**Latinxs and Hispanics in the Mathematical Sciences**

### Fernando Rodríguez

**Teacher, Hiram W. Johnson High School**

As a Modesto High School student, Fernando worked with 21st Century Afterschool Programs’ Karen Jordan, whose mentorship helped him develop a belief in his abilities in teaching mathematics. He then attended Modesto Junior College while continuing to work with students in the after-school program. After transferring to CSU Sacramento, he found a devoted mentor in Dr. Lisa Taylor, his calculus professor. Furthering his confidence in his own abilities, he pursued a second major in Mathematics. Fernando graduated with a dual BA in both Mathematics and Liberal Studies from Sac State, the first in his family to attend college. Soon thereafter he began teaching mathematics in 2010 at Hiram Johnson High School (HJHS) in Sacramento, a campus with a diverse student body and a history of issues characteristic of underserved schools. He looks forward to continuing to expand connections between HJHS students and staff with those at Sac State.

Fernando has become a member of the School Site Council, PTSA, ELAC, and has supported his colleagues districtwide on the Sacramento City Teachers’ Union Bargaining Team as certificated and classified staff persevered through the eight-day strike in 2022 with the support of families and community elected officials. He has been recognized by CSU Sacramento for over a decade of contributions to the university EOP learning community. Most recently, he has collaborated with Sac State professors to roll out two efforts: the Saturday Math Gymnasium, a program developed for HJHS students to connect with Sac State mentors through engaging mathematics activities and challenges; and Math Tutoring Buddies, where high school students are able to receive direct support live online from Sac State students.

His advice to people looking to teach today’s youth is to have a willingness to teach knowing not everything will go perfectly and to look forward to learning from students.

---

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).

*Thanks to the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America for support of Lathisms.*