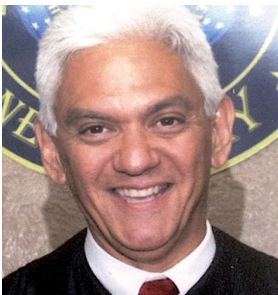
## **Carlos Guzmán**

President and CEO of American Dream Property Management Corp. He is a Real Estate Investor and Developer in New Jersey & Pennsylvania; a self-made, self-reliant entrepreneur, whose passion for business took him, early on in life, to decide he would not work for anyone. His work ethics was inspired by his grandparent's motto: To be self-reliant.



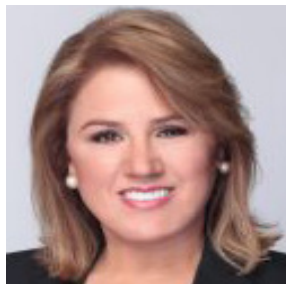
## **Fernando Alonso, Esq.**

Director of *Puertas al Futuro* at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Alonso received a B.A. in history from the College of the Holy Cross in 1980. He earned a J.D. from Penn State University in 1983. Since 2003, Alonso has been a senior lecturer of Business at Fairleigh Dickinson University.



## **Julio Morejón**

Is a graduate of Cornell University, where he earned a bachelor of Science in 1983; and a graduate of Seton Hall University Law School in 1987. He has over thirty years of legal experience. He is an Administrative Law Judge in the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law.



## **Merijoel Durán**

Is former co-host of *Al Despertar TV* program of UNIVISION, Channel 41. She is a 5-times Emmy Award winner. She started her television career in Telemundo in 1993. She graduated from *Puertas Al Futuro* at Fairleigh Dickinson University.



## **Néstor Montilla, Sr.**

Since 1994, he has worked at The City University of New York in higher education administration; he earned a bachelor's degree, a master's degree in public administration and pursued a Ph.D. in Political Science. He is currently Chairman of the Institute for Latino Studies at Berkeley College.



## **Sonia Rosado**

Served on the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders from 2001 to 2007. Rosado made history in Nov. 2000 when she became the first Hispanic to be elected to the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and in January 2002 when she was selected to serve as freeholder Director. She was elected to Paterson City Council in 1992.



## **Tony Pérez**

Executive Director of the Paterson Parking Authority since 1998. He has overseen the public body created for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, maintaining and operating parking facilities to alleviate traffic congestion caused by excessive parking on the streets.

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# ILS HISTORY



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Dedicated to Quality Research for Better Advocacy

## Mission

The Institute for Latino Studies, Research & Development, Inc., (ILS) at Berkeley College, is a non-profit entity, recognized by the federal government as a 501 c(3) organization. ILS' main undertaking is to study, research, document, develop and highlight the rich heritage and contributions of Latinos in the United States. This goal is achieved through advocacy and the implementation of in-house and outreach programs, research projects, initiatives and activities.

## Objectives

The Institute for Latino Studies at Berkeley College demonstrates its commitment to its mission by becoming an effective community resource, which enhances the knowledge and awareness of Latino endeavors within the framework of a multicultural society. Through unity of purpose, its Board of Directors, staff and dedicated volunteers help forge a brighter future for the Latino community in the United States. Since its founding in 2001, ILS has endeavored to carry out programs, initiatives and activities that improve the quality of life of the Latino community. ILS is indeed dedicated to quality research for better advocacy.

## Research

The Institute conducts studies and research of social & population trends to shape the composition of institutions of learning, legislature, and business landscape in the state and beyond.

## Documentaries & Publications

*First socio-economic, demographic study of New Jersey Dominicans* conducted in joined efforts with Dr. Ramona Hernández, Director of the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute, and Rev. Alejandro Benjamin, professor at Bergen County Community College.

*New Jersey Dominicans: A Decade of Accomplishments* - A book and documentary about the journey of Dominicans to New Jersey, beginning in 1947. Researched and produced by Dr. María Teresa and Néstor Montilla, Sr.

*Dominicans in New Jersey: A community on the move* - A visual history exhibit of Dominicans in New Jersey, their journey and accomplishments since the 1940s. It is the first exhibition in New Jersey honoring one of the state's newest communities, which is predominately located in Passaic, Essex, Union, Hudson and Middlesex counties.

