



Young Leaders
Program

2016

Young Leaders Program

Biographies

2016 Young Leaders Program

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Emily Calderon Galdeano	ELEVATE CONSULTING	TX
Huey-Min Chuang	EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT	NY
Aaron Ford	NEVADA SENATE	NV
Steven Glickman	ECONOMIC INNOVATION GROUP	DC
Jeffery Le	OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA	CA
Geenae Roxanne Rivera Soto	FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY	VA
Monica Sanz	FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK	NJ
Raul de Vidal y Sepulveda	OMNIA ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS	PR
Heather Wild	US DEPARTMENT OF STATE	DC

Program Participant Bios



Sandra Alcala
Legislative Assistant
Office of Congressman Joaquin Castro (D-TX)
Washington, D.C.

Sandra Alcala is a Legislative Assistant for Congressman Joaquin Castro (D-TX). Her legislative portfolio includes health care, science and technology and immigration.

Prior to joining Congressman Castro's office, Sandra worked at the National Science Foundation as a Science and Technology Policy Fellow for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. Her work included researching ways to increase diversity and inclusion in the sciences. Sandra went on to the Podesta Group where she worked in the health care sector on issues impacting pharmaceutical research and development, biotechnology, and global health. Sandra recognizes that global competitiveness and success is due, in part, to strong international collaborations. These partnerships lead to greater innovation, particularly in the areas of science, technology and health care. She looks forward to learning more about how the U.S. currently partners with Spain on these issues and how these partnerships can be further strengthened. Sandra was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. She majored in Psychology at Our Lady of the Lake University and obtained her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the University of Minnesota. Her research focused on the investigation of a novel drug delivery method to treat neurodegenerative diseases of the retina.



Emily Calderón Galdeano, Ed.D.
CEO/Principal
Elevate Consulting Group
San Antonio, TX

Dr. Emily Calderón Galdeano is the CEO/Principal of Elevate Consulting Group. She has fifteen years in the educational policy arena at the national, state and institutional levels. As the former Director of Research for two national organizations, *Excelencia* in Education and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), Emily has worked to integrate academic and policy research to help accelerate student success in higher education. She has also served as a university faculty member and legislative aide in the Texas House and Senate. Her research agenda focuses on the intersection of public policy and higher education. Emily has published research on higher education issues related to equity, school finance, student resilience, and institutional practices. She recently co-edited an international award-winning book, *Hispanic-Serving Institutions: Advancing Research and Transformative Practice*, which examines institutional environments within this unique group of postsecondary institutions where 60% of Latino students enroll. Dr. Calderón Galdeano has received recognition for her work, research, and service by various national organizations. Her dedication and work with the Latino community led to her selection as a national 2012 MillerCoors Líder and a San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 2015 Latina Leadership Institute Fellow. Most recently, Emily was selected as a 2016 New Leaders Council Fellow, and one of 32 Americans selected as a 2016-17 German Marshall Fund Memorial Fellow. She is originally from McAllen, Texas, and holds a bachelor's degree from Southwestern University, master's degree from The University of Texas at San Antonio, and doctorate from The University of Texas-Pan American.



Huey-Min Chuang
Senior Director of Business & Economic
Development
Development at Empire State Development

Huey-Min Chuang is the Senior Director of Business and Economic Development at Empire State Development, NY. She works in strategic policy and program development for small businesses, Minority and/ or Women owned enterprises, disaster relief initiatives and overall state economic development projects. In 1996, she won the International Finance Review Deal of the Year for a groundbreaking Colombian economic development project while working as an investment banker at JP Morgan. In 2001, she was profiled as a "Rising Star in Public Service" for her work in economic development rendering disaster relief assistance post 9/11 to hundreds of small businesses.

