



August 30, 2021

Local Government Hispanic Network Honors Three with Awards at Conference Hosted by Adams County

The Local Government Hispanic Network (LGHN) is presenting its Joel D. Valdez Legacy Award and Emerging Leaders Awards to three individuals at its conference hosted by Adams County at the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center Sept. 9-10.

Frances A. Gonzalez, the San Antonio, Texas, Area Program Officer for Asset Funders Network, will receive the Joel D. Valdez Legacy Award, which is given to recognize years of service in local government to a person who has supported the International Hispanic Network or the professional growth of Hispanics in local government.

The Emerging Leaders Awards recognize individuals in local government who demonstrate professional excellence and leadership skills in their organization and their community. This year's recipients are Andrea Alicoate, Diversity & Special Projects Manager for the City of Mesa, Arizona, and Marcus Steele, Finance Manager, Arts & Culture Department, City of Mesa, Arizona.

“As President of LGHN, it’s my honor to recognize these outstanding individuals for their hard work and passion for what they do,” said Adams County Manager Raymond H. Gonzales. “The City of Mesa is lucky to have such dedicated and creative employees who have done so much to advance the cause of LGHN in the past few years.”

The recipient of the Joel D. Valdez Legacy Award must make a lasting impact on her community and profession. Before her current position at Asset Funders Network, Gonzalez served as Deputy and Interim Chief of Staff for the Honorable Julián Castro, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C. Prior to that, Gonzalez served as Assistant to the Mayor for Policy, when Castro was Mayor of San Antonio, where she led key policy projects such as the Mayor’s Fitness Council, supported the implementation of SA2020, led the Mayor’s Eastside transformation initiatives, and was lead staff for water and transportation issues.

LGHN’s goal for the Emerging Leaders Award is to identify and support professionals who can rise to leadership positions in local government and have demonstrated interest in improving minority and/or disadvantaged communities. In her role with the City of Mesa, Andrea Alicoate is responsible for the citywide coordination of internal and external inclusion efforts and specializes in project management and the administration of public programs. Also, with the City of Mesa, Marcus Steele led the effort of building and developing the Mesa Hispanic Network, a team of strong, passionate, and dedicated Hispanic leaders within the city.

For more information on these winners and awards, LGHN, and this year’s conference, please visit lghn.org.