



LEHMAN
COLLEGE



PROVOST AND SENIOR
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND
STUDENT SUCCESS

Shuster Hall, Room 379
250 Bedford Park Blvd
West Bronx, NY 10468

Phone: 718-960-8222
Fax: 718-960-8042
www.lehman.edu

Dear Lehman Community,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Juan J. DelaCruz as the Director of the CUNY Mexican Studies Institute (MSI), for a two-year term (renewable), beginning August 25, 2021. Juan will report to the Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and will work closely with Dr. Jose Higuera, Deputy Director of the Institute, who has served as interim director for the last few years.

As director, Dr. DelaCruz will serve as a member of the MSI Advisory Board chaired by the Provost, and will lead both the administrative and programmatic work of the Institute that cuts across multiple CUNY institutions, including strategic planning and implementation, oversight of fundraising and administration of the Mexican Studies Scholarship Fund, building collaborations for research, and expanding the Institute's reach both locally and internationally. He will also assist with MSI's internationalization efforts that are in alignment with Lehman and promote opportunities for strategic partnerships with Mexican institutions that support faculty and students across the College and within CUNY. In addition, the director will pursue funding support for the creation and maintenance of an archive of the Institute's work and of the history of Mexicans in New York City, among other responsibilities.

Dr. DelaCruz is Associate Professor of Economics and Business as well as Associate Faculty at the CUNY School of Public Health and Health Policy. An immigrant from Mexico, he is a health economist by training, with specialization in the analysis of economic and social determinants of health, in particular factors influencing the HIV epidemic. His work has focused on the intersection of economics, public health and public policy as key instruments for advocacy for vulnerable populations facing disproportionate health outcomes, including disability and early death. DelaCruz holds an M.S. in Biostatistics from Columbia University and a Ph.D. in Economics from the New School.

I know that Juan's background and experiences will serve MSI and Lehman well as we continue to work together to advance CUNY's important mission of educational attainment and social mobility.

Please join me in congratulating him. I know he will have the support of our entire campus community of teachers, scholars, learners, advocates, and activists.

Also, join me in thanking Dr. Higuera, who served in the dual roles of Deputy Director and Interim Director, managing MSI's day-to-day operations as well as the strategic direction. I remain deeply grateful to him for his leadership, and to his staff for their diligence and commitment to our students. I am also grateful to Dr. Alyshia Galvez, founding director of the Institute, James Mahon, Dean, Arts and Humanities, Susan Ebersole, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and MSI Board members for their support of the Institute through these past years. We are proud to join MSI in celebrating its 10th year anniversary, which began last week!

Be well and stay safe.

-P

Peter O. Nwosu, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Success
Director, The CUNY Leadership Institute