*Los Panfleteros de Santiago (Santiago's Pamphleteers)* - a 150 page book and 57 minute-documentary about 32 youngsters who rebelled against the regime of dictator Rafael Leonidas Trujillo in 1960. They were captured, tortured and dismembered for a cause—a free and inclusive society. Researched and produced by Dr. María Teresa and Néstor Montilla, Sr. based on testimonies by Dr. Ramón Antonio Veras (El Negro Veras).

*Jewish Dominican Generations* - A short documentary about the story of the first persecuted Jews who were welcomed, protected and embraced in the Dominican Republic in the late 1930's. Today, thousands worldwide can trace their family heritage to the Jews of Sosua. Researched and produced by Néstor Montilla, Sr.

*African American Settlement in Samaná* - A 28 minute-documentary about the untold story of thousands freed U.S. slaves who settled in Hispaniola in 1824. Researched and produced by Néstor Montilla, Sr.

*Dominican Identity and Migrations to Hispaniola* - A film documentary by Néstor Montilla, Sr., about the roots of the different ethnic groups, including Arabic, African, Jewish and Asian migration as well as the cultural influence of Haitians and U.S. freed-slaves to this Caribbean island. Dr. Irma Nicasio, Sociology professor from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD), historian Frank Moya Pons, Ph.D., Silvio Torres-Saillant, Ph.D., and other prominent scholars participate in the film.

*Diaspora & Identity* - a 57-minute documentary about the influence of the Diaspora on Dominican identity, Researched and produced by Néstor Montilla, Sr.

*Carlos A. Cooks & Black Pride* - A 15-minutes documentary about the contribution of David Cook to the Civil Rights Movement and 'Black Pride.' Researched and produced by Néstor Montilla, Sr.

*Melaza & Sol* - A 57- minute docu-drama about the journey of a Dominican boy from Barahona to the United States and back. Written by Alejandro Benjamin and to be produced by Néstor Montilla, Sr. (in production stage).

# ILS HISTORY

*The Illustrious Latinos* is a signature initiative of the Institute for Latino Studies to document and highlight the contributions of Latinos to the advancement of the United States of America. The contributions of Latino icons are video-featured and honored in a professionally produced formal ceremony and Collectible Tribute Journal.

## **Néstor Montilla, Sr.'s Recent Short-Cinematic Documentaries about the lives of:**

- *Arthur O. Eve*, the first Dominican-American elected to public office in the United States.
- *María Magda O'Keefe*, the first Puerto Rican elected to office in Paterson, NJ
- *José Rohaidy*, a distinguished Cuban journalist in New Jersey.
- *Fr. Luís Barrios*, Ph.D., a Puerto Rican community organizer-activist Priest
- *Caridad Rigo*, Esq., an illustrious Cuban judge in New Jersey judiciary.
- *Antonio Martínez*, Esq., a Dominican civil rights lawyer in New York
- *Frank Bonilla*, Ph.D., a Puerto Rican educational trailblazer and visionary
- *Ramón Antonio Veras*, Esq., a Dominican international humanist
- *Danny Rivera*, a Puerto Rican music icon
- *Ruben Díaz, Sr.*, US First Latino Reverend/Politician

## **Certificate Programs**

ILS' certificate programs offer 50-hours of intensive training by experts in the target field with value of 3 college credit hours.

**LAMP - Latino Youth Leadership Mentoring Program** - A statewide 10-month youth leadership development program aiming to provide leadership development to Latino youth between the ages of 14 to 17, through "hands-on" experiences.

**The Office-Youth Professional Mentoring Program** - A statewide youth professional mentoring aiming to provide job readiness to Latino youth between the ages of 14 to 17, through basic office/job interview/computer use instruction; and 40 hours of professional mentoring, where participants 'shadow' a professional in their selected field.

**LALEA - Latino Leadership Academy** - A statewide ten-month leadership program to identify and prepare local leaders to enable them to serve in a more holistic manner.

**The Business Bridge & Incubator** - A certificate in entrepreneurship program (Low-Income Fast Track). This 6-week business plan boot camp is geared to help participants fine tune their business plan and prepare for the incubator, which provides a complete array of management support and business services.

**We...The Legislature** - A Mock Legislature simulation activity for high school students and an opportunity to experience what it's like to be part of the parliamentary process.

