

**NEW YORK EDUCATORS:**

# **Mobilizing Our Knowledge for Current and Aspiring Undocumented Educators**



**2023 CONFERENCE**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19TH  
9:30 AM-4:30 PM

CCNY CENTER FOR WORKER EDUCATION

# AGENDA

WEDNESDAY APRIL 19, 2023

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Breakfast and Registration
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks

## Speakers

### **Sara P. Álvarez**

Interim Co-Principal Investigator, CUNY-IIE, and Assistant Professor of English, Queens College

### **Nancy Stern**

Co-Principal Investigator, CUNY-IIE and Associate Professor of Bilingual Education and TESOL Programs, The City College of New York

### **Juan Carlos Mercado**

Dean of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies, CCNY Center for Worker Education

### **Tatyana Kleyn**

Principal Investigator, CUNY-IIE and Professor of Bilingual Education & TESOL Programs, The City College of New York

### **Ross Garmil**

Supervisor of Educational Programs, Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) at NYSED

### **Carlos Pérez Valle**

Project Researcher, CUNY-IIE

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM	Setting The Context: The Challenges, Lived Experiences Of, and Need For Immigrant Educators
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## Info

This panel will describe the experiences and challenges facing immigrant, particularly undocumented, students in the field of education. The panel will provide a policy landscape impacting current and aspiring undocumented educators in New York State. Panelists will speak to the importance of providing equitable and quality education to all students.

## Speakers

### **Carlos Pérez Valle**

Project Researcher, CUNY-IIE

### **Guadalupe Ambrosio**

Associate Investigator, CUNY-IIE

**Isamar Jiménez-Vázquez**  
Project Researcher, CUNY-IIE

**Laura Pamplona**  
Project Researcher, CUNY-IIE

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Break
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	<b>Opening Pathways For Undocumented Educators: Building New and Rethinking Old Practices</b>

**Info** This panel will present existing programs and practices carried out by higher education institutions and government agencies to address the challenges immigrant and undocumented educators face. Panelists will describe the experiences immigrant educators navigate to access career opportunities. The panel will also entail a discussion on recommendations that education stakeholders could implement to open up and improve pathways for immigrant educators.

**Moderator** **Guadalupe Ambrosio**  
Associate Investigator, CUNY-IIE

**Speakers** **Ashleigh Thompson**  
University Dean for Education, CUNY

**Jesus Pérez**  
Immigrant Student Success Office Director, Brooklyn College

**Charlene Clarke**  
Executive Director, Multilingual & Immigrant Student Supports, NYC Department of Education

**Sergio León Hidalgo**  
Student and aspiring educator, Brooklyn College

**Xin Yi Li**  
Student and Immigrant Ambassador, Brooklyn College

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	<b>Keynote Presentation</b>
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**Introducing keynote speaker** **Farah Said**  
Project Researcher, CUNY-IIE

**Keynote Speaker** **Areli Morales**  
CUNY Brooklyn College graduate and author of *Areli is a Dreamer*

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	<b>Lunch</b>
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2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Simultaneous Workshops
<b>Workshop 1</b>	<b>Supporting Undocumented Students in Higher Education (<i>Open to faculty and administrators</i>)</b>
<p><b>Location</b> Room 7-52 &amp; 7-53</p> <p><b>Info</b> In this professional development workshop, higher education administrators and faculty will come together, learn, and engage with UndocuEdu’s rubric to evaluate the undocu-friendliness of their education programs and brainstorm how to engage and champion immigrant students.</p> <p><b>Facilitators</b> <b>Isamar Jiménez-Vázquez</b> Project Researcher, CUNY-IIE</p> <p><b>Laura Pamplona</b> Project Researcher, CUNY-IIE</p>	
<b>Workshop 2</b>	<b>Leading the Way: Introduction to Self-advocacy as Undocumented Education Majors (<i>A closed space for directly-impacted folks</i>)</b>
<p><b>Location</b> Room 7-49</p> <p><b>info</b> Participants will learn how to use UndocuEdu’s Aspiring UndocuEducators’ Guide to Self-Advocacy to understand the criteria they should take into account when selecting an education program. They will also get familiar with the checklist and questions to ask a potential education program and/or other higher education program.</p> <p><b>Facilitators</b> <b>Farah Said</b>, Project Researcher, CUNY-IIE</p> <p><b>Roxana Herrera</b>, Project Researcher, CUNY-IIE</p>	
<b>Workshop 3</b>	<b>Student to Student: Working and Supporting Immigrant Youth in High Schools and Youth-serving Organizations (<i>Open to all</i>)</b>
<p><b>Location</b> Room 7-50</p> <p><b>Info</b> This workshop is ideal for educators, administrators, community organizers, and anyone who works with undocumented youth in high school or college settings. Drawing on the expertise and experience of the NYS Youth Leadership Council, this workshop will offer practical insights and real-world examples of successful programs and initiatives that have been implemented to support undocumented youth. Participants will come away with a deeper understanding of the issues affecting this population, as well as practical tools and strategies for creating a</p>	

more inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students.

