EVERY ISSUE IS A LATINO ISSUE
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2018 CATALYST FUNDERS
Founded in December 2017, the Latino Policy & Politics Initiative (LPPI) is a multifaceted laboratory designed to address today’s toughest domestic policy challenges. This work supports culturally and linguistically competent policy reforms, keeps decision-makers accountable to the needs of marginalized communities, and provides a framework for local and state interventions across the U.S. that reflect the needs of the nation’s new majority.

In its inaugural year, LPPI released over a dozen policy reports and briefs, which garnered media attention from over two dozen print and digital news outlets including the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*, and received policy traction from a combination of state legislative actors and members of the United States Congress.

LPPI partnered with leading national and local advocacy organizations to amplify the policy needs of Latinos on issues like criminal justice, housing, and health equity. Throughout the year, LPPI’s three-dozen policy experts and a dynamic cadre of student fellows had a seat at the decision-making table, applying their research to improve the lives of everyday Americans.

LPPI fosters innovative research, leverages policy-relevant expertise, drives civic engagement, and nurtures a leadership pipeline to propel viable policy reforms that expand opportunity.
EXPANDING THE BENCH OF LATINO SOCIAL POLICY EXPERTS
LPPI produces innovative applied policy research on today's toughest domestic policy challenges. This breadth of expertise spans 12 issue areas, including civil rights, criminal justice, educational equity, health access, and voting rights. In Fall '18, UCLA welcomed 9 new LPPI experts, creating an unparalleled cadre of academics focused on the needs of the country's largest racial/ethnic minority group.

NEW TENURE-TRACK LATINO SOCIAL POLICY EXPERTS

Dr. Amada Armenta
Jennifer Chacón, Esq.
Dr. Jason De León
Dr. Natalie Masuoka
Dr. Cecilia Menjívar
Dr. Efrén Pérez
Dr. Amy Ritterbusch
Dr. Carlos Santos
Dr. Chris Zepeda-Millán

LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF LATINO SOCIAL POLICY EXPERTS OF ANY RESEARCH UNIVERSITY IN THE NATION
REAL-TIME FACTS & DATA FOR POLICY IMPACT

Dr. Matt Barreto, LPPICo-Founder, sharing research on demographic and political participation trends to elected officials from across the United States at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. In addition to educating elected officials, Dr. Barreto's demographic and survey scholarship is advancing civil rights jurisprudence as it relates to discriminatory voter identification laws, gerrymandering, vote dilution, and the proposed national origin question on the 2020 Census.
LPPI produces rapid-response and original research on a broad range of topics. In 2018, LPPI released policy reports on transit-oriented development, Latino homeownership, democracy and voting, Latino representation across the nation’s preeminent art and cultural institution, criminal justice, and healthy equity in California's physician pool.
Sonja Diaz, LPPI Executive Director, welcoming sixty elected officials from over a dozen U.S. states to UCLA for the inaugural NALEO National Education Leadership and Public Policy Academy in August 2018. Diaz replicated the evidence-based policy training for seventy Latino officials at the NALEO 12th Biennial National Institute for Newly Elected Officials in Washington, D.C. immediately following the 2018 Midterm Elections.
LPPI actively engages with elected and appointed officials across the U.S. to share information about best practices, distill innovative social science research to inform policy, and provide technical assistance on evidence-based policymaking. In 2018, LPPI engaged with elected officials from over a dozen U.S. states, including leaders of the California Senate and Assembly, and members of both chambers of U.S. Congress. Below is a description of the topics covered with these officials.

- Challenges & Opportunities for Latinos In the 21st Century
- Academic Attainment Trends for Latino Students
- Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline: Transformative Justice
- Increasing College Access and Opportunities for Latinos
- Fruitvale, Oakland: A Case Study on Transit & Economic Development
- Improving Public Trust in Communities while Addressing Public Safety
- Collateral Consequences: Blurred Lines Between Immigration & Criminal Law
- Restoring Hope through Reintegration
- Hands-On Policy Practicum: Evidence-Based Policy
- Overview of the Latino Gross Domestic Product
- Defending DACA through Social Science Research
- Emerging Criminal Justice Issues: Million Dollar Hoods
- Latino Representation Across the Smithsonian Institution
LPPI's work received extensive media coverage throughout 2018—including widespread coverage of the 2018 Election Cycle and issues of Gentrification & Displacement. LPPI's work has been covered in:
As the first think-tank focused on the impact of domestic policy on Latinos in the University of California system, LPPI sought out partnerships with leading civil rights advocates and non-governmental organizations to accelerate policy innovation. In 2018, LPPI partnered with the following organizations:

LPPI partnered with LatinoJustice PRLDEF, NALEO Educational Fund, and the Aspen Institute Latinos & Society Program to co-host major programs that increased the capacity of policymakers to understand the needs of Latinos across a range of issues including criminal justice reform, democracy and electoral participation, and healthy communities.
TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CIVIC LEADERS

Front Row: Adán Chávez, Jessie Hernandez-Reyes, Jorge Rojas, Fabian Campos
Back Row: Sofia Espinoza, Gabriela Solís, Christine Muñoz, and Celina Avalos
LPPI trains policy fellows on how to pursue, promote and champion equitable policy solutions. Put simply, to solve society’s toughest challenges armed with data and facts. Policy fellows benefit from hands-on mentorship, tailored research trainings, and exposure to real-time policy challenges. All acquired the skills necessary to understand and inform public policy, coupled with first-hand experience in advocacy and political strategy.

**INAUGURAL YEAR FELLOW SNAPSHOT**

100% *n=15*

**100%**

IDENTIFIED AS FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

**REPORTED IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR COMPREHENSION OF POLICY, ADVOCACY, RESEARCH, & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT POST-FELLOWSHIP**

"At first, I was scared to work with LPPI because I wasn’t too familiar with public policy, but it has been the most rewarding experience I’ve ever had here at UCLA."

-Undergraduate Fellow

**TRAINED 23 POLICY FELLOWS**

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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019

01 Amplify existing civic engagement partnerships & identify new avenues for meaningful collaboration.

02 Catalyze evidence-based policy innovations at the state and local levels across the country through policy briefings, cross-sector convenings, and public forums.

03 Provide technical assistance to elected officials and advocates to improve the accuracy of the 2020 U.S. Census and ensure fair political representation.

04 Equip the next generation of civic leaders with the tools and values necessary to champion equitable policy reforms for the 21st century.

Monica Lopez Romo co-facilitating an evidence-based policy practicum on youth and public safety for a cohort of state legislators, municipal officials, and school officials.
Today's political climate creates unique challenges for the pursuit of data and facts in policymaking. LPPI’s ambitious call to action--every issue is a Latino issue--is not possible without the support of institutional and philanthropic partners and like-minded individual donors. Please find below a list of LPPI donors contributing $500 or more in fiscal year 2018. We thank all contributors and partners who have catalyzed the capacity of LPPI to promote meaningful reforms for Latinos and other communities of color from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C.

AltaMed Health Services Corp.
Anonymous
California Community Foundation
California Healthcare Foundation
Carnegie Corporation
Monica Salinas
New Venture Fund & the Democracy Fund
Public Welfare Foundation & National Alianza for Latinx Youth Justice
Southern California Gas Company
UCLA Division of Social Sciences
UCLA Interdisciplinary & Cross Campus Affairs
UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs
Weingart Foundation & Miguel A. Santana
Gary Hardie, President of Lynwood Unified School District, strategizing with LPPI Policy Fellow Vianney Gomez (B.A. Political Science '19).