



**Afro-Latinx Líderes**  
**AVANZANDO**  
**FELLOWSHIP**



**Meet Our 2021-2022 Fellows**





## Meet Fellow: **Zimar Batista**

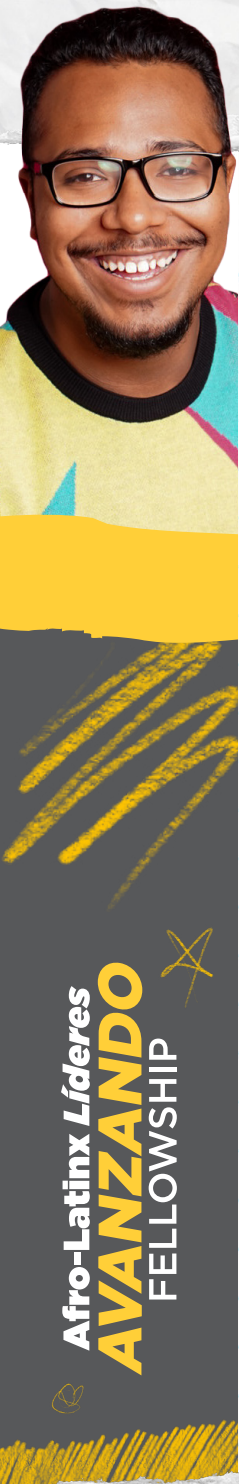
Dominican-American, **Zimar Batista (he/him)** is a program analyst for the U.S Department of State and an incoming leadership development intern at the Partnership For Public Service. Zimar is also a recent Cum Laude college graduate from the American University School of International Service, where he studied economics with a double minor in international studies and Spanish.

Hailing from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and raised in the City of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, he is dedicated to tackling issues of international development, international economics, public policy, sustainability, human rights, inequality, and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean, among others. He also has a varied set of public policy skills in areas such as economics, voting, and criminal justice.

Zimar's ultimate goal is to one day work for the Inter-American Development Bank as a public policy analyst, the International Monetary Fund, or the World Bank. He hopes to make a positive global impact by using his knowledge in economics and international relations to improve society and convey those improvements effectively to the world.

Afro-Latinx Líderes  
**AVANZANDO**  
FELLOWSHIP



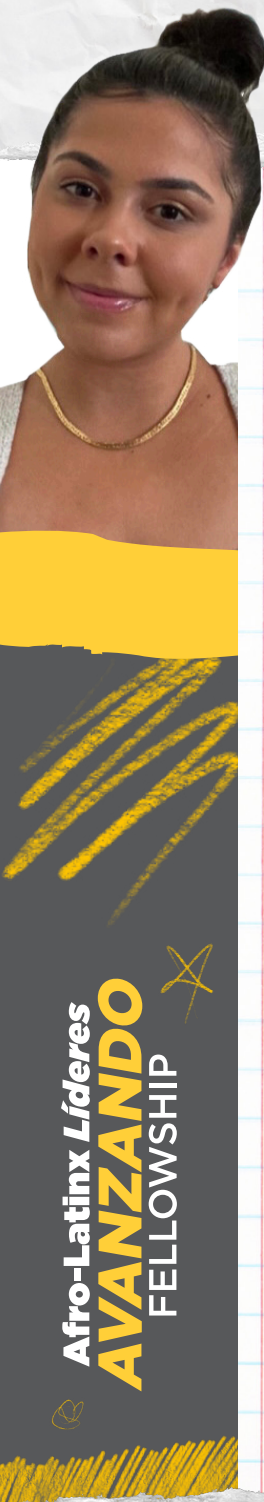


Meet Fellow:

## Gary Enrique Bradley-Lopez

**Gary Enrique Bradley-Lopez (he/him)** is a Blaxican (Mexinegro) Black and Mexican community organizer from the Kansas City Metro Area. Gary has an associates in theater from Kansas City Kansas Community College, a bachelor's degree in communications from The University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a master of professional studies in Organizational Leadership from Fort Hays State University. Gary has been involved in working on campaigns due to volunteering for multiple local races, serving on leadership roles in many political organizations, and running for office in 2019. He has worked in the nonprofit, education, and higher education sectors. Gary currently organizes around health and education, which are also his policy areas of interest, for one of Kansas City's most powerful social justice organizations, the Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity (MORE2). As an organizer, he organized and trained leaders on various leadership roles with a state-wide collective that helped win Medicaid expansion for Missouri, and organized leaders to the finish line to ban out-of-school suspensions for students pre-k through fifth.

