

# BLACK & LATINX SUMMIT 2024

FEBRUARY 24, 2024 | 9AM - 6PM  
I-HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER



**STANDING OUR GROUND.**

**BRUCE D. NESBITT**  
**AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER**  
**LA CASA CULTURAL LATINA**

---

# BLACK & LATINX SUMMIT

---

## *Land Acknowledgement*

We would like to recognize and acknowledging that we are on the lands of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands were the traditional territory of these Native Nations prior to their forced removal; these lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

As a land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution for the past 150 years. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgement and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward for the next 150 years.

## *Labor Acknowledgment*

*Adopted from the work of Dr. TJ Stewart*

We must acknowledge that much of what we know of this country today, including its culture, economic growth, and development throughout history and across time, has been made possible by the labor of enslaved Africans and our ascendants who suffered the horror of the transatlantic trafficking of our people, chattel slavery, and Jim Crow. We are indebted to their labor and their sacrifice, and we must acknowledge the tremors of that violence throughout the generations and the resulting impact that can still be felt and witnessed today.

# RESISTANCE IN RESILIENCE: INTERTWINING OUR ROOTS, STANDING OUR GROUND.

Resistance, a celebration of the power we collectively hold in our communities and globally through our intersectional identities that have generationally embodied the tenacity of our cultures, histories, and movements to empower our journey towards liberation. We resist through holding on to our rich traditions, language, and knowledge, to dismantle the ideologies that force us to become more palatable for others.

Resilience, the belief fueled by the passing of generational knowledge & power that when we take up, create, and change spaces, we are actively maintaining the legacies of those who have come before us. Resiliency acknowledges the failures and exclusions embedded in societal structures which have equipped us to strive for excellence and pave the way for future generations. Resiliency centers our authenticity, strength, urges us to never settle, and creates the space for dreams and creativity to thrive.

Intertwining our Roots strengthens our unbreakable shared histories, legacies, and cultures that are planted within nature and forever connected with our ancestral lands. A reminder that we are all but monolithic, it is the way we are intertwined that makes us who we are and that our histories are bridged together through supporting and inspiring the movements that have led to our growth and limitless potential.

Standing our Ground, the determination to unapologetically demand for what we deserve through our activism, solidarity, service, and our unbreakable strength in numbers. A reminder of the historical dedication of our communities to protect each other, our spaces, and our peace to unapologetically be who we are. We speak up, we sit-in, we stand our ground.

