

# Biographies and Contact Information

## **Carol Alvarado**

Council Member Carol Alvarado, a native Houstonian and lifelong resident of District I, was elected to the Houston City Council in 2001 to represent the district she calls home. When Carol first ran for city council, her message was “getting back to the basics, putting people first”. She has honored her commitment, becoming a tireless advocate of projects that are focused on improving our community. She meets regularly with civic leaders, civic clubs, area clergy, and business leaders to discuss community initiatives. Carol has hosted Saturday morning town hall breakfast meetings for community leaders. Carol brings city department heads to these gatherings, where leaders get the opportunity to ask questions and more importantly get results. Carol has worked to close down nuisance bars in neighborhoods and has helped secure cameras at problem rail crossings throughout the city.

Carol's lifelong commitment to quality of life issues is demonstrated by her current leadership in the effort to improve air quality in our community. Her recent town hall meeting on air pollution has raised much needed awareness on this health priority. Carol can also be counted on help in the creation of jobs and business opportunities. She has been out front in promoting much needed expansion of the Port of Houston and insisted the inclusion of small businesses in this process. Carol's work on downtown revitalization has helped make central Houston not only a major economic success story, but a must-see destination for tourists as well as a fun recreational area for Houston's hard-working citizens.

Carol is actively involved in several charitable endeavors including serving as a mentor for Latinas on the Rise, collecting clothing for Dress for Success and raising money to improve Houston's parks. Carol's political education and involvement in local politics began as a child. Prior to her election to the city council, Carol worked in City Hall as Senior Executive Assistant to Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown. Her past work experience also includes serving as legislative assistant to Congressman Gene Green in Washington D.C. and as a consultant in economic and community development in the neighborhoods of the East End. Carol is a graduate of the University of Houston, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and is a member of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church.

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## **Olivia R. Balandrán**

Olivia Rodríguez Balandrán currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Pipeline for Advancing Careers and Education Workgroup of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Beyond Translation Forum Initiative. This initiative seeks to reach out to and involve the Hispanic community in a meaningful way through networks with Hispanic leaders in academia, business, health organizations, civic groups and grassroots organizations.

She works in the Planning and Analysis Branch of EPA's Region 6 Water Quality Protection Division, assisting the Director with development and implementation of strategic plan measures to meet the Agency's water environmental goals. The planning is done in coordination with the five states within the Region: Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Louisiana.

Olivia Rodríguez Balandrán previously served as the Associate Director for Environmental Justice in the Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs in the EPA, Region 6 from 2003-2005. In 2005 she served as Acting Branch Chief for the Water Assistance Programs Branch. Upon completion of her assignment, she was recognized for her negotiating skills in resolving controversial issues with two major local government water program grant recipients. During her tenure at EPA, she has worked extensively on building partnerships with communities and states, having worked for five (5) years as Community Involvement Coordinator in the Superfund Program.

In 2002, she worked for Congressman Ciro Rodriguez (U.S. Congressman from San Antonio, TX) as a Congressional Fellow in his Washington, D.C. Office, helping him address environmental concerns. In 1997, she served as Special Assistant to the former EPA Region 6 Deputy Regional Administrator.

Prior to joining the Federal Government in 1992, she worked for local government in Texas serving as Assistant to the City of Fort Worth Manager in 1990-1992 where she assisted the Mayor and City Manager as liaison to various task forces, commissions and advisory councils. She also served as weekend news anchor from 1985 to 1987 at the Dallas satellite office of Cadena Radio Centro, a Spanish language national news radio station centralized in Mexico City.

Olivia was recently elected Vice Chair of the National Organization for Mexican American Rights (NOMAR) during the NOMAR annual convention held in San Antonio, Texas, on September 6-8, 2007.

Olivia holds a Master's Degree in Sociology from the University of Missouri in Columbia and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Spanish from the University of Texas - Pan American, Edinburg, Texas.

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## **Debora Bradford**

Debora N. Bradford is the Small and Disadvantaged Business Coordinator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6, Dallas, Texas. Ms. Bradford has been involved in the Agency's Minority and Women-owned Business program (MBE/WBE) since 1990. She oversees the small and disadvantaged business requirements for EPA-funded projects in the Region 6 five-state area, which includes Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Ms. Bradford provides assistance to the regional assistance and acquisition personnel in implementing the Agency's socioeconomic requirements. Ms. Bradford also participates with other area agencies in conducting socioeconomic workshops and conferences.