**We...The Judiciary** - A Mock Courtroom simulation activity for high school students and an opportunity to experience what it's like to be part of the judicial process.

## **Programmatic Initiatives**

**SPEAKERS BUREAU** - The Institute's Speakers Bureau brings audiences quality speakers and experts, whose progressive ideas are changing our society and our world.

**CODA - Conference on Dominican Affairs** - The statewide forum of analysis and development of action plans for Dominicans and Latinos in New Jersey and the Tristate area.

**FILP - FINANCIAL LITERACY PROJECT** - Assisting small businesses and investors in their quest to participate fully in support programs that enhance their endeavors.

## **Partnerships**

ILS' headquarters are at Berkeley College as per collaborative agreement.



# ILLUSTRIOUS AWARDS NOMINEES 2018

## The Illustrious Awards

Dedicated to Quality Research for Better Advocacy

### The Institute for Latino Studies received the following nominations for The Illustrious Awards 2018:

Adriano Espaillat, Congressman  
Agueda Arias  
Aida Rodríguez  
Alberto Correa, PhD  
Alfredo de Los Santos  
Alfredo Rodríguez, Diputado en el Exterior, RD  
Alma Guillermo Prieto  
Amilkar Vélez-López, Judge  
Anilu Vázquez-Ubarri  
Andres García, Actor  
Angelica Infante-Green  
Anna Carbonell  
Antonia Novelo, Former US Surgeon General  
Antonio M. Calcado  
Antonio Martínez  
Antonio Pérez, College President  
Antonio R. Flores, HACU President  
Aurora Flores  
Arturo Vargas, NALEO Exec. Director  
Camelia Valdés, Prosecutor  
Carlos Gómez  
Carlos Guzmán  
Carlos Lugo, MD  
Carmelo Anthony  
Carmen Arroyo, Assemblywoman  
Carmen Yulín Cruz, San Juan Mayor  
Carolina Janicelli  
Catherine Cortéz Masto, Senator  
Cathy Areu  
Claribel Martínez-Marmolejos, PR Legislator  
Charlie Rangel, Former Congressman  
Dan-el Padilla, PhD  
Danny Rivera, singer/songwriter Darys Estrella  
Dascha Polanco, Actress  
David Badillo, PhD  
David Greco, Pastor  
David Gómez, Ph.D. College President  
Denise Oller, TV Personality

Diccía T. Pineda-Kirwan, Judge  
Dinorah Coronado  
Dylcia Pagan  
Dolores Fernández, PhD  
Edgar Rivera Colón  
Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, PhD  
Eduardo D. Rodríguez, MD  
Ephraím Rivera, Rev.  
Emilio Villegas, MD  
Elisa D. García  
Ellen Ochoa, Austronat  
Esperanza Martell  
Estela Vázquez, VP 1199 VP  
Fausto Pichardo  
Felix Cabrera, Promoter  
Felix Matos-Rodríguez, Ph.D. College President  
Fernando Muñiz  
Francesca Pena  
Frank Bonilla, PhD In-Memoriam  
Gilberto Santa Rosa, singer/songwriter  
Ginetta Candelario, PhD  
Gladys Halvorsen, MD In-Memoriam  
Guillermo Linares, Politician  
Héctor Lora, Mayor  
Herminio Martínez, PhD  
Hilda Lloréns  
Hugo M. Morales, MD  
Idida Rodríguez  
Iris Morales  
Irma Nicasio, PhD  
Janet Murguía, President UnidosUS  
Jennifer López, Actress/Singer  
Jenny Rivera, Judge  
John Leguizamo, Comedian  
Jorge Ramos, TV Anchor  
José Alberto 'El Canario', Singer/songwriter  
José Arango  
José Holguín Veras, PhD