**We will continue to be here.**

FEBRUARY 24, 2024

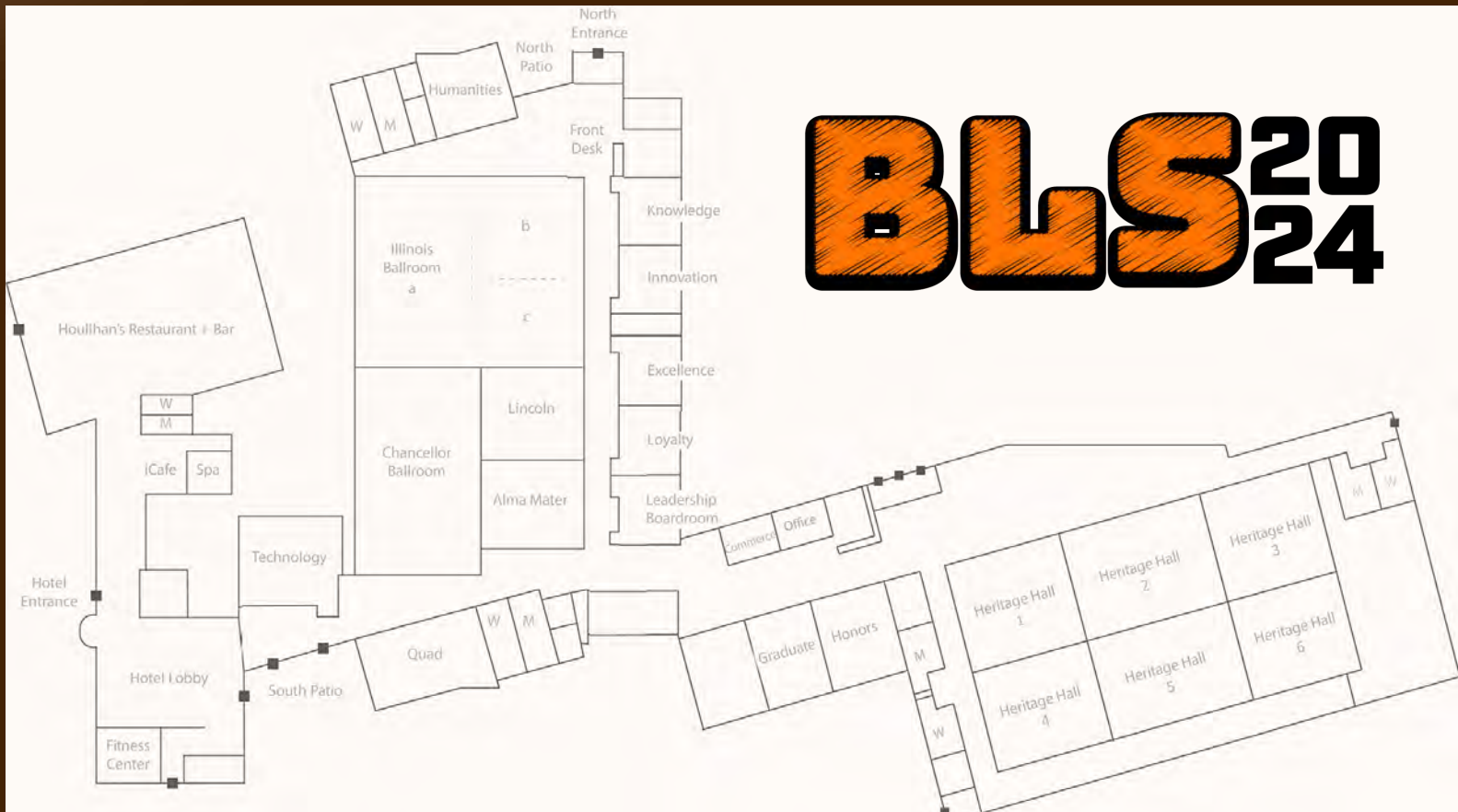
ABOUT THE THEME

BLACK AND LATINX SUMMIT

---

# I-HOTEL MAP

---



We know our inaction and inertia  
will be the inheritance of the next generation  
Our blunders become their burdens  
But one thing is certain:  
If we merge mercy with might,  
and might with right,  
then love becomes our legacy  
and change our children's birthright  
So let us leave behind a country  
better than the one we were left with

**Amanda Gorman**  
*Call Us What We Carry*





# BLACK & LATINX SUMMIT 2024

9:00 - 10:00 AM Breakfast & Check-In

---

10:00-10:20 AM Opening Remarks

---

10:20-11:20 AM Activist Panel

---

11:30-12:20 PM Educational Workshops  
*Session One*

---

12:25-1:00 PM Poster Presentations &  
Resource Tables

---

1:00-2:00 PM Lunch & Performances  
*The Kat Walk & Ballet Folklorico Mitotiani*

---

2:00-2:50 PM Educational Workshops  
*Session Two*

---

3:00-4:00 PM Keynote Address  
*Charlene A. Carruthers*

---

4:00-4:30 PM Closing Remarks

---

4:30-6:00 PM Black & Latinx Social  
*Performances by:  
The Prancing Pearls & Grupo Illini*

---

FEBRUARY 24, 2024

# TODAY'S SCHEDULE

BLACK AND LATINX SUMMIT



# BLACK & LATINX SUMMIT 2024

# ACTIVISM AT ILLINOIS

## 10:20 AM | ILLINOIS BALLROOM



**Mary Carmen Moreno** is the proud daughter of Mexican immigrant parents, who was born and raised in Chicago's southwest community of La Villita, or Little Village. For the past 20 years, she has served students and families through her work as a teacher, school administrator and instructional leader for biliteracy development at Chicago Public Schools. This and her prior work on community-and arts-centered initiatives through the National Museum of Mexican Art, and el Instituto del Progreso Latino, has influenced her work and investments as a co-owner of Cafe Jumping Bean, a small local coffee shop serving the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago.

She is a proud mother to a teenage son and a bilingual cat named Max, an ardent supporter of the arts, and global conservation programs. Mary Carmen is a graduate of UIUC, as well as UIC, where she earned her first Master's degree. Her selection as a National Teacher Fellow has also allowed her to complete coursework at Yale University.



