

DeKalb Leadership Academy

Chamber of Commerce

Academy



Meet 2020-2021 Class Member | **Luis Santos-Rivas** | NIU Latino Resource Center

Luis Santos-Rivas is passionate about helping diverse students achieve their dreams through higher education. He has been making a difference for under-represented students for more than 15 years. Over his career, he has held numerous roles in local, regional and national diversity organizations, including chairing a 10-state region for the National Association of Multicultural Engineering Program Advocates, whose mission is to cultivate diverse technical talent. In 2012, he completed the coursework for the Certified Diversity Professional credential through the Society for Diversity. Prior to accepting the position of Latino Resource Center Director at Northern Illinois University (NIU) he was in charge of the Hispanic Leadership Development for the University of North Georgia, Gainesville campus, where he advised the Latino Student Association and the Native American Student Association, which he founded in 2012. Member of the One Hall Vision 2030 Diversity Committee for the Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Mr. Santos-Rivas led the Minority Engineering Program for Arizona State University in Phoenix for six years. Born and raised in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Mr. Santos-Rivas began his career as a professor of computer sciences at APEC, a private university in Santo Domingo, where he was later promoted to Dean of the School of Computer Sciences. He held that position for six years, until 2001, when he immigrated to the United States. Author of a bilingual English/Spanish child adventure book named "Chasing a Rainbow" (Persiguiendo un Arcoiris). Mr. Santos-Rivas earned a Bachelor's degree in Computer Sciences from World University in Santo Domingo, and a Master's degree in Strategic Communication and Leadership from Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ.



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