Afro-Latinx Líderes  
**AVANZANDO**  
FELLOWSHIP

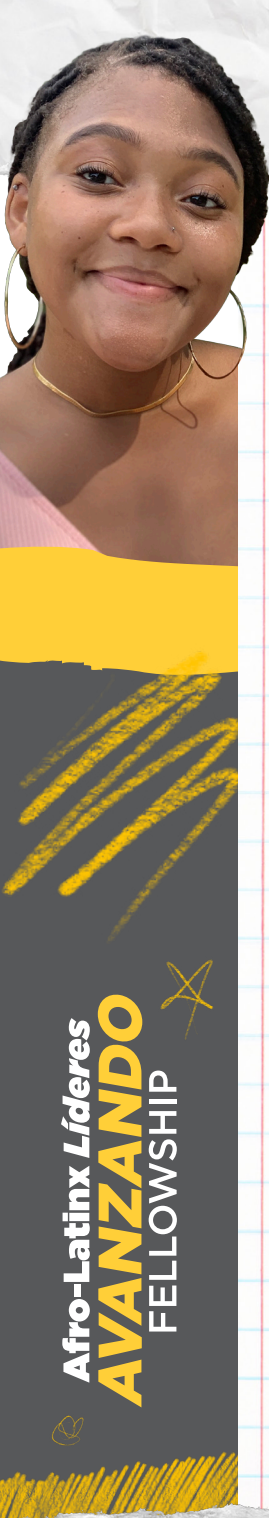


Meet Fellow:

## Julianna Collado

**Julianna Collado (she/they)** is a fourth year at the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy. The Cincinnati native will graduate in May with a degree in public policy and a minor in Latina/o Studies. On campus, she has held leadership roles with La Casa and Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc. Additionally, she has served as a member of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Student Advisory Board as well as the Advancing Public Safety Task Force. After graduating, Julianna would like to continue her work with Somos, the education organization she founded, and pursue a master's degree in education policy.

Afro-Latinx Líderes  
**AVANZANDO**  
FELLOWSHIP



Meet Fellow:

## Josefina M. Ewins

**Josefina M. Ewins (she/her)**, a senior double majoring in political science and philosophy, with a minor in legal studies and a participant of the accelerated-degree master's in Public Administration Program at Rutgers University-Camden, focuses on ensuring an equal and equitable community through policy and activism. While on campus, Josefina is a part of the Institute for Leadership and Action, a student project leader in the Bonner Civic Scholar program, a member of Tri-Alpha Honors Society, a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Society, and a Senator for the College of Arts and Sciences. Her work within these entities focuses on racial justice, mentorship, and activism. In terms of racial justice and advocacy, her projects such as Rutgers Against Racism, an open forum space for students to discuss, digest, and begin to understand the multiple areas in which racism occurs, as well as her Bonner project focusing on transitional racial justice through oral history on the topic of policing and education within Camden, NJ, focus on bettering the RUC and surrounding community. Josefina had been recognized on her campus as one of the Remarkable 31 for being a student focused on the campus community in advancing gender equality in all its forms through scholarship, campus action, community and professional service, teaching, and creative work.