**Dr. Gabriel Alejandro Cortez** is the director of the ENLACE Leadership Institute Master's Program in Higher Education and an Associate Professor in the Department of Literacy, Leadership & Development at Northeastern Illinois University. His love for education and empowerment is born out of his mother's cariño and his father's corajes. He earned his doctoral degree in Educational Policy Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2008. The focus of his research is on the history of Latine grassroots activism in public school policy and intercultural relations in Chicago. Born and raised by Mexican immigrants in the West Town neighborhood of Chicago, Gabriel is an active supporter of educational initiatives that help to empower disenfranchised communities with equitable distribution of resources, innovative leadership that responds to the needs of a healthy community, and social justice-based democratic principles. With 14 years of experience in preparing future k-12 principals and higher education leaders, he has become an expert on urban/suburban education and its relation to local communities. This includes understanding the phenomena of race, class, gender, cultural identity, local socio-political history, & globalization and their influence on accessibility to educational resources.



**Project 500** | The Special Educational Opportunities Program, Project 500, was the University of Illinois' 1968 initiative to admit 500 "poor and disadvantaged" students in response to national trends and activism following Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. This led to 565 Black and Latinx students being admitted. However, upon arrival, they faced housing issues and inadequate support, prompting a peaceful protest on Sept. 8, 1968. After unsuccessful conversations with the Dean of Students, the protest continued, resulting in violent police force, with 244 Black protestors arrested.

Post-protest, Black students demanded the University fulfill financial aid promises for Project 500, drop charges from the Union incident, and establish a Black cultural center and a Black studies department. On February 18, 1969, the UC Senate Council recommended a temporary center supervised by Clarence Shelley, Director of the Special Education Opportunities Program. In Fall 1969, the Afro-American Cultural Program opened with grassroots orientation, community input, and two major goals: fostering pride and dignity in Black students based on their cultural heritage, and creating a safe space for individual and collective development, as well as educating the campus about Black contributions.

learn more



*Voices of Illinois  
Project 500  
University Library*



*A Home of Their Own  
BNAACC*

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

## Alma Mater Room

**In the Pursuit of a Life Free of Violence: Unpacking the Relationship between Intimate Partner Violence, Social and Linguistic Isolation, and Multifamily Dwellings among Mixtec Immigrants from Oaxaca Living in Central California**  
Erika

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a public health issue that disproportionately affects women in the U.S. and around the world. Indigenous immigrant women such as the Mixtec are at higher risk than their White non-Hispanic counterparts in part due to the high levels of social and linguistic isolation. Knowledge about the role that social and linguistic isolation and multifamily dwelling occupancy has on the conceptualization of IPV, coping strategies, and help seeking behaviors of indigenous immigrant enclaves among Mixtec women is still emerging. We should work towards advancing theory and evidence on how mechanisms of resistance and resilience that already exist within indigenous immigrant communities can be leveraged to promote healing.

**Session Features; Violence and Resistance among Indigenous Immigrant Women**  
**Content Warnings: Intimate Partner Violence**

**Addressing Disparities: An Exploration of Breast Cancer and Health Inequities**  
Mariah Bates

Our proposed poster presentation, "Addressing Disparities: A Visual Exploration of Breast Cancer and Health Inequities," seeks to shed light on breast cancer, with a specific focus on the existing health disparities that impact diverse populations. Our presentation aims to create awareness, foster understanding, and prompt conversations about the importance of addressing these disparities in breast cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. The research will be done via multiple literature reviews and provide a comprehensive summary of all the information found to highlight those facing barriers, especially Black and Latinx female populations.

## CONNECT WITH OUR CAMPUS PARTNERS

**Department of African American Studies**  
**Department of Latina/Latino Studies**  
**Gender & Sexuality Resource Center**  
**Office of Minority Student Affairs**  
**Salaam Middle East & North Africa**  
**(MENA) Cultural Center**  
**Women's Resources Center**

**“Embrace what makes you unique, even if it makes others uncomfortable. I didn't have to become perfect because I've learned throughout my journey that perfection is the enemy of greatness.”**  
— Janelle Monae

# ABOUT THE KEYNOTE

## *Charlene A. Carruthers*

**Charlene A. Carruthers (she/her)** is a writer, filmmaker, community organizer, and Black Studies PhD Candidate at Northwestern University. A practitioner of telling more complete stories, her work interrogates historical conjunctures of Black freedom-making post-emancipation and decolonial revolution, Black governance, and Black feminist abolitionist geographies. She is a 2020 Marguerite Casey Presidential Freedom Scholar and Mellon Interdisciplinary Cluster Fellow in Gender and Sexuality Studies. Her work spans more than 15 years of community organizing across racial, gender and economic justice movements. Charlene wrote and directed *The Funnel*, a short film, which received the Queer Black Voices Award at the 35th Annual aGLIFF Prism Film Festival.