In 2006, she led a team that helped twelve hundred businesses across 26 counties with Flood Recovery Grants while managing the compliance for the \$2 billion World Trade Center Disaster Relief Fund. When the BP oil spill devastated coastal Louisiana in 2010, the White House selected Ms. Chuang to assess the impact of the disaster. In 2011 she co-designed a \$55 million State Small Business Credit Initiative that leveraged over \$1 billion of private capital and led NYS' \$155 million Blueprint and Revitalization Fund. In 2012, she was recognized as a Crain's New York 40 under 40 Star. Recently she co-launched the \$35 million Global NY Program helping NY businesses export and increase global trade competitiveness. Ms. Chuang has received several awards and been recognized as a distinguished young leader. She was a Public Service Young Leader and Scholar to Taiwan in 2013, the American-Swiss Foundation Young Leader in 2014, a Presidential Leadership Scholar Finalist in 2016, and an U.S.-Spain Council Young Leader 2016. Ms. Chuang is an honor graduate of Brown University and received an executive certificate from New York University in Real Estate Development as well as a Postgraduate Degree in Business Administration from Universidad de Pompeu-Fabra, Spain, when she served as the Rhode Island Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to Spain '97-'98. Ms. Chuang speaks Chinese and Spanish. She is a founding member of two dual language charter schools, the Bronx Global Learning Institute for Girls, for 450 kids; and has served as Chair of several committees at the Association for Enterprise Opportunities and at the International Institute of Spain.



Senator Aaron Ford
Senator
Nevada State Senate
Las Vegas, NV

As Partner at Eglet Prince, Dr. Aaron D. Ford concentrates on product liability and alternative dispute resolution. Dr. Ford is also a highly-regarded member of the political and legal community in our great state of Nevada. He is currently serving as the Democratic Leader of the Nevada State Senate, elected to this position in November of 2014. Most recently, Senate Minority Leader Dr. Aaron D. Ford was elected

to the 2016 Board of Directors of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to strengthening legislative leadership and examining public policy issues. Senator Ford has represented the greater Las Vegas area (District 11) in the Nevada Senate since 2012. Prior to being named Democratic Leader, he was the Assistant Majority Whip and previously served as chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, vice chair of the Senate Committee on Education and member of the Judiciary Committee. He was recognized as best Senate Freshman by the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Rookie of the Year by the *Reno Gazette Journal*, and Senator of the Year by both Nevada Political Action for Animals and the Nevada Conservation League for his work during the 2013 Nevada Legislative session. Senator Ford has received several awards, including: Las Vegas National Bar Association's Attorney of the Year Award (2013), Mountain States Super Lawyers (2011, 2012, 2013), 40 Under 40 by In Business Las Vegas, Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year, Texas Rising Star, Top Lawyers Under 40 in Dallas, Dallas Bar Association Board of Director's Award of Excellence, and Dallas Bar Association's Outstanding Minority Bar Leader Award.

He is also a Member of the American Law Institute. The Nevada Justice Association has named Senator Aaron Ford 2016 Consumer Advocate of the Year. Additionally, Senator Ford has been the recipient of numerous national, international and political fellowships, including American Marshall Memorial Fellowship, American Council of Young Political Leaders, British-American Project, US-Japan Leadership Program, Aspen Rodel Fellowship, and the Hunt-Dean Fellowship. Senator Ford is active in the [community](#) and has served on the boards of Olive Crest of Nevada, Junior Achievement of Southern Nevada, and the “I Have a Dream” Foundation. In addition, Ford serves on the Board of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee (DLCC). Senator Ford received his undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University in 1990. He earned a master’s degree from George Washington University, and a master’s, juris doctor, and doctorate degree from The Ohio State University. A native of Dallas, Texas, Dr. Ford is married to Berna L. Rhodes-Ford, Esq. Together, they raise four children, Avery, Devin, Aaron II, and Alexander.



Steven G. Glickman
Co-Founder & Executive Director
Economic Innovation Group
Washington, DC

Steve Glickman is Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Economic Innovation Group, a non-profit research, policy, and advocacy organization in Washington, D.C. focused on advancing solutions that empower entrepreneurs and investors to forge a more dynamic U.S. economy.

