

¡FELICIDADES SENIORS!

Graduations are ceremonies during which we reflect on completing one stage of our lives and celebrate moving into a new one.

The graduates pictured on these pages of the newspaper are moving forward with not only a Bachelor's degree but also a solid social justice foundation provided by San Francisco State University's Latina/Latino Studies department.

They stayed strong, leaned on each other, supported one another, and maintained community under challenging circumstances.

Acción Latina, publisher of El Tecolote, hosted an online graduation ceremony for the Latina/Latino Studies Class of 2021. During this event we heard from multiple communities who supported and encouraged LTNS students on their educational journey. Thank you friends, chosen family, blood kin, professors, academic advisors, and staff of SF State.

Congratulations Class of 2021! ¡Que viva la fuerza estudiantil! ¡Que viva nuestra bella comunidad!

— Dr. Katynka Martínez
Latina/Latino Studies Department Chair



Las graduaciones son ceremonias durante las cuales reflexionamos sobre el cierre de una etapa de nuestras vidas y celebramos el comienzo de una nueva.

Los graduados que aparecen en estas páginas del periódico están avanzando no solo con una licenciatura, sino también con una sólida base de justicia social proporcionada por el departamento de Estudios Latinos (LTNS) de la Universidad Estatal de San Francisco.

Se mantuvieron fuertes, se apoyaron mutuamente y forjaron comunidad bajo circunstancias desafiantes.

Acción Latina, quien publica El Tecolote, organizó una ceremonia de graduación virtual para la Clase de Estudios Latinos de 2021. Durante este evento escuchamos a varias comunidades que apoyaron y alentaron a los estudiantes de LTNS durante su trayecto educativo. Gracias amigos, familia elegida, parientes de sangre, profesores, asesores académicos y personal de SF State.

¡Felicitaciones Generación de 2021! ¡Que viva la fuerza estudiantil! ¡Que viva nuestra bella comunidad!

—Dra. Katynka Martínez
Directora del Departamento de Estudios Latinas/Latinos

Latina/Latino Studies Majors



Baleria Barrera-Rodriguez

Education is our most powerful tool. We learn to unify and organize to keep resisting. Taking our own experiences and learnings and redistributing them to our communities is vital in closing gaps and building bridges.



Marlynn López Benítez

Latinx Studies has prepared me in my commitment to promoting social justice and being a transformative leader in my community. Continuing my education in the fall as a social work graduate student will help uplift Latinx voices. -Para mi familia



Cecilia Castañeda

As a first-generation student, graduating is a personal accomplishment and an accomplishment for my community. I plan to incorporate my knowledge by becoming a resource for my community through librarianship. I will invest in the communities that have supported me.



Jessica Cornejo Flores

I plan on using my LTNS major by furthering my education in the field of social work. I hope to become an immigration social worker in order to work in a non-profit/community-based advocacy setting helping reunify families and attending to their needs.



Emily Cruz González

I will use my LTNS degree alongside my Criminal Justice degree to fix this broken system. I will bring justice to my people, that have been victims of the system far too long.



Ivan Garcia

As the first person in my family to graduate, the lessons from my LTNS major will be shared with family and community to understand our struggles, appreciate our roots and stand in solidarity. I'll always be mindful of centering the needs and voices of the most vulnerable.



Leslie Garcia

By becoming an immigration lawyer, I will advocate for low-income communities, give those who may feel silenced a voice, and increase representation of Latinas in the legal field. Gracias al sacrificio y apoyo de mis padres, sin ellos no hubiera sido capaz de lograr mis logros.



Nestor Garcia

I plan to help my community by developing new conversations around Latino/a/x issues that affect the community. I will also continue my studies in the future and conduct my own academic studies related to Latino/a/x issues.



Galilea Hernandez

I hope to use all I've learned to give back to my community within the educational sector to help and increase students' access to and within higher education.



Veronica Hernandez

This degree is for my parents that came to this country with hopes and dreams. I am looking forward to serving the youth in my community. I want my community to have a voice!



Maite Inez Jiménez

I aspire to become a high school or college counselor in order to assist minority students in navigating the higher education system. I want to serve as an inspiration/example for students who doubt they have potential to attend college.



Amalia Laventure

I intend to embody the ancestral love and knowledge I have learned in this program as a community college teacher.