As the founding national director of BYP100 (Black Youth Project 100), she worked alongside hundreds of young Black activists to build a member-led organization dedicated to creating justice and freedom for all Black people. Her work has been covered in several publications including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Chicago Reader*, *The Nation*, *Ebony* and *Essence* Magazines. She has appeared on CNN, *Democracy Now!*, BBC and MSNBC. The Chicago native has also written for *theRoot.com*, *CRISIS Magazine*, *Teen Vogue*, *Truthout*, *Colorlines* and the *Boston Review*. She is recognized as one of the top 10 most influential African Americans by *The Root* 100, one of *Ebony* Magazine's "Woke 100," an Emerging Power Player in *Chicago Magazine* and is the 2017 recipient of the YWCA's Dr. Dorothy I. Height Award.

A believer in telling more complete stories about the Black Radical Tradition, Charlene is a highly sought after speaker at various institutions including Wellesley College, Shaw University, Princeton University, Northwestern University and her alma mater Illinois Wesleyan University. She is author of the bestselling book, *Unapologetic: A Black, Queer and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements*.







**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

*Charlene A. Carruthers*

**3 PM | ILLINOIS BALLROOM**

# EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS *Session One*

## **Reflecting on Historical Trauma and Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma and Resilience within our Families**

*Technology Room*

**Anisa Codamon (she/her) PhD Student, Dept of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**

This program will introduce students and attendees to the concept of historical trauma studied in public health, as well as the concept of the intergenerational transmission of trauma and resilience studied in family science. Attendees will then have the opportunity to reflect individually on how historical trauma and intergenerational transmission of trauma and resilience show up in their families. After, attendees will have the opportunity to share in small groups about that reflection process, minimizing the pressure of sharing particular traumas and, rather, focusing on how the process of reflecting on these themes of family histories and resilience empower ourselves and our families. The small group sharing also serves to foster connections between attendees to develop our solidarity with one another.

**Content Warnings: Historical trauma, intergenerational transmission of trauma**

## **Bridging Black and Latinx Students to Policy**

*Knowledge Room*

**Drake Materre & Angelique Evans Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation**

This Bridging Black and Latinx Students to Policy workshop will introduce attendees to the Illini Science Policy Program (ISPP) and the importance of connecting Black and Latinx students to the realm of policy. This workshop will consist of a panel discussion with ISPP Director and Champaign City Council Member, Evangeline Pianfetti and ISPP fellows Drake Materre and Angelique Evans to discuss their work with the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation and the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation, respectively. Attendees will learn about the overall ISPP program, the Black and Latino Illinois Legislative Caucus Foundations, and the importance of changing the narrative on how policy is informed: by centering the community and its needs.

## **Mañana Será Bonito**

*Lincoln Room*

**Luis Fernando Paniagua (he/him) College Student Affairs Graduate Program, Eastern Illinois University**

The primary objective of this interactive presentation is to facilitate student engagement through the sharing of personal stories that highlight the challenges they have encountered on their higher education journey, stemming from external factors in their lives. The overarching aim is to promote mutual understanding among students and foster a discussion surrounding the identification of these topics as potential indicators of imposter syndrome, a phenomenon commonly experienced by students of color during their time in higher education. Regrettably, many students remain unaware of this phenomenon and lack knowledge about effective strategies to address and alleviate these feelings. Consequently, the presentation will also emphasize that while complete eradication of imposter syndrome may be unattainable, we can explore methods to diminish its impact and allow students to feel more secure in themselves in getting support to remain at their institution. And by the end despite these feelings I want the students to know that Mañana Será Bonito (Tomorrow will be beautiful) because hard times will happen it's a part of life but we are resilient and we will strive to achieve our dreams.

