A Message from the New President
of The Latino Social Work Coalition

Greetings! It gives me a great pleasure to serve as the new president of the LSWC. As a founding member of this organization I am extremely proud to see the consistency and dedication of this organization that began as a task force and is now a beacon of hope for Latino social workers and for the Latino community.

I feel honored and grateful to the past president and founding member, Maria Elena Girone. Her leadership and tenacity has taught us, “Yes, You Can! Si, Se Puede! Pa’lante!” Gracias Maria Elena, you are our trailblazer and we will follow your footsteps in continuing to address the inequality of services to Latino families and the shortage of Latino social workers. My goals as President include: expanding our Training Institute, direct services, strengthening our advocacy, pushing our legislative agenda, and continue the collaborations with our stakeholders.

To kickstart the work ahead, we visited Suffolk county 6th District Assemblyman Phil Ramos where we brought forth our legislative agenda addressing the inequalities in Latino social work. The Assemblyman was extremely supportive in our cause. Looking forward, our upcoming conference in partnership with LIU Post and the National Association of Puerto Rican and Hispanic Social Workers, we also visited the Long Island University Post campus where the conference is to be held.

Welcome Our Board
Left to Right: Louis Medina, Advisory, Erica Sandoval; Dr. Dilcia Granville, President; Maria Girone, President Emeritus; Dr. An necy Baez, Vice President; Dr. Elaine Congress, Secretary and Dr. Ivan Quervalu, Executive Director; Below Photos: Luis Montalvo, Treasurer; Diane Heggie; Carmen Pacheco and Dr. Edwin Mendez Santiago.
Social Work Spotlight: All in the Family

Following her mother from Ecuador to Miami, Laura began the American journey at 21-years-old traveling with two suitcases and her 3-year-old daughter Erica. Like many families, due to the economic crisis her husband remained behind as she continued on determined to work and succeed in the United States. Despite the differences and challenges in culture and language Laura’s migration began a great legacy.

Three years later her husband joined her and they gave birth to two more daughters, Jennifer and Jackie. Today they are all social workers.

Erica, a graduate of NYU, leads the Department of Medical and Community Relations for Make-A-Wish Metro and Western New York. She works with a volunteer base to help children cope with life threatening illnesses by granting them wishes.

Jennifer, a graduate of Columbia University, is the Geriatric Care Coordinator at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House where she provides access to resources to improve mental and physical health to the elder Latinx community. She is also involved in human and animal rights activism.

Jackie, a graduate of NYU, is a case manager in Vermont where she provides support to refugee families transitioning in the United States. Being the daughter of immigrant parents she felt “led” to pursue a profession helping others alike herself and her family. She says, “I did not pick social work, social work picked me”.

From their youth their mother worked to instill in them the value of service. Now, as a family of social workers the three sisters attribute their passion for service to their mother’s strength and example of perseverance. Her love sustained and grounded them in their work. It is because of their journey and the challenges faced that they emphasize the need for advocacy at micro- and macro-levels, providing access to resources and developing inclusive, comprehensive policies. The social work profession is about advocating and facilitating spaces where individuals realize and come into their full agency.

“We must be leaders of positive change”, said Erica Sandoval.

They are a true representation of achieving the American Dream and dedicating their lives to giving back as each of them feels called to do.

Scholarship Awardees of 2017

Lauren Osoria and Luisa Lopez (New York University), Linel Salsedo and Cristina Farrera (Yeshiva University), Leidy de Leon and Inyeska Jimenez (Touro College), Jennifer Frias and Madeline Perez (Columbia University), Cristina Arbucias and Diane Veliz (Fordham University), Adriana Rosales, Catherine Elaine Valdez and Stephanie Ruiz (Hunter Silberman College), Nicole Rodriguez (Adelphi University), Karily Lantigua and Cristina Enriquez (Lehman College).

LSCW Leadership: Dr. Ivan Quervalu; Dr. Annecy Baez and Dr. Elene Congress.