Steve is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Georgetown University, where he teaches on economic diplomacy and international trade in the School of Foreign Service. He sits on Georgetown's Board of Governors and on the Board of

Directors of The NewDEAL. Steve previously served in the Obama Administration, most recently as a senior economic advisor at the White House National Security Council and National Economic Council. Earlier, Steve served as Deputy Associate Counsel at the White House, as well as a Presidential appointee at the U.S. Department of Commerce. Prior to his service in the Administration, Steve worked on Capitol Hill as Counsel to Chairman Henry Waxman and legislative aide to then-Congressman Ed Markey, as well as as a Federal criminal prosecutor. Steve received his B.A. and M.A. from Georgetown University, J.D. from Columbia Law School, and LL.M. from the London School of Economics. He is a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member, Atlantic Council Millennium Fellow, and Truman National Security Project Fellow. Steve’s work has been featured in the *Atlantic*, *AP*, *BBC*, *Bloomberg*, *Chicago Tribune*, *CCTV*, *Daily Beast*, *Fast Company*, *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *The Hill*, *Inc.*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *NPR*, *Politico*, *Roll Call*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *TechCrunch*, *Telemundo*, *Time*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *Vox*, *Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.



Jeffery Le
Assistant Cabinet Secretary
Office of the Governor of California
Sacramento, CA

Jeff Le serves as Assistant Cabinet Secretary for California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. where he oversees the Governor's Cabinet on issues ranging from food and agriculture, pesticide regulation, military and veterans affairs, tribal relations, medicinal cannabis, drought and extreme weather, early earthquake warning and cybersecurity.

Le served previously as Governor Brown's Deputy Director for External and International Affairs where he interfaced with domestic stakeholders and convenes foreign dignitaries on behalf of the state. Before his state service, he was Senior Manager for Development and Communications at Global Rights, an international human rights organization.

From 2010-2011, Jeff worked with communities across 17 Afghan provinces as a Manager at International Relief and Development. Jeff has also worked at the State Department, the U.S. House of Representatives, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the United Nations, The Carter Center, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, and has been an international election observer in 10 countries.

Jeff received his BAs in Political Science and History from the University of California, San Diego and his MA in Political Science as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar at Central European University in Budapest. Jeff is a Manfred Wörner Seminar Fellow, U.S.-Japan Leadership Program Delegate, Truman National Security Project Political Partner, New Leaders Council Fellow, and a Member of the Pacific Council on International Policy. Jeff has completed three 100-mile running races, qualified for the Boston Marathon, and has been to every Major League Baseball ballpark.



Geenae Roxanne Rivera Soto
Diversity and Inclusion Specialist
Federal Housing Finance Agency
Arlington, VA

Mrs. Rivera, a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, has pursued in the past ten years a career in public policy, ranging in areas from not-for-profit to the legislative and executive branches of the Federal government. She holds a Master's in City and Regional Planning from The Catholic University of America, a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Dayton, and a B.A. with concentrations in Political Science and Spanish from the University of Dayton. Mrs. Rivera is fluent in Spanish, English, and French.

In 2007, she served as program manager at MANA, a National Latina Organization. In 2009, she worked at the office of Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi from Puerto Rico in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Legislative Correspondent. In May 2011, Mrs. Rivera joined the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) as a student intern while pursuing her Master's in City and Regional Planning. As of January 2015, she received a federal career appointment at FHFA. Currently, she serves as a Diversity and Inclusion Specialist at FHFA's Office of Minority and Women Inclusion (OMWI). Her duties at OMWI include, but are not limited to providing assistance in each of the primary charges of promoting diversity and inclusion in the employment and business practices of the Agency and the entities that FHFA regulates (Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, The Federal Home Loan Banks, and their Office of Finance); identifying outreach to national and regional businesses to establish alliances and partnerships with minority and women owned businesses; conducting outreach to educational and professional organizations; and developing and analyzing data for a variety of reports related to diversity and inclusion. Mrs. Rivera enjoys living in the Washington, D.C. area with her Ohioan husband. They enjoy traveling and visiting friends and family in Ohio and Puerto Rico. An avid cook, in her free time, she enjoys making birthday cakes, and also cooking Puerto Rican and Spanish food.