Mireya Jazmin Leon

Mireya Leon returned to San Francisco State after a three-year hiatus, to finally complete her BA in Latina/o Studies. She plans to use her degree to work with Latinx youth, to support the community.



Laurin Lovato Romero

I am planning on using my degree to teach and to get my teaching credentials later on.



Yatziry Luna Palomo

I plan to move on to apply to law school and work towards becoming an immigration lawyer. This is my chance to begin to give back to a community that has given so much to me.



Alicia Manzano

I plan to use my LTNS major in a future career in teaching.



Athziri Martínez

As a first gen student, graduating college is a huge accomplishment for me and my family. My goal is to be able to advocate for my community as a health care provider and give back to the community that has raised me.



Melanie Dina Mayorga

I plan to not only spread awareness of inequities within the community, but to embrace Latinidad.



Jose Morales

I hope that with my major and minor I am able to make a change for the better in many families' lives and hopefully reach out to children and help them in any way I can.



Sara Murillo

I would like to use my LTNS major and Criminal Justice major to service my community by aspiring to a career in social work and being a resource for mi gente.



Beatriz Rivera

I will use my LTNS major by incorporating its rich content into the high school Spanish classes I teach and will help my students to learn and understand our stories and contributions to this country from the perspective of our own brown voices.

Latina/Latino Studies Minors



Maricisa Aguilar Mota

I would like to use my minor to empower and ensure proper human rights in the Latino/

Latina community.



Alondra Chavez Diaz

As a first-generation student, my education has always been important to

me. I will help my community by creating safe spaces that welcome mental health conversations. Les doy gracias a mis padres por siempre apoyar me y por todo lo que hacen por mi.



Bianca Galvan

This minor has shown me the importance of having a strong and connected community that cares, loves,

supports, and uplifts one another. I would like to be a resource for future generations of young people trying to make their way in this world.



Janneth Gasca-Lozano

Graduating at a time like this serves as a motivation to do my part in helping

strengthen my community. I am prepared to pursue a career in public service, where I will act as a bridge to the growing U.S. Latinx population.



Stephanie "Tety" Gonzalez

I want to become an educator at the university level and focus my

teachings on resistance literature, helping decolonize the master narrative in Amerikkka.



Wendy Guido

I plan to use my LTNS minor to serve and advocate for mi comunidad Latina in either an educational

or therapeutic setting with the goal of empowering their minds and consciousness by taking our ancestry, roots, and resistance into consideration.



Jeannett Reyes

I plan to use my LTNS minor in service with the community through sharing my knowledge with the people

around me. I believe it is important to share my knowledge to bring attention to the existing issues in the Latinx community.



Berenice Rodriguez Magana

I plan to use my minor in Latinx Studies to help create change within

the mental health field, breakdown stigmas, advocate for those who are not able to and help our community of color heal.



Frida Torres

I plan on using my majors to continue working with Latinx students so that they can reach their

academic goals, feel supported in schools, and be able to pursue higher education. Gracias mamá y papá, y todos los que me han apoyado. Sí Se Puede!!

Thank you Gabriela Segovia McGahan, Stacey Chavez, Rio Yañez, Fátima Ramírez, Alba Lluch, and Carlie Mari.



Latina/Latino Studies Majors & Minors not pictured

Melissa Aceves-Yepe
Diego Benjamin Bautista
Raquel Elizabeth Berlanga
Dyana Calvario
Jacqueline Alejandra Ceja
Roberto Philip Cruz
Emily Ruby Cruz
Genesis Fernanda Escudero Olguin

Jahaziel Ivette Flores Moreno
Aaron Jacob Gomez
Stephanie Gomez
David Gutierrez
Dalila Darlin Guzman-Arechiga
Marilyn Magdalena Lopez Mota
Henry Antonio Rivas Lovos
Danny Rodriguez

Rosario Ruiz-Nieto
Stephany Sanchez
Natalie Sabrina Torres
Joel Umanzor
Julisa Vargas-Casillas
Paco Vela-Orozco
Greg Zajac
Bryanna Nicole Zuleta



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Recology es propiedad de sus empleados y es tan diversa como nuestra ciudad. ¡Juntos, usted y nuestro equipo de Recology han hecho de San Francisco la ciudad más grande y más verde* del país!

"Sigamos marcando la diferencia. Juntos."

* Siemens U.S. and Canada Green City Index