**Facilitators** **Aldo Robledo**  
Education Fellow, NYSYLC

**María Vera**  
Community Organizer, NYSYLC

**3:30 PM – 3:45 PM**

**Closing Remarks**

**Introducing speaker**

**Laura Pamplona and Carlos Pérez Valle**  
Project Researchers, CUNY-IIE

**Speaker**

**Juan Carlos Pérez**  
High school teacher and Immigrant Liaison, International High School at Union Square

**3:45 PM – 4:30 PM**

**Reception**

Food provided by Ollin Restaurant

# SPEAKER BIOS



## **Aldo Robledo**

Education Fellow, New York State Youth Leadership Council

Aldo Irving Robledo Garcia is an educator, strategist, and activist who has been advocating for immigrant rights since the age of 16. He is currently a senior at John Jay College majoring in Political Science. Born in Mexico but raised in New York City, Aldo co-founded and coordinates the Undocu Academy, which has been running since early 2020. Undocu Academy is a closed group focused on college access for undocumented high school students.

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## **Areli Morales**

CUNY Brooklyn College graduate and author of *Areli is a Dreamer*

Areli Morales is an award-winning author and educator. She was born in Puebla, Mexico but was raised in New York City. She is a DACA recipient, and *Areli is a Dreamer* is her debut children's book. Her book has received many accolades such as the Jefferson Cup award, The International Literacy Association (ILA) Children's and Young Adult Book honor, and starred reviews from Kirkus Reviews and Booklist. A graduate of CUNY-Brooklyn College with a bachelor's degree in childhood bilingual education, she currently works as a kindergarten teacher at The Studio School. In her classroom, Areli teaches children to value the power of storytelling and empowers them to share their own stories. She is pursuing a master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education at Brooklyn College. She currently lives in Brooklyn, New York with her family.

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## **Ashleigh Thompson**

University Dean for Education, CUNY

Ashleigh Thompson is University Dean for Education at the City University of New York (CUNY). In that role, she oversees Teacher Education across CUNY, a portfolio encompassing more than 16,000 education students pursuing associate to doctoral degrees. Dr. Thompson convenes the Deans and Chairs from CUNY's Schools and Departments of Education, creating and implementing a University-wide strategy for teacher preparation both internally and with outside partners. Dean Thompson directs CUNY's NYC Men Teach initiative, an engagement and recruitment effort of the Mayor's Office aimed to inspire more men of color to become teachers in New York City. She is also Principal Investigator on CUNY's NYC Teaching Fellows partnership with the NYC Department of Education. She leads a diverse array of University-wide Academic Affairs initiatives focused on student access and success.

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**Carlos Pérez Valle**  
Project Researcher, CUNY-IIE

Carlos Pérez Valle was born in Tulcingo de Valle, México and moved to New York at the age of three. After high school, he became involved in promoting equitable educational opportunities for low-income and immigrant communities. His leadership allowed him to develop and manage several programs for nonprofit and government organizations. Such work has led him to work for organizations such as the NYC Department of Education, Masa, The Parent-Child Home Program, Breakthrough New York, and various public and charter schools. Carlos received his BA in Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology from CUNY Macaulay Honors College at Lehman, with a minor in Early Childhood Education. He is currently a doctoral student at the School of Communication Sciences & Disorders at McGill University and a Start with Equity fellow for the Children's Equity Project at Arizona State University.



**Charlene Clarke**  
Executive Director, Multilingual & Immigrant Student Supports, Division of Multilingual Learners, NYC Department of Education

Charlene Clarke is a passionate leader focused on youth development, K-16 policies, and strategic partnerships that center equity and access. In her capacity as the Executive Director of the Multilingual and Immigrant Student Support Team in the Division of Multilingual Learners, she supports a team of individuals dedicated to creating safe conditions and equitable pathways for historically excluded and under-served students and families.



