



# Outstanding Dissertations Competition **2022**

**AAHHE**

American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education, Inc.

**Deadline: August 2, 2021**

## Introduction

The American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) and ETS are proud to announce the Outstanding Dissertations Competition 2022. AAHHE and ETS recognize the need to greatly increase the number of Hispanics receiving doctoral degrees, entering higher education on the tenure track, and serving in faculty, administrative and leadership roles.

Although Hispanics are the fastest-growing population in the country, they are underrepresented in all areas of higher education: undergraduate, graduate, faculty and administration. Gains are being seen every year in the number of Hispanics earning doctoral degrees and serving in full-time faculty positions. However, the percentages are not climbing commensurate with the population's growth.

By sponsoring this competition, AAHHE and ETS provide an opportunity to spotlight top doctoral students and reward excellence in doctoral-level Hispanic student performance.

The goals are to encourage greater numbers of prepared students to enter and complete doctoral programs and to enhance the quality of the dissertations they write.

## Competition Eligibility

The competition is open to any Latinx who has completed a dissertation as part of a doctoral degree program in the social sciences, broadly defined, and/or anyone whose dissertation research conducted as part of a doctoral degree program in the social sciences focuses on the Latinx community. Additionally, the dissertation needs to have been completed between December 2019 and August 1, 2021.

Dissertations are eligible if they are in domains that are related to the ETS corporate mission, including education, linguistics, psychology, statistics, testing and so forth. Studies using any research approach (historical, experimental, survey, quantitative, mixed methods, etc.) are eligible. Dissertations in the humanities, basic sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics are not eligible. **Previous applicants are ineligible to reapply.**

## General Procedure

The judging occurs in two phases. In the first phase, it is based on dissertation abstracts received by the deadline. The writers of the top seven to 10 dissertation summaries (semifinalists) will be asked to submit a copy of the complete dissertation. Judging in the second phase determines the top three dissertations and honorable mentions, if applicable.

## Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the dissertation:

- appropriateness of the research approach used
- significance of the impact of the research in the field
- creativity and innovation of the study
- scholarly quality of the dissertation
- significance of its contribution to knowledge in the candidate's area(s) of study

## Dissertation Summary

The dissertation summary for the first round of judging is due on **August 2, 2021**. The summary must reflect accurately, concisely and precisely the research of the full dissertation.

It is very important that each candidate follows the dissertation summary preparation instructions carefully. The dissertation summary should include a title page, an abstract letter signed by the chair of the dissertation committee, a main report section and an appendix. Detailed instructions are available at [www.aahhe.org](http://www.aahhe.org).

## Award Recognition

Two levels of winners will be recognized: finalists (first-, second- and third-place winners) and honorable mentions (out of the remaining semifinalists). The three finalists will be formally recognized at the 17th Annual AAHHE National Conference, March 2022.

The three finalists also will receive:

- a monetary award (\$3,000 for first place, \$2,000 for second place and \$1,000 for third place)
- first-place winner will receive an AAHHE Award, while the second- and third-place winners will receive an AAHHE/ETS framed certificate
- support to attend the 2022 AAHHE National Conference to present their dissertations in an individual concurrent session

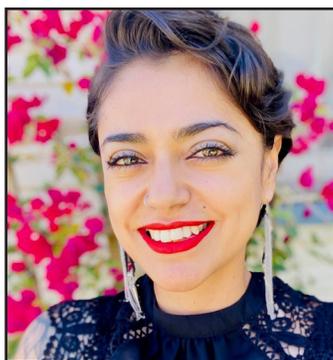
# The Kurt M. Landgraf Outstanding Dissertation Award



**K**urt M. Landgraf joined ETS as President and Chief Executive Officer in August 2000, and he retired in December 2013. During his tenure, he oversaw ETS's entrance into the K–12 field, expanded its international services, broadened its education research activities and raised the company's profile as a voice for education reform. In honor of his contributions to quality and equity in education at all levels, the first-place award in this competition is named the Kurt M. Landgraf Outstanding Dissertation Award.

## 2021 Competition Winners

### FIRST PLACE



#### **Laura P. Minero, Ph.D.**

Degree-Granting Institution: University of Wisconsin-Madison

*The Impact of Detention Proceedings and Solitary Confinement on Latinx, Transgender, Undocumented and Asylum-Seeking Immigrants*

Minero is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the DMH + UCLA Prevention Center of Excellence and EMPWR Program at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research focuses on undocumented and asylum-seeking transgender immigrants, as well as the intersections of transphobia, racism and trauma. Minero's interest in science policy is driven by the knowledge that policies impact the mental and holistic well-being of communities.

### SECOND PLACE



#### **Gisele Martínez-Negrete, Ph.D.**

Degree-Granting Institution: University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Bilingual Ways with Words: An Ethnographic Study of Language and Social Constructions in a Kindergarten Dual-Language Class*

Martínez-Negrete is an assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In her most recent work, she investigates how emergent bilinguals in dual-language immersion programs perceive, enact and negotiate the tenuous intersections of race, ethnicity, social class position and language in American-school settings.

### THIRD PLACE



#### **Amilcar Guzmán, Ph.D.**

Degree-Granting Institution: University of Maryland, College Park

*Uncovering Typologies of Civically Engaged Latinx/a/o College Graduates*

Guzmán is Director of Evaluation and Outcomes for the League of Women Voters and President of AG Consulting, LLC. As part of his dissertation, Guzmán launched the National Latinx Alumni Engagement Survey — a first-of-its kind survey instrument designed to examine how Latinx college graduates engage civically. He believes that education and civic engagement are the cornerstone of any democracy.

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c/o AAHHE  
2598 East Sunrise Boulevard  
Suite 2104  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

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**The first deadline is August 2, 2021!**

*Visit [www.aahhe.org](http://www.aahhe.org) for details.*