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## **Jeannette L. Brown, Director**

Mrs. Jeanette L. Brown serves as the Director for the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As Director, Mrs. Brown is responsible for ensuring that small, disadvantaged, and women-owned firms are provided an equitable opportunity to receive a "fair share" of sub-agreements and contracts. OSDBU develops policies and procedures to aid minority and small women-owned entities doing business with EPA. Additionally, OSDBU is responsible for internal training programs to enhance the capabilities of socioeconomic firms in becoming more competitive and viable in the EPA procurement arena.

Prior to her current position, Mrs. Brown served as the Deputy Director of OSDBU and the Deputy Director of EPA's Office of Acquisition Management. Prior to her tenure at EPA, Mrs. Brown served as the Director of the Office of Procurement and Grants Management and the Director of the Division of Program Development for the Minority Small Business Capital Ownership Development Program (more formally know as the 8(a) Program) at the Small Business Administration.

Mrs. Brown has more than 27 years of contracting experience in various federal agencies, including the Navy Regional Contracting Center, the Navy Automatic Data Processing Selection Office, the Joint Cruise Missile Project/NAV AIR, the Small Business Administration, and EPA.

In 1980, Mrs. Brown graduated from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, where she received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She also attended graduate school at American University in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Brown began her career in 1978 as a Navy Cooperative Education (CO-OP) student, and began an internship at the Navy Regional Contracting Center after graduation. She is native of Richmond, VA, where she attended Richmond public schools.

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## **Frank Cantu, Field Director**

Frank Cantu is a native Texan. He was born in Dallas and attended Southern Methodist University where he majored in Financial Management, Personnel Administration and Public Administration. He holds the B.B.A. and M.P.A. degrees. He served in the U. S. Marine Corps, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Force Reconnaissance Team in South Vietnam where he received two Purple Hearts and one Bronze Star with a combat V for services in Vietnam.

He worked for the United States Public Health Service for forty years. On July 1, 1997, Mr. Cantu was selected as the Field Director for Health Resources and Services Administration's Dallas Field Office whose mission is to provide access to health care to the underserved in Region VI which includes five (5) states.

On May 2, 2000, Mr. Cantu was also selected to serve as HRSA's Acting Associate Administrator in Rockville, Maryland. In this capacity, he was responsible for the guidance, direction, and assessment of a staff of over 300 who conduct the operations of HRSA's five cluster (ten regional) offices. He provided leadership in the administration of HRSA Programs that provide access to quality health care for Americans and communicates regional health issues to the HRSA Administrator and staff.

Mr. Cantu is currently the Director for HRSA's Division of Border Health. In this capacity, he works directly with health care organizations along the U. S.– Mexico Border to improve the availability and accessibility of health services.

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## **Lynda Carroll, Assistant Regional Administrator for Management**

Lynda Carroll is the Assistant Regional Administrator for Management with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Office in Dallas, Texas. She joined the Agency in 1984. She is responsible for finance with a 650+ million dollar regional budget; information technology support for 1000+ persons including e-government; oversight of all human resources management activities including training, labor management and EEO; security, health and safety; grants management; the quality assurance program; and lab analyses.

Ms. Carroll previously held positions at EPA include Acting Deputy Regional Administrator, Deputy Director for Management Division; Acting Director for the Air Pesticides and Toxic Division; Deputy Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxic Division; and Chief of the Planning and Grants Branch; Director of the Planning and Analysis Office, and Chief of the Planning Evaluation and Analysis Section. Ms. Carroll has received bronze medals and several awards, including numerous certificates for outstanding performance.

Prior to joining the EPA, she was an instructor for the Army Intelligence Officers Center and School in Fort Huachuca, Arizona. She also taught in public school districts in Texas, Arizona and Germany.

Ms. Carroll received her undergraduate degree from Texas Women's University, and her graduate degree from the University of Arizona. She is married to Reverend Edgar L. Carroll Sr. and has two children and seven grandchildren. Her hobbies include reading, teaching Sunday school class and communicating with others.

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## **Rafael Casanova**

Rafael Casanova received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Tx, in May 1982. He worked as a geologist with the Railroad Commission of Texas from 1984 to 1990 performing regulatory work related to the oil and gas exploration and production industry. He has been working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Geologist/Environmental Scientist since 1990. He currently works as a Superfund Remedial Project Manager performing environmental investigations of abandoned and uncontrolled contaminated sites to determine the nature and extent of contamination for all media, and to select and implement a final remedy which is protective of human health and the environment. He is a registered Professional Geoscientist in the State of Texas.

