

Our Speakers



Geovannie Gone, LMAC, MPH

Executive Director, Immunize Kansas Coalition

Ms. Gone oversees the development and implementation of the Immunize Kansas Coalition (IKC) and statewide immunization strategies, new business initiatives, addresses vaccine equity, and related objectives. She provides oversight to government grant programs and other enabling services of the corporation.

She thrives in finding ways to innovate and strategize plans to increase vaccination rates to reduce vaccinepreventable diseases. With over 15 years of healthcare experience, Gone is a graduate of Fort Hays State University where she earned her master's degree in Public Health. She is also a licensed Nutritionist, and a Licensed Addictions Counselor. Gone is the President and founder of "Diversidad Latina" in western Kansas, an organization that hosts the Promotoras de Salud Program. She enjoys serving her state that welcomed her many years ago. Currently she serves as a member of the State of Kansas Nursing Board, the Kansas Hispanic Latino Commission, and just recently appointed to the Governors Council on Wellness. Prior to joining IKC, she was the Chief Administrative Officer for Genesis Family Health, a State of Kansas Federally Qualified Health Center in western Kansas.



Lizbeth De Jesus

**Community Health Worker, Masonic Cancer Alliance,
University of Kansas Cancer Center**

Lizbeth De Jesus has a proven track record of dedication and commitment to improving the health of the Latino community. She has over 7 years of professional experience in human services where she focuses on providing direct services to the Latino population.

Lizbeth is a certified Community Health Worker at the Masonic Cancer Alliance outreach network of the University of Kansas Cancer Center where she manages the Spanish call line for the Early Detection Works program. This program provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings to underinsured and uninsured patients across the state of Kansas. To date, Lizbeth has connected over 2100 patients with free cancer screening services.

Lizbeth's multilingual expertise in Spanish contributes to ensuring that cancer screening programs are more inclusive and accessible; ultimately making a positive impact on the health and well-being of the community in which she serves.



Find more information at
www.immunizekansascoalition.org/entre-mujeres



Our Speakers



Principal Consul Soileh Padilla Mayer

Consulate of Mexico in Kansas City

Cónsul Titular, Soileh Padilla Mayer, holds a degree in International Relations from the Faculty of Political Science of UNAM and a Master's degree in Alternative Development Policies from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Kingdom of the Netherlands.

She has been a member of the Mexican Foreign Service since 2002, entering the diplomatic career by competitive examination in 2009. Her most recent position was at the Mexican Embassy in Canada as Head of the Cultural and Academic Affairs area.

Her work experience includes government, academia, media and publishing. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs she has served as advisor to the Undersecretary for North America; Director of the Luis Cardoza y Aragón Cultural Center at the Embassy of Mexico in Guatemala; Cultural Attaché at the Mexican Consulate in Houston, Texas; Director of Scholarships and Private Secretary of the Head of the Cultural Affairs Unit.

Prior to joining the Foreign Ministry, she worked at the National Institute of Fine Arts (INBAL) as Coordinator of Advisors to the Director General and previously at the Mexican Academy of Human Rights (AMDH) where she served as head of the National Campaign against Torture. Within the private initiative, her work at Editorial Azabache and Televisión Azteca stands out.



Nohemi Alvarez, MSN, NP-C

Family Nurse Practitioner

Nohemi Alvarez is a family nurse practitioner who is dedicated to providing high quality primary care services and chronic disease management to the Hispanic community in the greater KC metro area.

She earned her BSN in 2008 from Truman State University and then worked in step down, ICU, pediatrics, and travel nursing. She earned her MSN in 2013 from Graceland University and has worked as a nurse practitioner for 10 years.

Nohemi is an active member of NAHN-KC chapter, and Prime Health Foundation. Her family immigrated from Mexico when she was 5 years old and as the family interpreter in legal and health care matters, she understands the many challenges that immigrant families experience when navigating systems in the U.S. especially the complex medical system. She provides culturally sensitive health information and is passionate in seeing patients succeed in their individual and family health goals.



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Our Speakers



Karime Rosas

Entrepreneur

Karime Rosas grew up in Mexico until she was 18 years old. She moved to the United States and continued her education, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Newman University in Wichita, KS in 2006.

Like many immigrants, she learned English as an adult and worked in restaurants, radio, newspapers as an advertising agent, and eventually started her own business. She has been a consolidated business for more than 23 years and has been recognized as the #1 director in the state.

Karime is married to Martin Rosas and has 2 children, Emmanuel, 10, and Karime Amira, 6. As a mom, wife, daughter, and leader, Karime will share how you can have a balance and design the life of your dreams. With faith, hard work, discipline, perseverance, and passion everything is possible!



Sharla A. Smith, Ph.D., MPH

Associate Professor, Population Health University of Kansas Medical Center

Dr. Sharla Smith completed her Ph.D. in Health Systems and Services Research with a concentration in Health Economics from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 2013.

Sharla is a health services and systems researcher whose primary research is maternal and infant health disparities, women cancer disparities, and community engagement. She is the co-founder of Kansas Sisters and Brothers for Healthy Infants and the founder of the Kansas birth equity network. She has experience manipulating large datasets and performing descriptive, cross-sectional, and longitudinal data analysis using SAS and Stata, and conducting social network analysis. In addition, she has over four years of experience in clinical research. Dr. Smith is passionate about developing a culture of birth equity through community engagement, empowerment, and education.

Dr. Smith has experience teaching public health law, public health policy and law, introduction to public health, developing public health interventions, introduction to health policy and politics, and epidemiology. She advises students and has served as a faculty mentor on Master's-level research projects.



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