

# Latinxs and Hispanics in Mathematical Sciences



## Christine Herrera

Dr. Christine “Christin” Herrera is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education in the Department Mathematics and Statistics at California State University, Chico. She earned a B.S. and M.S. in Mathematics from Colorado State University and a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from Texas State University under the guidance of Dr. M. Alejandra Sorto.

Born in Denver, Colorado, Christin loved learning. In high school she discovered her calling for higher education and dreamed of becoming the first in her family to attend college. However, the journey to achieving her ambitions was not an easy one. During high school, Christin faced the obstacles of her difficult home life, and she became her own breadwinner, guide, and advocate at a young age.

As a mathematics education researcher, both Christin’s research and teaching are infused with her passion to create learning environments that empower students. Christin’s research focuses on areas of teaching and learning that foster productive struggle and teacher noticing for equity. Introducing prospective teachers to the methods of productive struggle early on in the teacher continuum, specifically in their content courses, bridges the stance between being a student and becoming a teacher by having them apply their specialized content knowledge to attend to and interpret the mathematics and students’ mathematical thinking in productive struggle.

Christin’s passion is to support Latinx students and other historically underrepresented groups in learning and teaching mathematics. She believes that such opportunities should be made available to Latinx students at all levels, especially those pursuing careers in STEM. For the past three years, Christin has partnered with Chico State’s Center for Bilingual/Multicultural Studies in the School of Education on a five-year grant from the United States Department of Education Office of English Language Acquisition. As the mathematics educator on the Community and Instruction for expanding English Learners’ Opportunities in rural California schools (CIELO) Project, Christin works with pre-service, in-service, and paraprofessional educators to develop culturally responsive STEAM lessons and service-learning projects for Dual Immersion and English Language Development settings.

*“Our history, our culture, our knowledge and hard-work cannot be summed up in a month-long celebration. The Hispanic Heritage Month is thus, an opportunity for non-Latinx communities to join us in recognizing and honoring our contributions and accomplishments that we celebrate day in and day out. I hope that the visibility and uplifting of our people will continue and that one-day others will join us in our year-round celebration of the Latinx community.”*

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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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