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## **Rafael DeLeon, OCEM Director**

Mr. DeLeon is currently the Director of the Office of Cooperative Environmental Management (OCEM). As the Director of OCEM, he is responsible for leading a professional staff that is responsible for providing management and oversight responsibility for EPA's Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) process. EPA's 50 committees provide recommendations to the President, the Administrator of EPA, Congress and EPA program offices.

Prior to this position, Mr. DeLeon was the Director of Human Resources. In this capacity, he headed the office that is responsible for identifying, establishing and implementing Agency-wide Human Resources programs, policies and procedures in areas including, but not limited to: outreach, recruitment, staffing, classification, hiring, benefits, employee development and training, performance management and rating systems, organizational development and reorganizations, retention, early out and buyouts, human capital and strategic workforce planning, succession planning, quality of work life programs and labor and employee relations.

Prior to this position, Mr. DeLeon was the Associate General Counsel for the Civil Rights Law Office in the Office of General Counsel. In this capacity, he lead the office which is primarily responsible for providing legal guidance and advice to EPA Officials on all matters relating to equal employment opportunity (EEO), special emphasis programs and civil rights. Rafael has also served as the Acting Director of the Office of Civil Rights (OCR). Mr. DeLeon has won numerous awards during his federal career including the bronze, silver and gold medals at EPA. He is the recipient of a number of performance, human resources and civil rights awards from the agencies he has worked for. Before joining EPA, Mr. DeLeon worked in various EEO capacities at the Departments of Labor, Justice and Defense. Rafael is a graduate of Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree (BA). He also graduated from Georgetown University Law School where he received his Juris Doctorate (JD) degree.

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## **Henry Delgado, Capt**

Henry Delgado is a commissioned officer with the U.S. Public Health Service at Region 6, Dallas, Texas. He is currently assigned to the Office of the Office of Minority Health as the Regional Minority Health Consultant. Captain Delgado is a Certified Industrial Hygienist in comprehensive practice. He has a B.S. in Biology/ Chemistry from Stephen F. Austin State University, and an M.S. in Environmental Management from the University of Texas at San Antonio. He has 29 years of experience in the Industrial hygiene/ environmental fields.

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## **Dan Dominguez**

Dan Dominguez is the Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Director for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). He has worked in state government for fourteen years as a procurement and HUB officer. Dan is responsible for the agency's good faith effort requirements that provide business opportunities to minority and woman-owned businesses in TCEQ's state and federal procurements. Dan has consistently ranked within the state's top-ten agencies with the highest HUB utilization rate. Dan earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Incarnate Word, San Antonio.

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## **Epifanio Elizondo, PhD**

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## **Miguel Flores, Director**

Miguel Flores is the Director, Water Quality Protection Division with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Dallas, Texas. Mr. Flores is responsible for the water quality and safe drinking water programs in the Region as well as water infrastructure along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Flores spent 18 years with the Air Resources Division of the National Park Service in Denver, Colorado, where he was instrumental in establishing the Park Service's nationwide air pollution monitoring network. He also served as Special Assistant involved in various national and international air pollution issues affecting national parks. Before going to the Park Service, Mr. Flores served as a statistician and air quality specialist with EPA's Region 6 Office.

Mr. Flores received his B.S. degree in mathematics from Texas Tech University, his M.S. in mathematical statistics from Southern Methodist University, and subsequently has taken graduate courses in Environmental Sciences and Computer Science at the University of Texas at Dallas. He is a graduate of Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Senior Executive Fellows Program and a member of Senior Executive Service. Mr. Flores served as a member of the U.S. armed forces and has taught mathematics at junior colleges in Texas.

Mr. Flores and his wife Barbara have three grown children, and he is a native of Laredo, Texas.

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## **Richard Greene, Regional Administrator**

Since his appointment as EPA Regional Administrator by President Bush in March, 2003, Richard Greene has led the oversight of federal environmental programs throughout Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas with a pragmatic and common sense approach to the mission of protecting human health and the environment while preserving the economic competitiveness of the Region.

Prior to this position, he served an unprecedented five terms as mayor of Arlington, Texas, during which time his city achieved more progress in the field of environmental protection than at any time in its history. At the same time, Arlington was recognized for its innovative economic development programs producing significant gains in building the commercial tax base of the city while creating thousands of jobs for the people of the community.

“Our work reminds me every day that there are 35 million people in this Region who are counting on us for cleaner air, purer water and better protected land. Knowing the dedication of the professional team I am privileged to serve with, I am confident of our collective commitment to meet those expectations.”

Mayor Greene’s business career includes work in the fields of higher education, the media, the Olympic movement as well as senior management roles in the automobile and banking industries. He holds a B.S. degree in business administration and is a graduate of the School of Mortgage Banking at Northwestern University in Chicago.