**Session Features: first-generation students & students of color navigating at PWIs**

**Content Warnings: imposter syndrome, family expectations, hardships, feelings of isolation**

***"It began to rain, and the students moved inside the Union. At 11 p.m., Dean of Students Stanton Millet, along with various other administrators from University Housing, met with leaders from the Black Student Association in the BSA's office located on the second floor of the Union. Their conversation was unproductive, and no change in University Housing's plans was forthcoming.***

***Millet went downstairs to communicate with the protestors. "Which students are dissatisfied?" Millet asked, according to the Student Senate report.***

**"If one student is shortchanged, we all are, you will have to deal with us all,"  
-the crowd responded**

**Excerpted from *Looking back: Project 500 in retrospect, The Daily Illini***



# EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

# Session One

Supporting Our Community Through STRIVE  
Innovation Room

Kara Lawrence (she/her/hers) & Minsun Kim (she/her/hers), Women's Resources Center, University of Illinois

An interactive presentation that provides basic techniques for supporting those who have experienced trauma. Knowing how to respond can seem daunting, but we utilize the acronym STRIVE as an easy way to help attendees remember the best ways to support. There will be hands-on learning opportunities throughout the workshop. Participants will walk away with a deeper understanding of how trauma impacts marginalized communities and trauma-informed techniques to support and build community.

*Session Features: Trauma in Communities of Color  
Content Warnings: Sexual violence*

No One is Free Until Everyone Is Free: A Conversation About Building Power and Collective Liberation  
Quad Room

Eddy Almonord (she/they) Dreamers of Today, UIUC Alumni, Organizer

Program goal is for attendees to takeaway an understanding of the ways that liberation movements have been historically tied together, and what that means for movement building today. There will be a presentation and discussion activities.

*Session Features: Immigrants, undocumented students, black students, students part of marginalized groups fighting for justice*

## NOTES



# EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS *Session Two*

## **Empowerment Through Self-Care: Nurturing Mental Health for Black and Latinx Students**

*Technology Room*

*Sankofa Black Student Outreach Team and Latinx Student Outreach Team Counseling Center*

The aims of this workshop are to provide introductory information on the following topics: 1) Identifying the signs/symptoms of stress, 2) Exploring coping strategies, 3) Discussing potential barriers to self-care, and 3) Presenting Counseling Center resources/services. The format of this workshop will be a presentation/discussion, with the presenters sharing resources, as well as actively encouraging participation from the attendees. Potential takeaways from this workshop are: being able to recognize the signs/symptoms of distress; identifying at least one new method/strategy for self-care; normalize feeling stressed or overwhelmed; learning to give oneself grace; and to know how to access services at the Counseling Center.

***Session Features: This workshop will feature essential information for all Black and Latinx Summit participants.***

***Content Warnings: Self-harming, racism, emotional distress, trauma, suicide may be mentioned in our presentation.***

## **Empowering Lives & Breaking Generational Ties**

*Innovation Room*

*Mary Long & Solomon Siskind, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging*

Topics discussed are Cultural Empowerment - Finding strength and resilience in cultural identities for communities that have experienced historical and systemic traumas. Part 1: Discussion - Shared experience of Black & Latinx communities. Comparative analysis (venn diagram) of each cultures to help students celebrate the differences in what makes each culture unique while identifying the shared link that ties the two communities together. Have students share personal stories about overcoming challenges. Discussion: Significance of cultural identity & cultural empowerment. Discuss how these concepts shape our worldview and understand the full impacts of how being connected with your culture contributes to positive self-esteem and self worth.

***Session Features: Black and Latinx community***

# NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS *Session Two*

## **Creating Communities of Support for Black & Latinx Undocumented Students** *Knowledge Room*

**Yadira Alonzo, Mariana Ortega, Emilia Mancero, Britney Origel**  
*Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*

The experiences of undocumented college students are often invisible within higher education. For Black and Latinx undocumented students, issues created by their status are compounded by experiences of racism, xenophobia and classism. Few students qualify for deferred status such as DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and increasing numbers of students are fully undocumented without access to federal financial aid or work permits. Despite these challenges, Black and Latinx undocumented college students are finding strategies to survive and thrive. In this session, participants will hear from Black and Latinx undocumented students and learn about strategies to increase access and support for undocumented students, and how to make their communities undocu-friendly.

**Session Features: This session is centered on the experiences of Black and Latinx undocumented college students and alumni.**  
**Content Warnings :Racism, Xenophobia, Loss**

## **Exercising memory, imagining futurities: Black and Latinx stories of hope and care** *Quad Room*

**MAGDALENA NOVOA ECHAUREN**  
*Assistant Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois*

Topics discussed are Cultural Empowerment - Finding strength and resilience in cultural identities for comThis collaborative storytelling workshop aims to reflect about how the past shapes our present and can constitute a tool to envision just futures of care and hope. Through critical and creative storytelling, we will work to disrupt and dismantle dominant narratives that narrowly circumscribe the futures of Black and Latinx groups and imagine our future selves from a place of awareness, power, care, and flourishing.

