

LEADERSHIP
CULTURE
OPPORTUNITY
STUDENT
SUCCESS

AZALAS

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ADMINISTRATORS &
SUPERINTENDENTS

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

UNSTOPPABLE

OUR VOICE, OUR FUTURE

2026 AZALAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 8-9, 2026

HARRAH'S AK CHIN MARICOPA, ARIZONA

The Countdown to the AZALAS 2026
Conference Begins!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MEET THE TEAM BEHIND
THE CONFERENCE

AZALAS

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ADMINISTRATORS &
SUPERINTENDENTS

Welcome TO THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Unstoppable: Our Voice, Our Future, Together We Lead, Together We Rise

AZALAS is proud to look ahead to another important chapter in our collective journey of leadership, service, and educational excellence. At the heart of our work is a belief that educators have the power to inspire possibilities, open doors, and help shape the future of every student and community we serve.

The words of renowned Latino educator Jaime Escalante remind us of the powerful role educators play in preparing students for what lies ahead:

"You do not enter the future; you create the future. The future is created through hard work."

— Jaime Escalante

These words capture the spirit of AZALAS and the commitment of educators and leaders who dedicate themselves to creating opportunities for students to learn, lead, and succeed. Education is not simply about preparing students for the future, it is about empowering them to help create that future. Every teacher, administrator, counselor, and educational leader has an opportunity to encourage students to dream bigger, recognize their potential, and believe that their voices and contributions matter.

As we prepare for the AZALAS Annual Conference, we look forward to bringing together educational leaders, administrators, educators, and advocates from across Arizona who share a commitment to advancing equity, leadership, and excellence in education for all students.

The conference will provide opportunities for meaningful professional development, thoughtful dialogue, networking, and collaboration as we continue to strengthen our educational communities.

In this issue, we are honored to recognize and celebrate our Conference Committee members and the important role they play in making this annual gathering possible. Their leadership reflects the heart of AZALAS; serving our communities, elevating Latino voices, supporting educational excellence, and developing the next generation of Latino administrators and superintendents. Together, we are building stronger schools, stronger communities, and brighter futures for the students we serve.



*Dr. Marvene
Lobato*

SAVE THE DATE
NOVEMBER 8-9, 2026

EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE
OCTOBER 7, 2026

AZALAS

A PERSONAL *Invitation*

FROM YOUR CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

Dear AzALAS Community,

On behalf of Dr. Rosalinda Rodriguez and myself, we are thrilled to invite you to the upcoming AzALAS State Conference! Guided by this year's empowering theme, *Unstoppable: Our Voice, Our Future*, this gathering is designed to inspire, re-energize, and equip educational leaders across Arizona to elevate student success and strengthen our communities.

We are honored to feature an extraordinary lineup of keynote speakers whose leadership, advocacy, and perseverance embody what it means to be unstoppable:



Congresswoman
Adelita Grijalva

CHAMPIONING PUBLIC EDUCATION,
EQUITY, AND COMMUNITY ADVOCACY



Anthony Robles

FORMER NCAA WRESTLING CHAMPION FROM
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, MOTIVATIONAL
SPEAKER, AND AUTHOR OF *UNSTOPPABLE*.



Edutainer" Ernie G:

INSPIRING LEADERS THROUGH HIGH-
ENERGY EMPOWERMENT, HUMOR, AND
TRANSFORMATIONAL STORYTELLING

Our conference programming is thoughtfully curated by our strong sub-committees using feedback from districts to address the most pressing needs of Arizona schools. Participants can look forward to targeted breakout sessions focused on equity, innovation, and administrative leadership, as well as collaborative reflection spaces designed to help teams turn inspiration into actionable district strategies. Your dedication continues to shape the future of Arizona schools, and we look forward to learning, collaborating, and amplifying our collective voice

Hasta Pronto. Dr. Rosalinda Rodriguez & Mr. Mario Castro

SAVE THE DATE
NOVEMBER 8-9, 2026

HARRAH'S AK-CHIN
MARICOPA, ARIZONA

EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION
DEADLINE: OCTOBER 7, 2026

2026 AZALAS CONFERENCE

UNSTOPPABLE

Our Voice. OUR FUTURE.