For more information, please contact the EPA Region 6, Office of External Affairs at 214 665-2200.

## **Rosalia Guerrero-Luera**

Outreach Coordinator-- Mothers for Clean Air, a local non-profit which serves as a collective voice to keep government, industry and consumers focused on obtaining and maintaining cleaner air for our children. For the last 10 years, Rosalia has been dedicated to organizing Spanish speaking communities on the Texas-Mexico border as well as in Houston.

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## **Judith Kane**

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## **Alberto Luera, Retired**

Professional career was spent advocating for the rights of Hispanic communities as director of a community based social service agency as well as serving on the boards of several non-profits. His experiences expand over grass root organizing, board development, and fundraising.

## **Amadee Madril**

Amadee Madril has 27 years with the Environmental Protection Agency. Amadee's expertise in various positions at EPA awarded her the opportunity to work at the El Paso Border Office focusing on environmental education within the border cities. She moved back to Dallas to pursue environmental education in hopes of reaching an even larger audience. Amadee has a strong passion and drive for sharing and teaching Hispanic youth the importance and awareness of environmental protection, prevention, and consequences. Amadee was instrumental in the concept and development and marketing of the "Tres Amigos al Rescate" and "Chucho Salva el Dia" DVD's in Spanish which have both achieved National and International recognition.

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## **Maria Martinez**

Maria has worked for EPA for over 17 years. She has a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Chemistry from Texas Woman's University and a Masters degree in environmental sciences from the University of North Texas. She has experience with various EPA programs including water, hazardous waste, enforcement, pesticides and the air program. She is currently the Chief for the Air Quality and Analysis Section. In that role, she manages the monitoring, toxics and energy portions of the air program for EPA's Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas.

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## **Verne McFarland**

Verne joined EPA Region 6 in the Superfund program on Earth Day, April 22, 1990, and has since made numerous contributions to EPA's community involvement, environmental justice, and information/records management programs. He currently serves as the Enterprise Content Management System (ECMS) Project Manager for Enterprise Application Development and the Environmental Management System (EMS) Coordinator for Region 6, reporting directly to the Assistant Regional Administrator for Management. Previous contributions to the Agency include participation as a charter member of the EPA Environmental Justice Task Force, the first Region 6 EJ Coordinator for the Superfund Division, and Section Chief over Superfund Community Relations and Information Management. Verne is a registered Project Management Professional (PMP # 303034) through the Project Management Institute, and is a graduate of Texas A&M University at Galveston, TX. He has been married to his wife, Debbie, for 25 years, and has two adult daughters and two grandchildren.

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## **S. Yolanda Nixon**

A native of Laredo, Texas, Yolanda Nixon has worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency since June 2000. Yolanda has been in the Human Resources field for the past 12 years under various agencies. Before joining EPA, Yolanda worked overseas with the Department of the Air Force, Howard AFB, Panama in 1996. She transferred in 1998 to the U.S. Border Patrol, INS, in Laredo, TX. Yolanda has served as the Hispanic Employment Program Manager with all three agencies and has also served as the Native American Program Manager with USBP. In her spare time, Yolanda has served as Cubmaster and WEBLOS leader to various Cub Scout Packs in the Grand Prairie area for the past 7 years. She is also involved with the Boy Scout Troops of Grand Prairie.

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## **Cindy Parker**

Cindy Parker is the Region 6 CARE Program Coordinator. Cindy has been with the Environmental Protection Agency since 1993, and has worked in our Regional Counsel, Enforcement, Water Quality, External Affairs, and Superfund Programs. She has worked extensively with communities, and is actively involved in community activities in her adopted hometown of Richardson.

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## **Nelda Pérez**

A native of Pecos, Texas, Nelda Perez has worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency since 1996, after more than sixteen years in the field of higher education. Before joining EPA, Nelda taught Spanish from 1993 – 1996 at Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas. Prior to that, she served as the director of the foreign language laboratory at Tarrant County Junior College, South Campus in Fort Worth and taught Spanish and English as an adjunct instructor for the Tarrant County Junior College System for fifteen years. She also taught French at Arlington High School, high school Spanish and English in Goose Bay Air Base, Labrador, and Spanish for the University of Maryland at Goose Bay Air Base. She has also worked as a freelance journalist in California, Arizona and Texas.

At EPA, Nelda worked for five years in the US-Mexico Border Program, writing a bilingual newsletter for border residents and agencies. In 2000, she joined the Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs at EPA, working to ensure equal environmental protection for minority and low-income communities. She currently serves as environmental justice liaison within the State of Texas.