Monica Valentina Sanz
Manager, European Financial Institutions
Federal Reserve Bank of New York
New York, New York

Monica Valentina Sanz is a specialist in European economic and financial analysis particularly related to country risk assessment, bank analysis, and capital markets. At the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Monica leads a team of financial analysts responsible for producing policy-relevant analysis related to European banks' performance, condition, and regulatory environment in support of Federal Reserve objectives. Before taking on her current role, Monica was the primary analyst covering banking sectors in Italy, Spain and Portugal and spent two months on a secondment as an economic officer at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid. She has covered and written about several topics related to the European financial crisis, including: banking sector capital needs, banks' ability to extend credit to the economy, sovereign risk, terms and conditions of EU/IMF programs, banks' and countries' access to capital markets, and recent European integration efforts. Over the course of her career, her work has supported senior management throughout the Federal Reserve System, as well as at the U.S. Treasury, the State Department, and at Citigroup. Monica's private sector experience includes working as an Assistant Vice President in the capital markets group within Citigroup's treasury and as an analyst at Morgan Stanley Capital International. She volunteers her time to and serves on the executive council of Business Council for Peace, a non-profit volunteer network of business professionals that provides pro bono consulting services to entrepreneurs in conflict-affected countries. Monica earned a master's degree in economics from New York University and also holds a B.A. in economics and a B.A. in Latin American Studies from The Johns Hopkins University.



Raúl de Vidal y Sepúlveda
Senior Partner
Omnia Economic Solutions, LLC
New York – San Juan

Raúl Vidal y Sepúlveda, born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, attended the Elliott School of International Affairs of the George Washington University 2003-2007, The American University of Rome 2006, and the Washington College of Law of The American University 2007-2010. Vidal y Sepúlveda served as Assistant Secretary for the Department of Economic Development and Commerce of the Government of Puerto. As such, he was responsible for all foreign direct investment in Puerto Rico, attracting new and diverse investments from across Europe and Latin America. Now, as a founding partner in Omnia Economic Solutions, Vidal y Sepúlveda is an economic development consultant for Forbes 100 corporations and several Latin American jurisdictions, which have resulted in over \$3 billion in foreign direct investments and the creation of hundreds of permanent jobs in the region. In recognition for his work on behalf of Puerto Rico's economic development, Vidal y Sepúlveda was invited in 2014 as the first Puerto Rican to participate in the World Economic Forum's prestigious Annual Meeting in Davos, to speak on the role of cities as centers for economic development. During his participation in the forum, he was recruited by then Prime Minister of Australia, Tony Abbot, to contribute to his G-20 Presidency's economic platform for 2014-2015. Vidal y Sepúlveda has been published in several periodicals including Puerto Rico's leading business weekly, Caribbean Business. In addition to his passion for economic development, Vidal y Sepúlveda is an active member of the Order of Malta, as well as other Catholic charitable organizations.



Heather Wild
Foreign Affairs Officer
Unites States Department of State
Washington, DC

Heather Wild has worked at the U.S. Department of State for almost a decade in a number of offices and capacities. In July Miss Wild joined Deputy Secretary of State Heather Higginbottom's office where she is expected to stay during the transition. Miss Wild has previously worked in the Bureau of Population Refugees Migration where she worked on the Syrian team addressing the Syrian refugee and humanitarian crisis. Miss Wild also worked in the Office of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) where she worked on the annual TIP report and has also worked in the Secretary's Office of Global Youth Issues, the Bureau of European Affairs Front Office, and in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement where she covered Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Jamaica. Miss Wild is an active member of the Department of State community and of the D.C. community.

She is the Department of State's coordinator for Miriam's Kitchen and has been an active board member of the Hispanic Employees Council of Foreign Affairs Agencies (HECFAA) since 2011. Miss Wild is on the board of a few local Latin American NGOS and founded a nonprofit that provides services to victims of domestic violence in Washington DC. Miss Wild's mother is from Colombia and father is from Switzerland and she was raised between Mexico, Colombia, London, and New York and has lived in a number of countries overseas. In 2007 she graduated from George Mason University's honor program and in 2009 from Georgetown University.