



*NORTHEASTERN  
ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY  
EL CENTRO*

FALL 2021 ISSUE



# Welcome Back!

El Centro staff and faculty would like to welcome everyone back with open arms. Whether it's your first semester here at El Centro or your first semester back post-quarantine, we're excited to see you all.

The Fall 2021 semester is different from any other due to COVID-19. If there is anything you need, El Centro is here to help!

# A MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER TEAM!

Starting Fall 2021, the El Centro newsletter will be created by student workers! We are very excited to share updates and information every semester! We hope that our first newsletter grabs your attention and the ones to come.

## *EDITOR-IN-CHIEF*



### **Jeanette Delgado**

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Year: Senior

Major: Psychology

Q: What is your favorite holiday?

A: "My favorite holiday would have to be Halloween! I love watching spooky movies and the overall feeling that Halloween brings. It is my comfort holiday."

## *CONTRIBUTING WRITERS*



### **Dania Saucedo**

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Year: Junior

Major: Finance

Q: If you were a flower what would you be and why?

A: "I would be a Sweet Rocket flower. Similar attributes as the flower sweet rocket, I have been told that I symbolize a delightful scent from the aroma of my presence. I have, as an individual, attributes from the lavender color of the flower. I am spiritually transforming, containing serenity, releasing tensions and cleansing. Just like the flower's name, I am a sweetheart with a fierce disposition similar to a rocket."



### **Jennifer Reyes**

Pronouns: She/Her

Year: Senior

Major: Psychology

Q: What's on your bucket list?

A: "I would love to travel to Italy, Greece, and swim with dolphins."



**Aaliyah Blacher**  
Pronouns: She/Her  
Year: Freshman  
Major: Social Justice

**Q:** What's your favorite holiday and why?

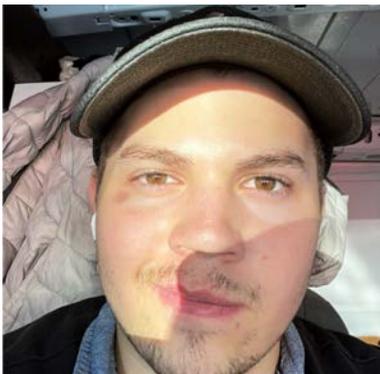
**A:** "My favorite holiday would have to be Christmas, mainly because my birthday is three days before Christmas, so I get to celebrate two holidays, more gifts."



**Jaime Jimenez**  
Pronouns: He/Him  
Year: Graduating Senior  
Major: Mathematics

**Q:** If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?

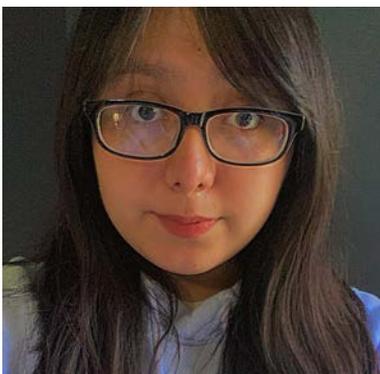
**A:** "Flying like superman because I want to fly faster to catch up to the train or bus. I want to make sure I don't miss work or going to the main campus so I want to have the power of flying."



**Brayan Cruz**  
Pronouns: He/Him/His  
Year: Sophomore  
Major: Criminal Justice

**Q:** What is your favorite thing about your major?

**A:** "That I will be able to know and learn a lot more about street life and the justice system."



**Emily Sosa**  
Pronouns: She/Her  
Year: Sophomore  
Major: Art Education

**Q:** What other major would you want and why?

**A:** "I would like to be an English major because I love the idea that you can have so much to say about stories and poetry written down on paper. And have in-depth conversations with others about books/literature."



**Amaan Yaseen**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Year: Junior

Major: Computer Science

Q. What cartoon character would you like to spend a day with?

A: "I would love to spend a day with Garfield and try out some lasagna."

*STAFF ADVISORS*



**Mimi Crespo**

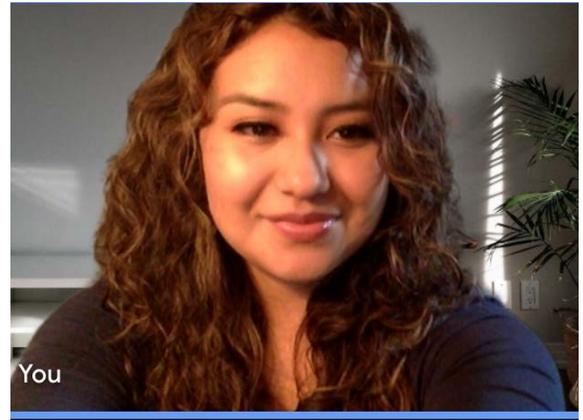
Pronouns: She/Her/Ella

Major: B.S. Finance & M.B.A. 2008

Coordinator of the El Centro Resource Center

Q: When you started your current job, what surprised you the most?

A: "I went from a completely different job at the main campus to my current position as coordinator of the El Centro Resource Center. In my previous position, I was the assistant to the University President and Board of Trustees. It wasn't a good fit for me because I worked mostly by myself. I wanted to be part of a team, share ideas, work with colleagues and toward the mission of the university which is helping students succeed. It has been a wonderful change for me, working with our students and the El Centro Team. I didn't have to change my major; I changed my career path."



**Lizett Galán**

Pronouns: She/Her/Ella

Major: B.A. Sociology & M.A. Higher Education

Coordinator of Student Success and Social Media

Q: What motivates you to work hard?