**Farah Said**  
Project Researcher, CUNY-IIE

Farah Said immigrated to the United States from Cairo, Egypt at the age of 15 in 2008. After being accepted into the Education Program at CCNY and finishing all credits for her Childhood Education major, she was harshly confronted that without qualifying for the DACA program, she was barred from student teaching and thereby completing her degree. She did not qualify for the program due to her arrival date in the United States. She switched gears on her dreams and she graduated with an Interdisciplinary Studies of Arts and Science major from the Center for Worker Education at CCNY in 2018. She is currently pursuing an M.A. in Bilingual Education from CCNY and is expected to graduate this June.



**Guadalupe Ambrosio**  
Associate Investigator for UndocuEdu, CUNY-IIE

Guadalupe Ambrosio is an Associate Investigator for UndocuEdu at CUNY-IIE. She also served as Co-Executive Director of the New York State Youth Leadership Council for six years, an undocumented youth-led organization. She is a long-time community organizer, educator, and strategist. Born in Mexico City and raised in the Bronx. She has over 13 years of experience in community organizing, advocacy, and leadership development. Guadalupe uses her personal experiences, creativity, and passion for education and justice to create spaces and opportunities for immigrant people to

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thrive. She earned A.A. degree at BMCC in Bilingual Education and graduated with a B.A. in Sociology with a concentration in immigration from The Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at CCNY.

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**Isamar Jiménez-Vázquez**

Project Researcher, CUNY-IIE

Isamar Jimenez-Vazquez is an educator and scholar pursuing a degree in Bilingual Childhood Education. Born in Puebla, Mexico and raised in New York City, Isamar has been an advocate for undocumented students like herself for many years. Isamar has over 10 years of experience in the public school system in New York City, gaining invaluable and extensive experience in the many facets of our educational system. Isamar is passionate about bringing awareness and creating solutions to support educators regardless of immigration status in the hope of creating greater access to a fair and just education for all. In her role at Undocu-Edu, she is committed to uplifting the experiences of undocumented students and educators by highlighting the positive impact and vital role we have in our communities.

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**Jesús Pérez**

Director of the Immigrant Student Success Office, Brooklyn College

Jesús Pérez is the founding director of the Immigrant Student Success Office (ISSO) at Brooklyn College, a position he has held since 2019. His primary mission has been to assist students in achieving their goal of earning a college degree by providing a comprehensive network of resources. Before leading ISSO, Mr. Pérez served as the director of the Center for Academic Advisement and Student Success (CAASS) for 14 years, where he worked to create a more intentional onboarding process for incoming students and built a more collaborative hand-off process for students to connect to departmental major advisers. He currently serves on the Brooklyn College Black and Latino Male Initiative (BLMI) Advisory Board. He also served as the Executive Director of the CUNY wide Mexican Task Force from 2000 to 2014.

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**Juan Carlos Mercado**

Dean of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies, CCNY Center for Worker Education

Juan Carlos Mercado is the Dean of City College Downtown (Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education). Mercado is also Director of the Study Abroad and International Programs at the College, and oversees the Continuing and Professional Studies. Prior to his appointment as Dean, Mercado was Professor and Chair of The Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures at CCNY from 2000 to 2007, and Acting Provost of the College in 2011. He also teaches at the Ph.D. Program in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages at the CUNY Graduate Center. He is the author of many books, reviews, and articles. His most recent publications are two annotated editions of Menéndez de Avilés and Florida: Chronicles of Expeditions (2010), Juan María Gutiérrez's Escritores Coloniales (Juan María Gutiérrez's Colonial Writers, 2012). In addition, he is the founder of the Americas Film Festival of New York, in collaboration with the Cervantes Institute and the Smithsonian Indian Museum.

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### **Juan Carlos Pérez**

High school teacher and Immigrant Liaison, International High School at Union Square

Juan Carlos Pérez is originally from Mexico. He immigrated to the U.S. at the age of eleven. After graduating from IHS at LaGuardia, he earned his B.S. in Mathematics and M.A. in Education from Adelphi University. Currently, Juan Carlos has DACA and works at the International High School at Union Square where he is a Math teacher and an Immigrant Liaison. Over the years, he has built partnerships between his school and nonprofit organizations to provide students and families with an array of resources. Juan Carlos has been thrilled to be part of the Immigration Liaison Pilot Program as it has brought him back closer to the educator he envisioned to be.



### **Laura Pamplona**

Project Researcher, CUNY-IIE

Laura Pamplona is a High School ENL teacher who was born in Colombia and was raised in Queens. She was inspired to become a teacher through her work at the Queens Public Library. Laura is currently the advisor for her school's Dream Team where she encourages immigrant and undocumented students to develop leadership skills through community work. Laura is also the co-coordinator of the Immigrant Liaison Pilot Program, where she hopes to provide enough resources to educators who want to support immigrant youth at their schools. In her free time, you can find her reading with her pets and listening to Tool.