Married to Juan Perez, an Air Force officer, she moved around extensively in the U.S. and overseas. When her husband retired from the Air Force, they moved to Arlington and he started working for the City of Fort Worth. Three sons and one daughter were born before the move back to Texas, and the family has recently been blessed with two granddaughters.

Active in many civic, environmental, and civil rights organizations, Nelda continues working on these issues with the United Hispanic Council of Tarrant County (an umbrella group of 40 Hispanic organizations) and the National Organization for Mexican American Rights. She and her husband have helped to raise thousands of dollars for scholarships for deserving low-income students and have initiated several educational projects to decrease the high dropout rate, particularly among Hispanic students.

Ms. Perez earned a bachelor's degree in English and Spanish at Wayland College, and a master's degree in Spanish at West Texas State University in Canyon. She earned thirty-six hours toward a doctorate in Spanish, half completed at the University of Arizona and half at the University of Texas at Arlington.

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## **Sharon Petronella, MS, PhD.**

Sharon Petronella, MS, PhD, is an environmental epidemiologist focused primarily upon investigating the health effects associated with exposures to toxicants. She holds a master's degree in health education and promotion, and completed her Ph.D. in Preventive Medicine and Community Health in 1999, specializing in epidemiologic research. Her doctoral dissertation research, sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), was based upon a case-control cancer study in the Golden Triangle area of Texas to investigate the role of environmental and occupational exposures in cancer causation. In 2001, she completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in the UTMB Child Health Research Center, also funded by the NIEHS, during which she served as project director for the epidemiologic component of an interdisciplinary research program focused on pediatric asthma. Since joining the faculty of the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in the Department of Pediatrics, she has participated in and/or initiated multiple projects designed to elucidate the causes and mechanisms of asthma exacerbations related to air pollution and has conducted a series of asthma interventions in local area schools. Currently an Associate Professor in the UTMB Department of Pediatrics Division of Clinical and Experimental Immunology & Infectious Diseases (CEIID), she recently completed a state contract from the Texas Department of State Health Services to develop a statewide school-based asthma surveillance program, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As an investigator in the Asthma Pathogenesis Research Core of UTMB NIEHS Core Center and the co-director of the Asthma Division of the UTMB NIEHS Community and Outreach Education Core, a major focus of her work has been translational or integrative research, i.e., building interfaces between and among environmental research, education, and community health.

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## **Brenda M. Reyes, MD, MPH, Bureau Chief**

Brenda M. Reyes, MD, MPH is the Bureau Chief of the Community & Children Environmental Health at the Houston Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Reyes started working with the city of Houston in 2001 as the Manager for Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. In 2003 became the Administration Manager for HUD's Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control grant and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and by 2005 became the Children's Environmental Health, Bureau Chief.

She worked as Chief Medical Doctor with the Rotary International at Finca La Alegria at Choloma City and as Chief Medical Doctor with the Honduran Ministry of Public Health at Choloma. She obtained her Medical degree from the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara, Mexico and her Master in Public Health at Florida International University, Florida.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented her with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Recognition Award for her collaboration at the Superfund Site MDI and the EPA Recognition Award – for the STAR Program

She is the Chairperson of the city of Houston Lead Jurisdiction Wide Screening Plan; Chairperson of the Leverage of Funds Subcommittee for the Texas Advisory Committee; Texas Gulf Coast Asthma Coalition Chairperson; Texas Asthma Coalition' Environmental Health vice-Chair; EPA Beyond the Forum Environmental and Health Committee Chairperson; National HUD Grantees Association Board Member; NCI Head Start Service Advisory Committee; AVANCE Head Start/Early Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee. Also member of the following coalitions: Texas Coalition of Asthma Networks (TexCAN); Houston

Mayor's Lead Task Force; Texas Gulf Coast Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition; Hispanic Coalition, African American Coalition. And others

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## **Elizabeth Reyes**

Born in Houston, Texas, raised in the City of Saltillo, Coahuila, México, Elizabeth Reyes returned to Houston at the age of 16.

After graduating from Sam Houston HS in 1993, she took college courses in Laredo Community College in Laredo, Texas. Next, she transferred to "The Island University" at Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi, Texas. In May 2001, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Environmental Science. Prior to earning her degree, she worked as an intern for six months at the EPA Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, in the Office of Environmental Justice, where she had the opportunity to translate several brochures into Spanish.