A: "I don't rely on motivation, It's more self-discipline. Being an immigrant I always want more for myself and everyone around me. Yes I work hard but I've learned to take it step-by-step and be disciplined about getting into my goals. And knowing that my path would not be linear."



# JAIIME JIMENEZ

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

At the point when Jaime selected NEIU's Summer Transition Program in 2011, he realized he was bound to turn into a secondary school math instructor. As a young boy in elementary school, Jaime was intrigued by numbers and thought about how his interest with math could develop. Jaime envisions turning into a numerical educator, assisting students with their mathematical troubles, he hopes to empower students and be the best for them.

Jaime enjoys games such as ping pong and playing pool which is one of his favorites. It wasn't until his friends introduced him to the game, that Jaime enjoyed it very much.

As a current senior, Jaime is on track to graduate this upcoming fall with his B.A. in Mathematics, with a concentration in secondary mathematics! After graduation, he hopes to look for a job in his field of study. He's eager to show his skills and abilities and is ready for anything that comes his way!

Jaime has been proud of all experiences he's had at NEIU. The many friendships he has created that he will never forget. Some advice from Jaime to other students is: "Don't give up and keep trying. Always know you can get help in/out of the university. Always check up on things throughout your career, always take your time for your homework and turn in everything on time so you can get the right credit for it."

Congratulations, Jaime! Keep pushing, you're almost at the finish line!

*By: Brayan Cruz*

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## Institute For Mexicans Abroad (IME) Becas Scholarship Reception

On October 19, we held a beautiful ceremony for our 2020 & 2021 IME Becas scholarship recipients. For the past five years, El Centro has partnered with the Consulado General de México en Chicago to provide scholarships to our students.



## CLIMATE STUDY PRESENTATION

*By: Lizett Gálan*

Congratulations to Dr. Maria Luna-Duarte, El Centro Director and Dr. Sharon Bethea, Faculty Counselor Education and Coordinator African/African American Studies on their Campus Climate Study presentation on October 7. The NEIU community gathered at the main campus in the auditorium for the presentation and a Q&A of the action steps phase.

## EL CENTRO BLOOD DRIVE

*By: Aaliyah Blacher*

Saving a life with just a pint of blood can do a lot for anybody dealing with trauma and transplants. On November 10, El Centro partnered with Versiti Blood Center of Illinois, State Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas and 35th Ward Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa for the Fall 2021 Blood Drive. This blood drive was a great way to show support for people in need. Even if you didn't get a chance to attend, there are many ways to show your gratitude for those in need.



# Instituto Health Science Career Academy visits!

High School Seniors from Instituto Health Science Career Academy visited El Centro on Thursday, November 18. We enjoyed welcoming them. It was another great collaboration between NEIU's Undergraduate Admissions Office and Proyecto Pa'Lante.





**Please join us for breakfast at NEIU El Centro!**

# **SCHOOL COUNSELORS, COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADVISORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021 | 9:30 a.m-12 p.m.**

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**3390 N. Avondale Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60618**

We will be sharing University updates and highlights on initiatives for the 2022-23 year.

We look forward to seeing you!

On Tuesday, December 7, El Centro invited high school counselors, community college advisors and community partners to a special breakfast to learn more about NEIU's initiatives. Over 30 community partners attended in-person and online. Thank you to the directors of Financial Aid and our Student Success Programs for sharing the many services we provide our students. And special thanks to President Gloria Gibson, Associate Provost Marshall Thompson, Vice President of Student Affairs Terry Mena, and Acting Associate Dean Tim Libretti for their warm remarks. It was great to be in community with all of our partners.

# FUN AT EL CENTRO!

Check out these fun events that brought the El Centro community together to take a break from class and work.



To celebrate Halloween, students and staff shared their creative sides by creating mini shadow boxes on October 26. This event was sponsored by El Centro in collaboration with the Center for College Access and Success (CCAS).



On November 2, El Centro collaborated with the Center for College Access and Success (CCAS) for a fun activity! Students and staff enjoyed decorating a Frida Inspired Tote Bag in honor of Dia de Los Muertos, or also known as Day of the Dead.

*By: Jennifer Reyes*



# Taquiza At El Centro!

BY: JEANETTE DELGADO

What better way to kick off Latinx Heritage Month than with a Taquiza! NEIU's very own El Centro Campus in collaboration with CCAS (Center for College Access and Success), Angelina Pedroso Center, Student Leadership Development, and Student Affairs hosted a beautiful event on September 28 filled with delicious food, music, games and even a bull ride!

Latinx Heritage Month is a celebration that recognizes the history and culture of the U.S. Latinx and Hispanic Communities, which begins September 15th and lasts until October 15th. El Centro closed down part of the parking lot and had the pleasure of welcoming students and the community, as well as our mascot, Goldie! Victor Montañez showcased his beautiful art exhibit, and a few student organizations joined us as well!





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# ATTENTION: NEIU EL CENTRO IS ON ALL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS!

NEIU El Centro has developed a social media presence across all platforms to inform our students and community of our upcoming events, life-changing opportunities, and amusement. We aspire to maintain our students' motivation and reassure them that they are not alone on this academic journey. Our social media platforms are here to encourage students along their journey. If you're still reading this and you haven't followed, what are you waiting for? The time is ticking. Get connected with El Centro today! Who knows, maybe you will be the next student featured on our social media platforms.

By: Dania Saucedo



Do you have a story you'd  
like to share? Questions?  
Comments?  
Email us at  
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or call us at 773-442-4080



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