

# Latinxs and Hispanics in Mathematical Sciences



## M. Alejandra Sorto

M. Alejandra Sorto is a Honduran American born and raised in Tegucigalpa. Following the footsteps of both of her teacher/educator parents, Marta Bueso and Rodolfo Sorto, she attended the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional, Francisco Morazán to become a secondary mathematics teacher. Short of completing that degree, she earned a Fulbright scholarship to attend the University of Texas at El Paso where she completed a bachelor's degree in mathematics with a minor in computer science and a master's degree in statistics. Still desiring to become a mathematics educator, she continued her studies in the mathematics department at Michigan State University, where she earned a second master's degree in mathematics and a Ph.D. in Mathematics with a dissertation study in Statistics Education. While finishing her doctoral degree, she worked full time at Montgomery College Rockville, Maryland, teaching calculus, statistics, and mathematics for future teachers. In 2005, she joined the faculty at Texas State University Mathematics Department where she has developed her full career as a mathematics instructor and a mathematics educator researcher.

Her primary research activities involve the design, development, and analysis of instruments that measure constructs related to teacher knowledge, quality of instruction, and discipline-based self-efficacy to teach. These instruments are used in the context of teachers' knowledge of multilingual students, international comparison studies settings, and in the area of statistics/algebra teacher education. Alejandra has successfully supervised 12 mathematics education dissertations and three honors undergraduate mathematics education theses. Mathematics topics range from undergraduate mathematics such as Calculus and Introduction to Advanced Mathematics to school mathematics such as geometry, algebra, and statistics.

In terms of service, Alejandra has led the mathematics and statistics education communities by holding several leadership roles. She was a member of the Board of Directors of TODOS: Mathematics for ALL and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Board of Trustees for the Mathematics Education Trust (MET), and she served as the Chair of the Program Committee for 2018 TODOS Conference as well as a past member of the Program Committee for 2016 TODOS Conference. Currently, she is a Co-Editor of TODOS journal: *Teaching for Excellence and Equity in Mathematics* (TEEM). Within Texas State University, she serves on multiple committees at the departmental and college level. The latest challenge, in terms of leadership, is at the institutional level, she has been appointed to serve as the co-chair of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) whose theme is undergraduate research.

*"Hispanic Heritage Month means a celebration of who we are as Latino Americans. It is the space and time where we are somehow free to express our Latinidad, to celebrate the heterogeneity of our backgrounds, and to show others the beauty of our culture and language. It is time for me to dance because that is when I feel free."*

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Lathisms was founded in 2016 in order to showcase the contributions of Latinx and Hispanic mathematicians during Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated in the United States from September 15 and October 15 every year. During this time, we feature/reveal a prominent Latinx/Hispanic mathematician daily. See all the featured mathematical scientists at [LATHISMS.ORG](http://LATHISMS.ORG).

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