After completing her degree, EPA offered her a position in the Wetlands Program, where she carried out tasks necessary to ensure implementation of EPA's Wetlands Protection Program and Enforcement authority for unauthorized discharges of fill material into waters of the US. Four years later, she moved to the Pesticides Section where she currently leads the efforts in the area of the Endangered Species Program, implementation of the Container/Containment Rule, enforcement reporting and she provides constant support to the Pesticides State Lead Agencies on program changes. As a member of the Regional's multilingual taskforce, she continues reviewing, translating, interpreting, and editing technical information from English to Spanish.

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## **Anthony Robledo**

Tony Robledo, after completing 5 years military active duty as an Army officer, joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 in 1990, and was first assigned to the Hazardous Waste Management Division, as a Superfund Enforcement Officer. In 1995, he accepted a position in the Air Enforcement Section, as an Air Enforcement Officer. In 2003 he was selected by EPA to participate in the U.S. Embassy Science Fellows program. As part of this program, Tony completed a one month tour in Bahrain assisting their Environmental Affairs Department. Tony has successfully completed numerous leadership assignments at EPA to include an 8th month detail as the Acting Pesticides Section Chief, and a 2 month detail as Acting Surveillance Section Chief for EPA Region 6. Tony is currently a senior air inspector/enforcement officer assigned to the Air Toxics Section, EPA Region 6, and is working on reducing air emissions from the Oil and Natural Gas Sector. His education includes a Bachelors degree from the School of Science at the University of Texas at Arlington, and a Masters degree in Management from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri.

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## **Melissa Rodriguez, National HEPM**

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## **Eduardo J. Sanchez, M.D., M.P.H., Director**

Eduardo J. Sanchez, M.D., M.P.H is the Director of the Institute for Health Policy at The University of Texas School of Public Health. Dr. Sanchez served as Commissioner of the Texas Department Health from November 2001 through August 2004, overseeing an array of programs from disease prevention, communicable disease control, and preparedness to environmental and consumer safety as well as regulatory services. On September 1, 2004, he became Commissioner of the newly formed Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), which combined public health, mental health and substance abuse. He served as Commissioner of DSHS until October 2006.

Sanchez was in active family medicine practice in Austin, Texas from 1992 to 2001. In addition, he served as health authority and chief medical officer for the Austin-Travis County Health and Human Services Department from 1994 to 1998. He played a critical role in helping to create the Texas Association of Local Health Officials in 1997.

He received his medical degree in 1988 from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and holds master's degrees in public health from the UT School of Public Health and in biomedical engineering from Duke University. He also has bachelor's degrees from Boston University in biomedical engineering and chemistry.

The American Academy of Family Physicians presented Dr. Sanchez with the 2005 Public Health Award for his contributions to public health in Texas and beyond. He also received the Louis B. Russell Memorial Award, in 2004, from the American Heart Association for outstanding service to minority populations

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## **Dan Solis**

Dan J. Solís is the President and Chief Executive Officer for the National Organization for Mexican American Rights, NOMAR, Inc. This national, non-profit, volunteer organization has as its mission the promotion of Hispanics, particularly in the areas of employment, education and civil rights. NOMAR was founded on March 22, 1998 in Fort Worth, Texas. He was appointed the first President and Chief Executive Officer of the organization on September 8, 2007, and served as NOMAR's Chairman prior to that, from the founding of the organization until his appointment to his present position.

Mr. Solís was born in Raymondville, Texas in 1951 to Hector P. & Carolina C. Solís. He grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas although he spent many summers working in "El Valle de Tejas" on his grandparents farm/ranch. He was part of the first full graduating class of the then new Foy H. Moody High School in 1970. He attended Del Mar College in Corpus Christi upon graduating and then joined the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War completing his enlistment in 1976.

Dan has been in the multimedia field, photography, graphics and video production, for the last 34 years as both a technician and for the last 17 years, as a manager. He has been involved in the civil rights field since 1987 as a Hispanic Employment Program Manager for the Air Force, local chapter president, regional and civil rights director for National Image, Inc. and since 1998, as Chairman of the Board for NOMAR, Inc.

As President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Solis is responsible for the development of the organization to include member chapters, corporate sponsorship and administration of the organization's operations. He serves as the chief spokesperson for NOMAR. The majority of his work has been in the employment arena as he has worked very closely with federal agencies to address the severe under representation of Hispanic Americans in their workforce.