Afro-Latinx Líderes  
**AVANZANDO**  
FELLOWSHIP



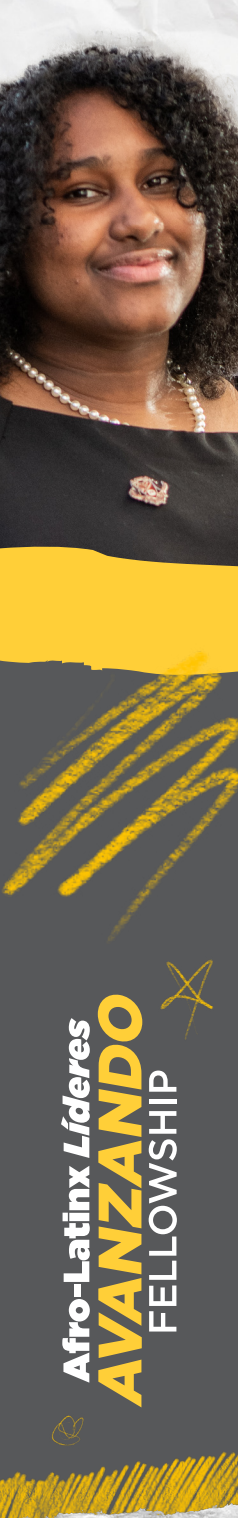


Meet Fellow:

## Jorge “Andy” Flores

**Jorge “Andy” Flores (he/him)**, is a third-year student at the University of Mississippi studying public policy leadership and philosophy. The first person in his family to go to college, Andy wants to dedicate his life to advancing educational opportunity and pursuing social justice. He serves as President of the First-Generation Student Network at the University of Mississippi, as Vice-Chair of the Trent Lott Leadership Institute, and as a traveling competitor on his university’s debate team. An avid member of student government, as well, Andy co-authored legislation in his student body Senate that was awarded SEC Universities Legislation of the Year in 2021. This year, he will serve as his university’s Principal of Inclusion & Cross-Cultural Engagement. In all his on-campus roles, he commits himself to cultivating an inclusive environment and to empowering underrepresented students. Recently, Andy spent his 2021 summer as a Leadership and the American Presidency Scholar at the Ronald Reagan Institute in Washington, DC, where he studied education policy, bipartisan collaboration, and the roles of executive leadership. That summer, Andy also served as a Policy Intern at the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, managing a portfolio of policies in support of climate resilience and environmental conservation. Next summer, Andy will participate in the Delta Scholars Summer Institute hosted by Harvard University and Mississippi State University. A native of Mississippi, he ultimately hopes to affect change in the Deep South; he is especially interested in law and social policies that address poverty, political inequality, and disparities in education.

Afro-Latinx Líderes  
**AVANZANDO**  
FELLOWSHIP



## Meet Fellow: **Emily Gardin**

**Emily Gardin (she/they)** earned her bachelor's in African American Studies & Latin American and Caribbean Studies from Emory University. Since then, she has dedicated her career to fostering and supporting community resilience. They are a full-time associate consultant and development coordinator at Purpose Possible, a sister/sibling of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc., and an Emory Advancement Volunteer Network Chair.

Afro-Latinx Líderes  
**AVANZANDO**  
FELLOWSHIP



## Meet Fellow: **Orestes Marquetti**

**Orestes Marquetti (he/him)** is a senior at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) completing a bachelor's degree in multidisciplinary studies with concentrations in finance and communication studies. The subject of his research is focused on finding the intersections of how stakeholders value their communities, especially in the Digital Age. In his professional career, he has accrued experience with household names such as Disney and Tesla, along with serving locally-based organizations such as Northwest Career College and United Realty Group.

Orestes is known to be both a 'dreamer' and a 'doer.' He considers himself a perennial student and a constant teacher. With the mindset of an entrepreneur and the instincts of a researcher, he understands that the future is innovated in the present while this present is always influenced by the past. He possesses the curiosity of a philosopher and the technical skills of a financial analyst. He is the summation of all his setbacks as much as each of his triumphs. His heritage is first-generation, Afro-Cuban, and his legacy is made in America.

His vision is to empower people of any background to create the world they intend to live in. He seeks to give individuals opportunities to uncover purpose in their own lives by means of organized action. Orestes lives with the conviction that the shift towards a global community of greater empathy can only occur within each individual, for our greatest work of art is how we live our own lives.

