



University of Colorado  
Boulder

# 2025 LATINX/É GRADUATION

Koenig Alumni Center  
May 8, 2025  
4 p.m.

*Class of 2025*



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado's flagship university, honors and recognizes the many contributions of Indigenous peoples in our state. CU Boulder acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute and many other Native American nations. Their forced removal from these territories has caused devastating and lasting impacts. While the University of Colorado Boulder can never undo or rectify the devastation wrought on Indigenous peoples, we commit to improving and enhancing engagement with Indigenous peoples and issues locally and globally.

### **We will do this by:**

- Recognizing and amplifying the voices of Indigenous CU Boulder students, staff and faculty and their work.
- Educating, conducting research, supporting student success and integrating Indigenous knowledge.
- Consulting, engaging and working collaboratively with tribal nations to enhance our ability to provide access and culturally sensitive support and to recruit, retain and graduate Native American students in a climate that is inclusive and respectful.



### **STUDENT SPEAKER**

Lupita Ortiz is a senior at CU. She has a major in Sociology and a minor in Political Science. She has been involved with the Herd Leadership Council and Student Class Council, and mentors high school Latina students through the YWCA.

Driven by a passion for increasing Latina representation in politics, she aspires to serve in government.

### **A note about the Latinx/Latiné terminology**

The intention of the use of Latinx/Latiné is meant to broaden our community and increase inclusivity, but it is not meant to identify nor force labels upon any individual or group.

Since the 1970s, the terminology used to categorize our community has been an important conversation in the U.S. and the Americas. Just like the history of our ancestors, the language used to identify our community is complicated. The continual conversation of what terms we use as a community and where these terms come from, what ancestry they highlight, and who prefers them, will likely continue. In the meantime, we want to honor the communities that created these terms and recognize the continuing importance of this now over-half-a-century conversation.

Regardless of what term you use for yourself, you are part of this conversation, and we want to welcome you to celebrate our many complicated terms and histories together.

We will forever promote, support, and cheer on our communities!



## PROGRAM FLOW

4 – 4:15 p.m.	Check In, Meet and Greet
4:15 – 4:45 p.m.	Welcome and Presentation: Yahir Coronado Herrera and Miriam Montiel-Muñoz
4:45 – 4:55 p.m.	Student Speaker: Lupita Ortiz
4:55 – 5 p.m.	Alumni Association Final Remarks: Nelson Castro, Senior Program Manager, Community Engagement and Outreach
5 – 5:30 p.m.	Presentation of Stoles to Graduates
5:30 – 5:40 p.m.	Group Picture of Graduates
5:40 – 7 p.m.	Reception: Food, Music

We honor each graduate with a serape stole. The serape stole uses traditional Indigenous/Latina/o/x serape blanket material, celebrating a connection with Indigenous and Latinx communities and countries. These stoles have become a source of pride for those graduating as it commemorates our culture, combined with a symbol of graduation – one that graduates celebrate for themselves, their families, and their communities.



## GRADUATES

Jose Antonio Abarca

Vianney Aguilar

Dihana Araujo Benitez

Jessyln Armansyah

Maryann Avila Castillo

Mariajose Baca

Yvette Barrales-Fenner

Andrea Barron Salazar

Yazelyn Benitez

Natasha Cardona

Melvin Casillae

Julio Ceballos

Gabriel Cervantes

Ethan Cuenca

Matthew Cumpton

Isabel Durand

Andrew Franco

Sanjana Gangishetty

Tomas Gibson

Elizabeth Gomez Solis

Andressa Gonzales de Souza

Yarely Gonzalez

Lisset Gonzalez

Judith Gonzalez

Carlos Granillo

Juan Heredia

Erika Lemus

Karla Citlali Lemus Gordillo

Abel Maestas

Greta Mateu Sulca

Carlos Matherson

Natalie Muñoz Chavez

Samantha Neri Delgado

Alan Ochoa

Mariana Ochoa

Nikolas Ortega

Lupita Ortiz

Jonathan Hernandez Pacheco



## GRADUATES

Priscilla Palos

Fernando Perez Nevarez

Scott Perkins

Devon Quispe

Brian Ramirez Ortega

Karen Reyes

Angela Rojas Silva

Kiyani Sabala

Kiyani Sabala

Yamileth Salinas Del Val

Elyjah Toledo

Blanca Trejo Aguilera

Gianny Venegas

Adrian Zendejas



## GRADUATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

GUILLERMO RAMIREZ RUIZ	Center for Inclusion and Social Change
VICTOR HERNANDEZ	Precollegiate Development Program
TERESA HERNANDEZ	Department of Human Resources
VANESSA LOPEZ	Forever Buffs Latinx Alumni Association
EF RODRIGUEZ	Forever Buffs Latinx Alumni Association
LUPITA ORTIZ	The Herd Leadership Council and Senior Class Council
NELSON CASTRO	CU Alumni Association



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ASIAN UNITY

"ONLY THOSE OF US WHO CARRY OUR CAUSE IN OUR  
HEARTS ARE WILLING TO RUN THE RISKS."

– RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ  
ACTIVIST & NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER