



SRCD
LATINX CAUCUS

April 2025

Spring Newsletter

Mission:

The SRCD Latinx Caucus mission is to promote conceptually and methodologically rigorous research conducted with Latinx children, youth, and families that represents their 1) diversity, 2) normative development, and 3) inherent strengths (cultural, linguistic, etc.).

Letter from the Chair

Dear Comunidad,

I write you this last letter in my role as SRCD Latinx Caucus Chair amid unprecedentedly challenging times. The attacks before us on our profession and vocation as scientists, our languages, our history, our people, and our communities in 2025 are eviscerating. They deliberately seek to foster ignorance, sow divisiveness, and undermine our humanity. We find ourselves facing:

- attacks on science including reducing funding, squelching the research workforce in academic and non-academic settings, and devaluing topics and populations of study
- a pending generational crisis that risks stunting the professional growth of students and early career scholars, who will be impacted most by attacks on science
- questions about how to raise our voices, be visible, promote our work, and advocate for our communities – while managing any professional and personal risks
- an elevated need for our community to support one another, and for our own self-care.

Now more than ever, we must resist the temptation to isolate ourselves, and instead, come together and take collective action to tackle these challenges. We may not have all the answers, and we may not have them right away – but we will have some, and we will have each other; I am confident in that. The Latinx Caucus is committed to these ideals as well, and we will be leveraging our 20th Anniversary Pre-Conference to connect on these challenges, begin to share ideas and resources, and identify next steps to support our members in this changing landscape.

At the Biennial Meeting, we will loudly, confidently, and joyfully celebrate our work and our now 20 years of history as the SRCD Latinx Caucus. I look forward to seeing you at our 20th anniversary events and at our traditional program sessions. I can't wait to see everyone in their LC20 t-shirts and flashing their Latinx Caucus Perennial Pins – thank you again to all who contributed to our fundraisers, made donations, and also to our university and corporate sponsors.

I am especially grateful to our Latinx Caucus Biennial Meeting Planning subcommittee, our Biennial workgroups, our Steering Committee, the Latinx Caucus members who agreed to be presenters, and the supporting SRCD staff. We are going to have a great time and make great memories in Minneapolis!

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your SRCD Latinx Caucus Chair for the last two years. In 2004, I was invited to be a Founding Member of the Latinx Caucus as a graduate student representative. I never would have dreamt that 20 years later I would become Chair. During my tenure, and with the support of the Steering Committee and our subcommittee members, we have strengthened the infrastructure of the Latinx Caucus and created more opportunities to support and engage with our members. I am fully confident in passing the baton to our 2025–2027 Steering Committee, led by incoming Chair Dr. Alan Meca, to build on this work and that you – our members – will do what it takes for the Latinx Caucus to grow and thrive in our next 20 years.

Adelante,

Dr. Doré R. LaForett,
SRCD Latinx Caucus
Chair (2023–2025)

SRCD 2025 Biennial Meeting Events

Wednesday 4/30/25

- [1:00 PM – 5:30 PM] Celebrating 20 Years of the SRCD Latinx Caucus: Past, present, and future

Thursday 5/1/25

- [11:50 AM – 1:20 PM] Righting the Wrongs of Developmental Science: The Case of Minoritized Populations

- [1:40 PM – 3:10 PM] SRCD Latinx Caucus Business Meeting

Friday 5/2/25

- [8:30 AM – 10:00 AM] SRCD Latinx Caucus Cafecito

- [7:30 PM – 9:30 PM] ¡Vamos a celebrar! SRCD Latinx Caucus 20th Anniversary Pachanga

Saturday 5/3/25

- [10:20 AM – 11:50 AM] Career Bites: Research Mentorship & Networking

New Governing Council

- **Dr. Deborah Rivas-Drake**, President-Elect (2025–2027)
- **Dr. Natalia Palacios**, GC Member-at-Large (2025–2031)
- **Dr. Ximena Franco-Jenkins**, GC Member-at-Large (2025–2031)

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@SRCDLatinx
f Instagram

Subcommittee Updates

Publications and Communications

In addition to creating informational newsletters for our members, our monthly spotlights have helped us highlight our members' work and career development. Please suggest future spotlights (including self-nominations!) by directly reaching out to us.

Members: Dr. Perla B. Gámez (Chair), Dr. Gladys Aguilar, Dr. Karina Cahill, Dr. Sarah Pedonti, Dr. Fernando Salinas-Quiroz, and Dr. Sarah Surrain

Social Media

Our social media platforms are buzzing with exciting member accomplishments! We continue to highlight achievements and share SRCD-related content on Instagram and Facebook, while also providing career updates through LinkedIn and our listserv. We are making great progress on our website redesign—stay tuned!

Members: Dr. Fernando Salinas-Quiroz (Chair), Dr. Sarah A. Rendón García, and Dr. Julissa O. Muñoz

Mentorship

The SRCD Latinx Caucus and National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families are hosting a mentoring and networking event, "Career Bites: Research Mentorship & Networking Event" on Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 10:20–11:50 a.m. CDT.

Members: Dr. Andres Sebastian Bustamante (Chair), Dr. Dominique La Barrie, Dr. Stefanie Martinez-Fuentes, Dr. Gianna Rea-Sandin, Dr. Joscelin Rocha-Hidalgo, Dr. Margarita Azmitia, Dr. Maria A. Ramos-Olagast, Dr. Carola Suarez-Orozco, and Dr. Michelle Pasco

Membership

We continue to add members to our listserv. We currently have 294 members! We are also supporting our student representatives in leading our Demystifying Series programming, including the most recent Demystifying the Biennial Meeting event. We are also excited to prepare our Mini-program for the Biennial.

Members: Dr. Alan Meca (Chair), Betsy Centeno, Dr. Melissa Lucas, and Dr. Randi Bates

Finance and Fundraising

Our fundraising has been outstanding! We sold 86 20th Anniversary t-shirts, raising \$762.62, and 64 Perennial Pins, raising another \$660.40. We raised an estimated \$6,750 in donations from nine organizations. In all, we raised an estimated \$8,173.02 to support our Biennial programming. Thank you to our Latinx Caucus members and friends for your support!

Members: Dr. Doré R. LaForett (Co-Chair), Dr. Andrea Negrete (Co-Chair), Dr. Violeta Rodríguez Palacios, Danieli Mercado Ramos, and Paola Pinzon-Henao

Biennial Meeting

Coming to the Biennial? Write an inspiring message on our Poster de poder, chat with Dr. Lorena Aceves for her Vida De PhD podcast (available on [Spotify](#) and [Apple](#)), or post your presentations to [our LinkedIn group](#). Can't attend? All can share Latinx Caucus memories on our [Padlet](#) and listen to songs from our [Latinx Caucus Spotify playlist](#).

Members: Dr. Doré R. LaForett (Chair), Dr. Gabriela Chavira, Dr. Dominique La Barrie, Dr. Stefanie Martinez-Fuentes, Dr. Alan Meca, and Dr. Andrea Negrete

Awards

Please attend the Latinx Caucus Business Meeting at the Biennial to congratulate our Dissertation, Early Career, and Mid-Career awardees! We will also award one of our members the Raymond Buriel Distinguished Leadership Award!

Members: Dr. Doré R. LaForett (Chair), Dr. R. Gabriela Barajas-Gonzalez, Dr. Linda Halgunseth, and Dr. Natalia Palacios

Nominations

This year, we nominated members for SRCD's Hispanic Heritage Month Spotlights, Biennial Awards, SRCD Operational Committees, and leadership positions. Subsequently, we celebrate the successful win of Dr. Deborah Rivas-Drake, who we nominated for President-Elect of SRCD. We also spearheaded our elections for the 2025–2027 Latinx Caucus Steering Committee.

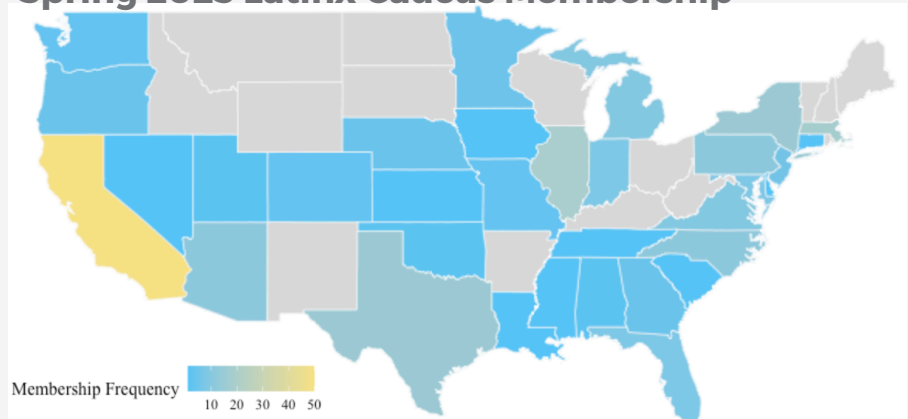
Members: Dr. Alan Meca (Chair), Dr. Doré LaForett, and Dr. Fernanda Cross

Social Policy

We are exploring innovative ways for the Latinx Caucus to communicate on important policy issues. Please [join SRCD's Child Policy Connect](#) community to share your expertise with congressional offices on policies impacting children and families. Our voices are needed now more than ever!

Members: Dr. Doré R. LaForett (Chair), Dr. Irma Arteaga, Dr. Guadalupe Díaz-Lara, Paola Montúfar Soria, Olivia Martín-Piñón, and Alejandra Reinoso

Spring 2025 Latinx Caucus Membership



Note. $n = 241$ Latinx Caucus members represented in the figure due to missing data; Membership frequency by country: Bolivia $n = 1$, Canada $n = 1$, Chile $n = 3$, Costa Rica $n = 1$, India $n = 1$, United States $n = 259$.