

# LATINOS ASCEND

## Noche de Estrellas

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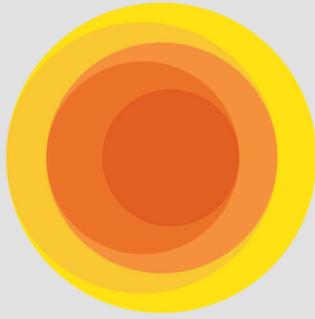
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# IN HONOR

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Dr. Anh-Kay Pizano dedicated her career and passion to lifting students to reach their college dreams, both in the community and at her alma mater. As a member of the Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council she co-chaired the Latinos Unidos Luncheon, supported the DALE project and countless other MHAC initiatives. The Dr. Anh-Kay Pizano Scholarship Memorial Fund was created in her honor in 2022 and in 2023 Latinos Ascend Noche de Estrella was founded to honor her legacy and raise funds to support Latino students in graduate and professional programs.

Pizano arrived in the United States as a child with her parents as Cuban exiles — her father, Roberto, had been a political prisoner in Cuba after leading a local movement against the country's communist government. Though she spoke no English and her family had limited financial means, she dreamed of furthering her education. With help from the USF Latino Scholarship Program (LSP), she would become a first-generation college student and rare “triple Bull,” earning bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from USF.

# program

LATINOS  
ASCEND

## COCKTAIL RECEPTION

ENTERTAINMENT: DAVID DILINGHAM - VIOLINIST

## ESTRELLA PROGRAM

DINNER

ESTRELLA AWARD: FLOR MARTINEZ

## EL CIERRE

ENTERTAINMENT: SALSA WITH CHRISTIAN & JESSICA

## CELEBRATION

ENTERTAINMENT: DJ FELIX EVENT PRODUCTIONS



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*Soñar Sponson*

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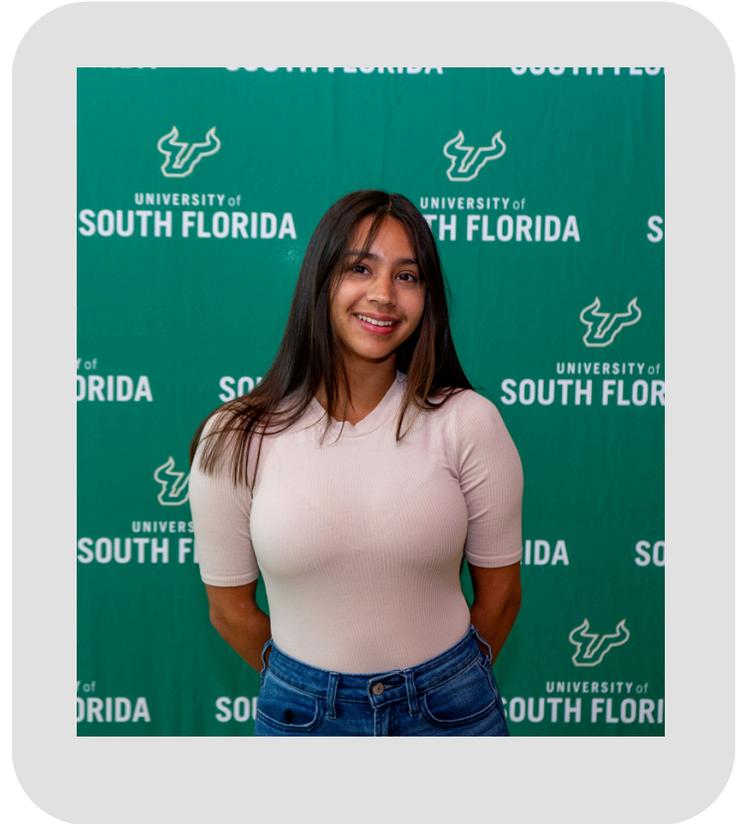


# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Karla is a first-year student at USF majoring in Psychology. She lives in Tampa and graduated from Baulio Alonso High School. Karla has a dream of becoming a Psychologist that provides multilingual mental health services to the community.

At six years old, she immigrated with her family from Cuba. As a first generation immigrant with high academic promise, she was a leader in her high school organizations and volunteered with community organizations.

She is the first recipient of the Dr. Anh-Kay Pizano Scholarship.



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## THANK YOU SPONSORS



# ESTRELLA AWARD RECIPIENT

Flor Martinez has championed higher education for more than 15 years. She has called Tampa home since 2019 and serves as the Diversity Initiatives Officer and Program Manager for the USF Latino Scholarship Program. Besides managing the 32-year-old Latino Scholarship Program, she is also responsible for supporting 185 LSP students, by connecting them with mentors and developing their leadership.



As a first-generation college student herself, Flor understands the challenges students face and she strives to promote holistic support for the Latino students in the Tampa community. Her efforts to promote higher education access have led her to present for organizations such as Hispanic Services Council, Enterprising Latinas, Miss Latina Tampa, and the Hillsborough County Public Schools Parent Partnership School Program among others.

Flor has been a dedicated advocate for dreamers, undocumented students with college dreams, not only helping them identify resources and overcome barriers, but also to find success in higher education. She is the liaison for the TheDream.Us and has served as a facilitator for UndocuAlly Training; being recognized with the Dr. Heide Castañeda UndocuAlly Staff Award.

In addition to her professional duties with LSP, Flor has also served on the USF Greek Life task force and is a member of the Alianza Latina leadership committee through her role as chair of the student life sub-committee, and currently serves as the staff advisor to the Central American Student Alliance (CENSA) at the Tampa campus

Born in Mexico, Flor was raised in McAllen, Texas where she earned her Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. She is enrolled in the Masters in Latin American and Caribbean Studies program at the University of South Florida!

# OUR WORK

## 813 CAFECITO

The 813 Cafecito is a monthly event that advocates, educate, and inform the general public on major topics that impact our Hispanic community.

## CANASTAS DE AMOR

The "Canastas de Amor" (Baskets of Love) project supports our Tampa Latino senior population.

## DALE

The Development Acceleration for Latinos Education (DALE) initiative exposes Hispanic students to role models in civic, corporate, and professional fields.

## LATINOS ASCEND

This event will help raise funds to support graduate level college dreams for Latino students.

## LATINOS UNIDOS

This event is dedicated to raising scholarship dollars to remove critical barriers to postsecondary education for Latino youth.



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