Mr. Solis is a former Regional VI Director for National Image Inc. and served as the Chair of the Civil Rights Committee. He is a recipient of Image's Annual Civil Rights leader award and has received the Air Force Civilian Meritorious Service Medal for his work as a Hispanic Employment Program Manager. Mr. Solis is married to the former Cynthia Ann Botello of Corpus Christi and is a resident of San Antonio, Texas.

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## **Barry Silverberg**

Barry Silverberg has over 30 years of diverse leadership, management, resource development and communications experience within the nonprofit arena as both a professional and volunteer leader. Currently he leads the Center for Community-Based & Nonprofit Organizations at Austin Community College (ACC CCBNO) , and the Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations (TANO), serving as a coach, mentor, a consultant and community resource within the Nonprofit Sector. He shares his experiences, insights and perceptions at Conferences, organizational leadership gatherings, with individuals considering careers in the Nonprofit Sector, and as a session leader within the ACC CCBNO. He is also is Chair of the New College Advisory Council at St. Edward's University and Managing Editor, Nonprofit and Organizational Development at Groundbreaking Press.

Barry is passionate about promoting "strategic creativity", fostering greater understanding and appreciation of the Nonprofit Sector as a Sector distinct from the Corporate/ Business and Government/ Educational Sectors. He is a strong advocate of promoting creativity, credibility and ethics throughout society; but especially within the Nonprofit Sector.

A resident of Austin, TX since 1995, Barry hails from New York, where he served the Syracuse Jewish Federation for 20 years; 15 as its Executive Vice-President. Prior to becoming the founding Director of the ACC Center for Community-Based and Nonprofit Organizations in 2000, Barry served as Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Austin, where he provided professional leadership for the development of the Dell Jewish Community Campus.

Together with Linda Young, Special Assistant to the President for Governmental and Community Affairs at Austin Community College, Barry has fashioned the ACC CCBNO into a statewide resource now used by thousands of organizations and people engaged in the nonprofit sector, locally as well as throughout the State of Texas. The Center's management of the TANO is one example of the Center's depth and breadth.

The Center has been recognized as a 2003 Bellwether Award Finalist at the Community College Futures Assembly. for its excellence and its innovative approach in Using Strategic Creativity and a Partnership of Business and Community College to Meet Workforce Needs of the Nonprofit Sector. The Center has become a primary information and referral resource for individuals and agencies interested in or engaged within the nonprofit sector of Central Texas.

Barry speaks often at local and statewide conferences and is sought after by agencies for his workshops and presentations on *Strengthening Boards by Clarifying Roles, Responsibilities and Expectations*; *Encouraging the Heart: Recognizing and Motivating Volunteers and Staff*; *Strategic Creativity: Imagining Credible Meetings*; and other topics.

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## **John Sullivan**

As an artist, John Sullivan has worked as a writer, playwright, director, poet, performance artist and arts educator. He is the recipient of numerous writing awards and honors including the "Jack Kerouac Literary Prize," "The Writers Voice: New Voices of the West Prize," two fellowships from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, a WESTAF Fellowship, and was the featured playwright at Denver's Summer Play Festival. He has published widely, and has performed at various poetry and theater festivals, the Associated Writing Programs National Conference. Mr. Sullivan has presented training sessions on drama therapy and Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed at national Psychodrama, Drama Therapy, Pedagogy & Theatre of the Oppressed conferences.

He was Artistic/Producing Director of a bilingual company, Theater Degree Zero, in Arizona for 5 years, and Director of the Boal-influenced Community Outreach Wing / Theater of Liberation at Seattle Public Theater. He is currently a faculty member in the

Department of Preventive Medicine & Community Health, an adjunct faculty member within the Institute for Medical Humanities, and co-directs the Public Forum & Toxics Assistance division through the Sealy Center for Environmental Health & Medicine / NIEHS Center at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He uses Augusto Boal's image and Forum Theater techniques to teach toxicological concepts and to create public dialogues on risk assessment and the health effects of toxic exposures. Mr. Sullivan has presented "Tox & Risk" theater workshops at the annual EPA Community Involvement Conference, the North American Conference on the Environment and Community, and NIEHS EJ / CBPR National conferences.