Afro-Latinx Líderes  
**AVANZANDO**  
FELLOWSHIP





## Meet Fellow: **Dr. Dolly Martinez**

**Dr. Dolly Martinez** is an international medical graduate from the Dominican Republic continuing her career in health care in the United States. Currently, Dr. Martinez focuses on preventative care medicine at a primary care level. She coordinates care by accessing the individual's economic stability, education, environment, social, and community context which all directly affects a person's quality of health. This path is in alignment with Dr. Martinez's 'North Star', "connecting health and education to people." Dr. Dolly Martinez has worked with Elevink and Prospanica to mentor undergraduate students from Saint Peter's University. She continuously works hard to serve her community by voicing the needs of the people. On a personal level, Dolly pushes to motivate herself and loved ones to their greatest potential. In a casual setting, Dolly likes to try new recipes, share quirky jokes, and her love language is spending quality time with friends and family.

She received her education at the Universidad Central del Este with a degree in Doctor of Medicine. Dr. Dolly Martinez is currently based in New Jersey, where she lives with her spouse.

Afro-Latinx Líderes  
**AVANZANDO**  
FELLOWSHIP



## Meet Fellow: **Nodia C. Mena**

**Nodia C. Mena (she/her)**, is a Ph.D. student in education leadership and cultural foundations at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her area of research is centered around racial and gender equity. Ms. Mena is Garifuna, Black-Indigenous, born in Honduras, Central America. She graduated with a master's degree in languages, literatures, and cultures from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She teaches Cultural Foundations of Education in the School of Education at UNC Greensboro. Ms. Mena is also a racial equity associate and collaborates with the chancellor's fellow for Campus Climate.

Afro-Latinx Líderes  
**AVANZANDO**  
FELLOWSHIP 





Meet Fellow:

## Aisaiah Levon Pellecer

**Aisaiah Levon Pellecer (he/him)**, is a Bard College student from Chicago, IL. He is currently studying economics and architecture. Aisaiah's interest in urban development stems from his experience in Chicago, as he enjoys going to different neighborhoods on the El' and engages with local stops and cultures. He understands the lack of development in different parts of his city, and how divisive economic infrastructure can be for residents of Chicago's South and West sides. His leadership aspirations aim to destigmatize areas of his city and support their communities. He believes that the goal of economics is not a production and release of commodities, but, instead, improves the standard of living for all.

Afro-Latinx Líderes  
**AVANZANDO**  
FELLOWSHIP



Meet Fellow:

## Annette Raveneau

**Annette Raveneau (she/her/ella)**, is a communications officer for The Pew Charitable Trusts where she manages the international marine protection portfolio's communications strategy for the Blue Nature Alliance. She previously directed communications efforts at several national NGOs based in Washington, DC, and has more than a decade of experience as a reporter and producer for broadcast TV.

Annette is fluent in English and Spanish. Her growth mindset propels her to continue to learn by reading books, listening to podcasts, attending lectures, and taking courses and workshops. Annette is an avid runner and cyclist who is a board member of Madison Bikes in Madison, Wisconsin. She has a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate from the University of South Florida and a Certificate in Education Finance from the Edunomics Lab at Georgetown University. She received her master of policy management from Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy and her bachelor of business administration in marketing from Florida International University.

Afro-Latinx Líderes  
**AVANZANDO**  
FELLOWSHIP





Meet Fellow:

## Keyla Michelle Ruiz

**Keyla Michelle Ruiz (she/her)** is a rising senior at The George Washington University, majoring in criminal justice and majoring in psychology. Keyla was born and raised in Chicago, IL. She helped co-start two organizations at her university, ALIANZA and the Criminal Justice Student Association. She is also the President of Casa Blanca and Director of Cultural Affairs for OLAS. Both organizations are Latinx organizations that cater to minority students, to provide a sense of home away from home. She is also interested in education policy and criminal justice reform.

Afro-Latinx Líderes  
**AVANZANDO**  
FELLOWSHIP