# ILLUSTRIOUS AWARDS NOMINEES 2018

José Martínez  
José Mota  
José Rivera, Assemblyman  
José Serrano, Congressman  
Juan de Dios de la Cruz, MD  
Juan Méndez  
Julia Alvarez, Author  
Julio Malone  
Julio Marengo  
Julio Pabón  
Julissa Marengo  
Junot Díaz, Author  
Karin Weyland  
Kim M. Rivera  
Laila Román-Jiménez  
Lenny Caro  
Lisa García  
Liz Veliuf Isidor  
Louis Hernández  
Luis Gutierrez, Congressman  
Luis Guzmán, Chief of Police  
Manuel Lebrón  
Marcos Crespo, Assemblyman  
Marcos Devers, Assemblyman  
María Celeste Arrarás, TV Personality  
María Díaz  
María Polo  
María Teresa Montilla, Dr.  
María Teresa Fernández, Mariposa, Poetess  
Mario J. Paredes  
Marlene Cintrón  
Marta Moreno Vega  
Martín Chávez  
Mercedes Valle  
Michael Camilo, Pianist  
Miguel Hernández, MD  
Nancy Alvarez, MD, TV personality  
Narciso Rodríguez  
Nasry Mechelen, MD  
Nazario Brea  
Néstor Guzmán, Judge  
Néstor Montilla, Sr.  
Nidia Velázquez, Congresswoman  
Nítza Tufiño, Artist  
Omar Minaya  
Pablo Fonseca  
Paquito D'Rivera, Saxophonist

Patsi Arias, TV Anchor  
Patti Solis Doyle  
Pedro Díaz Ballester  
Pedro Martínez, Baseball Player  
Phil Suarez  
Rafael Ithier, Director El Gran Combo de PR  
Rafael Nuñez-Cedeño, PhD  
Rafael Solano, Composer/Pianist  
Rafael Toro  
Ramon Antonio Veras, Esq.  
Ramon Calo  
Ramona Hernández, PhD  
Raquel Santiago-Martínez  
Raul Alarcón  
Rhina Espailat, Author  
Ricardo Fernández, PhD  
Ricardo Otheguy, PhD  
Ricardo Villarini, TV Reporter  
Rita Mella, Judge  
Robert J. Polanco  
Robert Rodríguez  
Roberto Danino  
Rosaura Santiago, PhD  
Ruben Díaz, Councilman  
Samuel Betances, PhD  
Santos Sifonte, Attorney  
Sara Pérez  
Silvio Torres-Saillant, PhD  
Sonia Sotomayor, Justice  
Thomas Pérez, Attorney  
Tilo Rivas, Commissioner  
Tony Perez  
Vasthi Reyes Acosta, Author  
Victor Alvarez  
Victor Capellán, School Superintendent  
Victoria Pratt, Judge  
Vladimir Guerrero, Baseball Player  
Wendy Martínez  
William Colón  
Yolanda Adrianzen, Judge  
Yolandita Monje, Singer/songwriter  
Ydanis Rodriguez, Councilman  
Zenaida Méndez  
Zoe Saldana, Actress



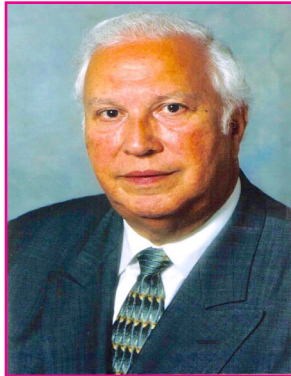
# ILLUSTRIOUS AWARDS 2018

## **Bronx Mental Health Center**

645 Allerton Ave, Bronx, NY 10467

(718) 547-5300

### **Message from Dr. Hugo M. Morales & Family**



Dear Illustrious Awards Recipients and Guests:

I would like to salute each one of you -- men and women being honored on this momentous occasion. Congratulations on your well-deserved 2018 Illustrious Awards. Each one of you are a true example of what being illustrious is all about. You have excelled at your professions and have contributed to make this world a better place for all to live in peace and prosperity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge the *Institute for Latino Studies (ILS) at Berkeley College* for its vision and leadership in conducting research to produce new knowledge about Latinos' immigration experience and their substantial contributions to their native Latin American countries and to the enrichment and development of the United States of America.

Please join me in extending our respect to the Board of Directors of the *Institute for Latino Studies*, and particularly to Dr. María Teresa and Néstor Montilla, Sr. for their effective leadership and commitment to document how Latinos are transforming the United States of America into a more inclusive, diverse and prosperous country.

Kudos to ILS and to María Teresa and Néstor; with their research studies, they are preserving our legacy to ensure that outstanding unsung Latinos are properly acknowledged and included in the written history of this nation. Please join me in congratulating them, and all the Illustrious Awards recipients honored in 2018, 2017 and 2016.

Sincerely,



Hugo M. Morales, MD

FMR. Trustee of The City University of New York