

# Latinxs and Hispanics in Mathematical Sciences



## Nohemi Sepulveda

Space Suit Engineer Intern, NASA

Nohemi Sepulveda is a first-generation Mexican American STEM-inist. She is originally from Los Angeles, CA, but has spent a good portion of her life traveling and living in other parts of the country and worldwide. Growing up, Nohemi always had an interest in mathematics and decided to pursue this career path in college. She moved across the country from California to Williams College in Massachusetts, where she graduated in 2018 with a double major in math and Spanish.

While at Williams, Nohemi took a graph theory research tutorial class taught by Professor Pamela E. Harris. In this class, Nohemi collaborated on and conducted math research with the only Latina mathematics professor, along with the only other two Latina math majors in the department. During her college career, Nohemi also participated in multiple teaching and mentoring internships that focused on increasing the participation of underrepresented communities in STEM. Nohemi believes that when there are more women, and they continue to support each other, then we will start seeing a more welcoming space that is both diverse and more inclusive.

Nohemi's initiative to continue teaching and mentoring is what led her to her first internship at NASA's Johnson Space Center as a SUITS (Spacesuit User Interface Technologies for Students) intern since January 2020. For this project, Nohemi was part of the technical team in charge of creating and setting up the Artemis Software Design Challenge, where she worked with students to help them create and design spacesuit information displays within augmented reality (AR) environments. This internship allowed Nohemi to learn more about the future of spacesuit design and how NASA is working towards creating human-autonomy enabling technologies that will be essential for the necessary and elevated demands of lunar surface exploration and extreme terrestrial environments. Aside from Nohemi's technical responsibilities, she also wrote a SUITS white paper evaluating the impact of the SUITS challenge on future visual informatics display systems for the Exploration Extravehicular Mobility Unit (xEMU) spacesuit.

Throughout Nohemi's life, she has learned the value and privilege of an education. Her eagerness and willingness to learn and explore new ideas have always inspired her to teach and mentor others – to pass down what she knows and to challenge her students to question and inquire about the unknown. Nohemi's role in the educational sector has been central to her commitment to inspiring and leading generations to a better and more advanced future. Even throughout her four internships at NASA's Johnson Space Center, Nohemi continues to be involved and to be a part of NASA on Campus – an intern-run organization that reaches out to schools, from elementary to high school, and teaches students about NASA, human spaceflight, and how to participate in STEM careers.

*“Hispanic Heritage month translates to the opportunity to continue helping and inspiring other girls and those who come from underrepresented backgrounds like myself to continue shattering the glass ceiling and to not be afraid of reaching for those dreams that our community has deemed as impossible or unthinkable—to encourage others to embrace who they are in these spaces while also being great innovators, problem solvers, and world-changers.”*

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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](https://lathisms.org).

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