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Thank you for joining our community!

In this newsletter you will find information about our professional development opportunities, upcoming & past events, and more.

If you have comments, suggestions, or ideas on what you would like to see in 2022, please send those over to latinxsinsustainability@latinoverde.org.

LIS Professional Development Stipend

Latinxs in Sustainability (LIS) is excited to provide a stipend to be used by members for professional development activities, such as exam fees, conference registration, professional development courses or trainings. The stipend will cover up to 75% of the cost of the activity, with a max of \$200. Requests must be submitted at least 4 weeks in advance. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and funding is limited. For more information or to apply for funding, check out this [form](#) or reach out to us directly.

LIS Inclusive Mentorship

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN INCLUSIVE MENTORSHIP?



Montclair State University
PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies



SIGN UP TO OUR PROGRAM TO BE MATCHED!

When more BIPOC mentors exist, more BIPOC individuals can succeed. LIS believes inclusive mentorship is one pathway to increase Latinx representation in the sustainability field and guide young people into meaningful careers. Inclusive mentorship means matching young people with professionals who have a profound understanding of their challenges because of similar lived experiences. LIS' Inclusive Mentorship matches folks with common lived experiences, which makes them the best source of knowledge for how to overcome barriers and navigate this new and emerging sustainability field.

[To learn more and apply, please visit this short google form.](#)

Upcoming Events



Columbia Climate Conversations on March 31st at 6pm ET for [Brown Faces, Green Spaces: Rethinking Equity in The Outdoors](#), a Q&A panel event with four panelists working on bringing the beauty of nature to diverse communities, in their capacities as activists, academics, CEOs and community leaders.

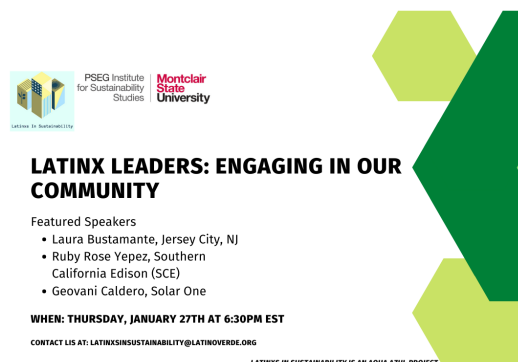
[Register here.](#)

Past Events

LIS kicked off 2022 with its first virtual event of the new year, Latinx Leaders: Engaging in Our Community. This event featured inspiring leaders who are on the ground implementing real solutions to climate change-related problems, including professionals in the nonprofit and government space!

Featured speakers:

- Laura Bustamante, Chief of Staff to Jersey City Council Member
- Ruby Rose Yopez, Southern California Edison (SCE)
- Geovani Caldero, Solar One



At our second virtual event of the year, we engaged in deep and meaningful conversation with sustainability leaders within the blockchain space. The event featured two inspiring leaders who are working on innovative solutions to achieving a more sustainable future by tackling issues of inequity and issues of climate change. Featured speakers

Meet the LIS Team



Cristina Garcia

Cristina (her/her) founded Latinxs in Sustainability in 2017 to help address the lack of Latinx representation in the sustainability/environmental field. She is a native New Yorker and holds a master's degree from the City College of New York in Environmental Engineering. Cristina currently works at the Building Electrification Institute, where she focuses on helping cities develop inclusive labour and workforce strategies that will enable an equitable transition away from fossil fuels. Cristina previously helped develop building electrification strategies and workforce initiatives at the New York Mayor's Office of Sustainability. Cristina believes it is critical to be intentional about programs and policies that will create high quality jobs that are accessible to all, especially historically marginalized and underrepresented groups. In 2020, Cristina received the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Energy Education and Empowerment in Advocacy Award in recognition of her contributions to expanding inclusive opportunities in the sustainability profession.



Carolina (she/her) has been a part of Latinxs in Sustainability since 2021. She is the program manager for the Jersey City Office of Sustainability. In her role, she provides program management and oversight of sustainability policies and initiatives across a variety of departments and sectors. Carolina strongly believes that Latinxs and other marginalized populations have to lead climate conversations because they are the groups who are disproportionately affected by climate change. Prior to her current position, Carolina served as an AmeriCorps VISTA in Jersey City, developing a centralized volunteer program database to help community-based organizations expand their reach. She graduated from the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers University, where she majored in environmental studies.

Abraham Baca



Abe (he/him) joined Latinxs in Sustainability in 2021 after graduating from the University of Michigan with an MBA and an MS in Sustainability through the Erb Institute for Sustainable Business. He is passionate about working in the cleantech startup and venture capital ecosystem particularly, with BIPOC founders and supporting solutions helping Black and Brown communities. He believes that startups and innovative solutions will be essential towards a clean and equitable sustainable future. Abe received a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Irvine, then spent 5 years designing power lines as a transmission engineer. During graduate school, Abe gained experience in

and Powerhouse Ventures. Most recently, he was the Senior Business Development and Growth Associate for the Techstars Sustainability Accelerator and supported the growth of 10 early-stage climate startups during the program.

Sebastian Sarria



Sebastian (he/him) joined Latinxs in Sustainability (LIS) in 2022 after being inspired by LIS to create safe spaces for the Latinx community to come together and share stories under the sustainability umbrella. He became passionate about the sustainability and energy industry after seeing the impact natural disasters have and his family was impacted by hurricanes while living in Florida. A native of Colombia, Sebastian is committed to amplifying the voices of our vulnerable and minority communities. Previously, he was a Clean Energy Coordinator at Climate Action Campaign, where he led the policy organizing to implement Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) in the City of San Diego in order to reach 100% renewable energy by 2035. Soon after, he joined the City of San Diego where he assisted the technical development of the region's first Climate Equity Index, which maps how equitable climate policies are across the city's census tracts. Currently, he is a Program and Policy Manager at San Diego Community Power (SDCP), the organization he helped launch with Climate Action Campaign. He works to pursue the agency's goal of renewable energy while ensuring that policies are done with the community in mind. He holds a Master of Public Policy from the School of Global Policy

University of Central Florida. Sebastian was also awarded the San Diego Business Journal's Next Top 40 Leaders Under 40 in 2021.

Job and Internship Opportunities

For internship, fellowship, and job postings, follow us on [LinkedIn!](#)