### **María Vera**

Community Organizer, New York State Youth Leadership Council

María Vera was born in Puebla, Mexico, and migrated to the United States in 2008. She is the Community Organizer at the New York State Youth Leadership Council, the first undocumented youth-led organization in New York. María was the first woman to be President of the BMCC Dream Team while she was a student there and organized the group for an entire academic year. She is also a first-generation college student. Currently, she is finishing her studies at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice majoring in Latin American & Latinx Studies with a minor in Gender Studies. Through her activism in and outside of schools, she has been able to reach hundreds of students to support them in their academic journeys.



### **Nancy Stern**

Co-Principal Investigator, CUNY-IIE and Associate Professor of Bilingual Education and TESOL Programs, The City College of New York

Nancy Stern is Associate Professor in the Programs in Bilingual Education & TESOL at The City College of New York and in the Linguistics Program at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her research is in the fields of theoretical linguistics, teacher education, and bilingualism (including 'On So-Called Spanglish,' 2011, with Ricardo Otheguy). A former department chair and former director of the Programs in Bilingual Education & TESOL,

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she is currently the PI of B-SEAL, a five-year National Professional Development Project funded by the US Department of Education and is a Co-PI in CUNY-IIE with responsibility for administration and finance.

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### **Ross Garmil**

Supervisor of Education Programs, Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages, NYSED

Ross Garmil is Supervisor of Education Programs in the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages with the New York State Education Department. He has worked in education for over 20 years including work in higher education, adult education, and wraparound support for middle and high school students. He has a bachelor's degree from Brandeis University and a master's in Educational Administration, Training, and Planning from Boston University.

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### **Roxana Herrera**

Project Researcher, CUNY-IIE

Roxana Herrera is an artist, organizer, and researcher. She graduated from CCNY, double majoring in psychology and political science. She was also the President of the CCNY Dream Team – an undocumented student-led space. She participated in the Beyond Identity Program which trains women of color and queer folks to do identity-driven research that allows them to draw on their lived experiences of discrimination and violence. Her research explored the complexities faced by undocumented women struggling with mental health. This research received the 2020 Ringgold-Rich Award. She is an active member of the New York State Youth Leadership Council (NYSYLC) and Otros Dreams en Acción (ODA).

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### **Sara P. Álvarez**

Interim Co-Principal Investigator, CUNY-IIE and Assistant Professor of English, Queens College

Sara P. Alvarez is Assistant Professor of English at Queens College, City University of New York (CUNY) and 2018-2020 Cultivating New Voices Fellow at the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). Sara's qualitative research focuses on the multilingual and academic writing practices of self-outed U.S. undocumented young adults. Her past research ethnographically examined the multilingual social media literacy practices among second-generation Latina/e youth and their transnational families in Kentucky. Her publications have appeared in the journals Equity and Excellence in Education, World English, Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy, among others.

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### **Sergio León Hidalgo**

Student and aspiring educator, Brooklyn College

Sergio Leon Hidalgo (he/him) is an 18-year-old first-year Brooklyn College student, who is double-majoring in History and Sociology. He currently holds the position of policy intern at the CUNY Office of Undocumented and Immigrant Student Programs. Sergio is also an organizing committee member at the New York State Youth Leadership Council.



### **Tatyana Kleyn**

Principal Investigator, CUNY-IIE and Professor of Bilingual Education & TESOL Programs, The City College of New York

Tatyana Kleyn is Professor of Bilingual Education and TESOL programs at The City College of New York. She received an Ed.D. in international educational development from Teachers College, Columbia University. Tatyana was a Fulbright Scholar in Oaxaca, Mexico studying return migration and Past President of the New York State Association for Bilingual Education. Tatyana has authored books and articles on immigration, translanguaging, and bilingual education. Her latest book is titled *Living, Learning and Languaging Across Borders: Students Between the US and Mexico*. Her work in film as a producer and director includes the *Living Undocumented Series*, *Una Vida, Dos Países: Children and Youth (Back) in Mexico* and the *Supporting Immigrants in Schools* video series. Tatyana was an elementary school teacher in San Pedro Sula, Honduras and Atlanta, Georgia. For more information see [TatyanaKleyn.com](http://TatyanaKleyn.com).



### **Xin Yi Li**

Student & Immigrant Ambassador, Brooklyn College

Xin Yi Li is a senior studying computer science & sociology at Brooklyn College who works as a community ambassador for the immigrant ambassador program. She advocates for undocumented immigrant rights and hopes to spread that education towards others.