Sullivan also co-directed (with Maria Murillo) a bilingual community outreach *teatro* project sponsored by de Madres a Madres, a near-north Houston social services organization. NIEHS/UTMB, de Madres a Madres and Harris County health provider, Casa de Amigos, are partners in an active NIEHS Environmental Justice project, ***Communities Organized Against Asthma & Lead*** (2003-2007). Bryan Parras (TEJAS) and John Sullivan recently produced a documentary survey of citizen risk perceptions and collaborative restoration efforts in southern Louisiana after Hurricanes Katrina & Rita entitled, "***...after the wind, child, after the water's gone...***" This documentary is part of a larger, on-going project, ***The Public Talks & Science Listens: A Community-Based Participatory Approach to Characterizing Environmental Health Risk & Assessing Needs in the Wake of Hurricanes Katrina & Rita***. Results from this survey were used as the basis for a community based hurricane preparedness project – Project CEHRO (Community Environmental Health & Risk Outreach) - in south Terrebonne-Lafourche parishes (September, 2006). This project was supported as a pilot project of the UTMB NIEHS Center in Environmental Toxicology.

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## **Raquel Suniga**

Raquel Suniga was born in San Antonio, Texas. Since 1985, Ms. Suniga is a Business Development Specialist with the Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce at the Dallas National Enterprise Center. Ms. Suniga hobbies include reading, traveling, and enjoying the outdoors. Ms. Suniga loves people and hopes to continue serving entrepreneurs.

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## **Michael Terraso, Ph.D.**

Mr. Terraso is currently serving as Assistant Director of the Houston Department of Health and Human Services for Environmental Health. He received a Bachelor of Science in Biology, a Master of Science in Microbiology, and Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular Biology from the University of Houston. He holds Executive Management Certificates from Indiana University and Rice University.

Laboratory Director for Harris County Pollution Control Department; Director of Environmental Health and Safety for Texas Eastern Corporation; Vice President and Chief Environmental, Health and Safety Officer for Enron.

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## **Milton A. Thibodeaux**

Milton A. Thibodeaux is the Project Director of the Houston Minority Business Development Center where he leads a team of organizations who provide management and technical assistance to minority-owned businesses. He has been involved in this program since 1985. Milton was formerly an oil & gas accountant with Monsanto Chemical Company and Texaco U.S.A. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Southern University and an MBA from the University of Houston.

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## **Gina Weber**

Ms. Gina Weber, a Mexico City native, is presently Special Assistant to the Deputy Regional Administrator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6, Dallas, Texas. However, since 1995, she has held the position of U.S.-Mexico Border Coordinator responsible for developing, coordinating and managing environmental activities on the U.S.-Mexico border. Her work covers all environmental programs such as waste, air, water, emergency preparedness, environmental health and enforcement. These activities include strategic planning, policy development and implementation, binational negotiations and coordination, and Regional contact for border stakeholders. Ms. Weber is also responsible for the allocation of a multi-million dollar budget utilized to address issues along the U.S.-Mexico border. Ms. Weber is instrumental in the development and implementation of the binational Border 2012 Program. Border 2012 is a partnership between Mexico and the United States where federal, state, local and Tribal governments cooperate to achieve environmental improvements along the U.S.-Mexico Border.

Ms. Weber has been with the EPA for 20 years, starting in the EPA Region 5 office in Chicago, where she held several positions including Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator, Management Analyst, Community Relations and Environmental Justice Coordinator. These positions included responsibilities in the areas of policy development and strategic planning for the Regional Administrator.

Ms. Weber received a Master degree in Public Administration and also a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science/International Relations from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois.

Ms. Weber has received numerous awards including EPA Gold Medal for Commendable Service for work on the U.S.-Mexico border, Superfund Team of the Year (2 awards), Civilian Award of the Chicago Combined Law Enforcement Committee, and the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives Foreign Affairs Service Recognition Award, among others.

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## **Jeff Wickliffe, PhD.**

Jeff Wickliffe is an environmental toxicologist and assistant professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. His interests are varied and include laboratory studies designed to examine the mechanisms by which environmental and occupational chemicals cause damage to cells and tissues, assessing exposure to such chemicals in laboratory studies and human populations, and genetic and environmental interactions that serve to explain why some individuals are uniquely susceptible to disease caused by chemical exposure. He has extensively studied the effects of environmental radiation and chemical pollutants on rodents that serve as surrogates for ecological effects and human populations that are at risk. He has also studied genetic effects in workers exposed to chemicals as part of their occupational history. His research is aimed at understanding the basis for chemical effects in human populations and individual susceptibility to such effects within human populations. He is also interested in understanding such effects in animal populations that live in compromised habitats. He instructs courses in basic science including toxicology and molecular toxicology. He has also instructed an undergraduate philosophy course in environmental ethics. Another major interest area, centers around environmental justice and disparities in exposure. The confluence between chemical effects in human populations, individual susceptibility, and environmental injustice serves to focus our efforts in the areas where they are most needed. Concepts of risk assessment, risk perception, and individual risk and the effects applying risk concepts are also of major interest.

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