



## COMMUNITY FORUM “BUILDING OUR FUTURE LEADERS” PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES



**OMAR AQUINO**  
**State Senator**  
**IL 2<sup>nd</sup> District**

Born and raised on the Northwest Side of Chicago; B.A. in Criminal Justice and Sociology, Loyola University Chicago; Bilingual Case Manager at Central West Case Management Unit at the Jane Addams School of Social Work; Legislative Assistant in the Illinois House of Representatives; Outreach Coordinator for Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth; Devoted to improving education, aging services and human services.

Senate Committee assignments: Appropriations I (Vice-Chairperson); Appropriations II; Committee of the Whole; Education; Government Accountability/Pensions (Chairperson); Higher Education; Licensed Activities; Subcommittee on Capital (AP); Subcommittee on Charter Schools.



**DELIA RAMIREZ**  
**State Representative**  
**IL 4<sup>th</sup> District**

Delia Ramirez is an accomplished social service director, community leader and coalition builder who has dedicated much of her life and career to the Humboldt Park and Logan Square communities.

An Emerging Fellow of The Chicago Community in 2013, Delia has been a leader in neighborhood and city-wide coalitions for balanced neighborhood development, an elected school board, the Fight for 15, Automatic Voter Registration, a recipient in 2007 of 35 under 35 leadership award and La Raza Community Leader award in 2013- just to name a few of her accomplishments.

She has served as the board president of Logan Square Neighborhood Association, District Advisory Chair of the 14th District Police Department, Co-founder of the Chicago Justice for our Neighbors Free Immigration Clinic and currently the President of LUCHA, a community development and affordable housing organization in the district.

Up until December 2017, Delia served as Deputy Director of the Community Renewal Society, Chicago’s oldest faith-based social justice organization, where she oversaw the development, organizing and policy units.



**DR. ROSITA LOPEZ**

**Professor, Northern Illinois University in DeKalb**

Dr. Lopez is a gifted inspirational lecturer of international demand as keynote speaker in forums ranging from educational reform to corporate and public governance. Her presentations are lively, her illustrations practical, and her messages motivating and inspirational.

Dr. Lopez is a proud educator who equally excels as an orator, as she does in the boardroom. She has served on the Casa Central Board for over 18 years, 5 of them as Chairperson. She also serves as Chairperson of the Northeastern University El Centro Board in Chicago for over 12 years.

In addition to serving as professor of Educational Leadership in the College of Education at Northern Illinois University (NIU), Dr. Lopez was appointed to the President's Commission on the Status of Women and the President's Commission on the Status of Minorities.

Rosita is also an associate with Souder-Betances & Associates, an innovative, think-tank diversity development and speaker's organization based in Chicago, where she conducts trainings, seminars, and studies in association with a professional team of experts on educational change. Her clients range from non-profit educational institutions, to state government, federal agencies, and corporate conglomerates.



**MARTÍN MONTES**

**Vice President Large Customer Services (LCS)**

**ComEd**

Martín oversees ComEd's day-to-day strategic outreach to, and interactions with, over 5,000 large customers covering 11,000 square miles across northern Illinois. He leads a department of approximately 80 team members, which includes the strategic and business operations for ComEd's Governmental Affairs department.

Martín has been an active member of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois (HLAI) since the mid-1990s and served in different leadership and committee roles. He is a 20-plus-year member of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), where he served as an HNBA Regional President and on the HNBA's Corporate Advisory Board.

Martín speaks regularly on the topics of regulatory strategy, legal department management, anti-corruption, and diversity in the legal field. Martín has received several awards throughout his career for his work and dedication to the legal field and community at large.



**MONSE MORENO**  
**Agency Marketing Manager**  
**Facebook**

Monse is a media strategy and marketing expert who serves as the North America agency marketing manager for Facebook's Global Business Marketing organization across the Facebook family of apps and services. In her current role, Monse leads one of Facebook's largest advocacy program, Agency Women's Leadership Day, along with product education marketing programs in North America. In her tenure at Facebook, her remit has also included overseeing multicultural audience marketing.

Before to Facebook, Monse worked in B2B multicultural marketing and sales development at Pandora. Prior to Pandora, she launched her career in multicultural media at Tapestry, part of Starcom, where she fast tracked to success on the Procter & Gamble account as a strategist and media buyer and also worked on the Samsung, Kellogg's and Darden businesses.

Monse is also an active youth mentor and speaker for the Fig Factor Foundation, which focuses on young Latina leaders. She has long volunteered and fundraised for various organizations; the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Foundation, High Jump, Spark, and My Block My Hood My City and continues to share her passion for work she loves, the importance of work ethic and higher education to underrepresented minorities.



**ALFONSO BARRERA**  
**Founder**  
**HispanicPro**

Alfonso Barrera is the founder of HispanicPro - the Hispanic Professional Network. HispanicPro is the largest network of Latino professionals in the state of Illinois and Wisconsin. By becoming the largest producer of professional development events for minorities in Illinois, HispanicPro has become a valuable resource for the Latin business community and corporations seeking to hire a multicultural workforce in Illinois and Wisconsin.

Alfonso is a highly visible advocate for Latino entrepreneurship, corporate Diversity & Inclusion and a proud supporter of some of Chicago's most prominent philanthropic organizations.

He has been recognized throughout the years with awards for numerous leadership and volunteerism achievements. Alfonso is presently Vice Chair of Diversity serving on the Executive Board of SCORE Chicago and Chair Emeritus of the National Latino Education Institute (NLEI) Emerging Leaders Board.