## **Embodying Empathy: Cultivating Consent Culture for Solidarity within Black and Latinx Communities** *Lincoln Room*

**Miranda Estrada (she/her/ella)**  
*Women's Resource Center, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

Understanding and practicing consent is vital for fostering empathy, building solidarity, and promoting healthy relationships within our communities. This workshop seeks to empower participants by providing them with a deeper understanding of consent, emphasizing its importance in personal relationships and community building. Participants will engage in interactive activities that encourage reflecting on personal experiences, insights, and perspectives related to consent within the Black and Latinx communities. Throughout the workshop, participants will have opportunities for personal reflection on how the concepts of empathy, consent, and solidarity apply to their individual lives and community roles. Practical strategies for applying these concepts will be discussed and shared.

**Session Features: Students of color navigating relationships through consent, Building community in Black and Latinx spaces through consent, Empowerment through consent**  
**Content Warnings: Sexual misconduct/Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence**

**“I’ve put up with too much, too long, and now I’m just too intelligent, too powerful, too beautiful, too sure of who I am finally to deserve anything less.**

**Sandra Cisneros**

---

# BLACK & LATINX SUMMIT

---

*Stay Connected!*

**Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center  
1212 W. Nevada Street**

**Visit: [bnaacc.illinois.edu](http://bnaacc.illinois.edu) | Follow Us: @bnaacc\_illinois  
Black & Latinx Summit**

**Visit: [ssib.illinois.edu/BlackandLatinxSummit](http://ssib.illinois.edu/BlackandLatinxSummit)  
Contact Us: [blackandlatinxsummit@illinois.edu](mailto:blackandlatinxsummit@illinois.edu)  
Follow Us: @blacklatinxsummit\_**

**La Casa Cultural Latina  
1203 W. Nevada Street**

**Visit: [lacasa.illinois.edu](http://lacasa.illinois.edu) | Follow Us: @lacasaillinois**

*Stay Engaged!*

**Upcoming Black & Latinx Summit Workshops**

**Thursday, March 28 | 4–5 PM**

**Thursday, April 18 | 4–5 PM**

*Save the Dates!*

**Latinx Congratulatory**

**Friday, May 10 | 7 PM**

**State Farm Center**

**Black Congratulatory**

**Saturday, May 11 | 7 PM**

**Activities and Recreation Center**

**Black & Latinx Summit 2025**

**Saturday, February 22**

**I-Hotel & Conference Center**

# Platinum

Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning

Office of Minority Student Affairs

Gies College of Business

Access and Multicultural Engagement

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES)

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Access and Achievement Program

Humanities Research Institute

# Silver

Gender and Sexuality Resource Center

Gies College of Business – Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Latina/Latino Studies

University Housing & Residential Life

# Bronze

Division of General Studies

Experience Champaign–Urbana

McKinley Health Center

Northwestern Mutual

Women's Resources Center

FEBRUARY 24, 2024

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

**BLACK AND LATINX SUMMIT**

# BLACK & LATINX SUMMIT 2024

## Acknowledgements & Appreciation

### CO-CHAIRS

Jonathan Beaton, 2024 & Dejah Cobbs, 2024

### LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Stephany Barrios-Hernandez, 2025; Kendall Clayton, 2026;  
Yousra Mahmoud, 2026; Jax Vargas 2025

### STUDENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Oscar Benavides, Niah Caldwell, Camila Castro Brizuela, Ale Covarrubias,  
Courtney Dillon, Manny Emmanuel Okeke, Sarah Garcia, Daniela Guzman, Sam Harris,  
Norman Hernandez, Aliya Jackson, Khayin Maheia, Giselle Munoz, Amy Palma

**Special thank our dedicated volunteers, and our generous  
sponsors for their invaluable contributions in ensuring the  
success of this year's summit.**

### PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center

Jazmyne Kellogg, Director

Shawn Hampton, Interim Associate Director

Cherisse Smith, Assistant Director

Valeri Nesbitt-Howard, Office Manager

La Casa Cultural Latina

Mariana Ortega, Director

Stephanie Cardoza-Cruz, Assistant Director

Julio Velasco, Assistant Director

Jenny Humphrey, Office Support Associate