TOGETHER, WE LEAD. ♦ TOGETHER, WE RISE.



1988

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO
ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS



BOOK YOUR STAY WITH OUR GROUP RATE!

LIMITED
TIME!



EARLY BIRD *SPECIAL!*



ENDS 10/7
11:59PM



\$450

SCAN TO
PURCHASE



Scan for details!



ADMISSION



10/8



\$500

LIMITED SEATS!
REGISTER TODAY!



NOVEMBER 8TH & 9TH, 2026



HARRAH'S AK-CHIN RESORT & CASINO
15406 N MARICOPA ROAD
MARICOPA, ARIZONA 85139



PURCHASE TICKETS AT [AZALAS.ORG](https://azalas.org)

LEADERSHIP. EDUCATION. COMMUNITY. ♦ *Unidos.* ♦ STRONGER TOGETHER.

2026 AZALAS CONFERENCE



1988

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO
ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

UNSTOPPABLE

Our Voice.

OUR FUTURE.

TOGETHER, WE LEAD. ♦ TOGETHER, WE RISE.



BOOK YOUR STAY WITH OUR GROUP RATE!



ROOM RATE INFORMATION

The rates at **\$135.00** plus tax per night.
You will be able to book before 11:59 PM on
Wednesday, October 7th to be guaranteed
availability and the group rate.



BOOK YOUR STAY

Book online using our group link:
www.caesars.com/book/?propCode=AKC&action=FindRooms&groupcode=S11AZC6



OR CALL 1-800-CAESARS

and provide group code
S11AZC6
to speak to a central reservations agent.

**SCAN TO BOOK
YOUR STAY!**



Scan for details!

— OUR VOICE. OUR FUTURE. UNSTOPPABLE. —

WWW.AZALAS.ORG

Art Work COMMITTEE

BRINGING THE CONFERENCE THEME TO LIFE THROUGH STUDENT ART

The purpose of the Art Work Committee is to obtain Student Artwork based upon the conference's annual theme, and the students interpretation of the theme is represented in their work. The competition is open to all students in Arizona's public schools statewide.

The Committee then selects the artwork winners from the following grade bands; K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. An overall winner is then selected from the grade band winners chosen. Posters are then created to showcase the winners artwork at the conference.

Student Voices. Creative Futures

MEET THE ART WORK COMMITTEE

**Anthony
Fimbres**

Douglas Unified School
District

Ciara Goulette

Saddle Mountain Unified School
District

**Jonathan
Chavez**

Santa Cruz Valley Unified
School District

Luz Andrade

Santa Cruz Valley Unified
School District

**Maria Federico
Brummer**

Tucson Unified School District

**Michelle
Cota**

Santa Cruz Valley Unified
School District

**Mimi
Renteria**

Santa Cruz Valley Unified
School District

**Vanessa
Alegria -Rivas**

Santa Cruz Valley Unified
School District



AZALAS

Arizona Association of
Latino Administrators &
Superintendents

AZALAS STUDENT ART CONTEST 2026 CONCURSO DE ARTE ESTUDIANTIL 2026

UNSTOPPABLE: OUR VOICE, OUR FUTURE

IMPARABLES: NUESTRA VOZ, NUESTRO FUTURO



OPEN TO KINDERGARTEN-12TH GRADE

ABIERTO A ESTUDIANTES DEL KINDER AL 12 GRADO

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Let your creativity speak! Show what it means to be unstoppable, share your voice, celebrate your culture and community, and inspire educational leaders across Arizona. With parent/guardian permission, selected artwork and student photos may be featured in AZALAS publications, presentations, and social media.

¿POR QUÉ PARTICIPAR?

¡Deja que tu creatividad hable! Demuestra lo que significa ser imparables, comparte tu voz, celebra tu cultura y comunidad, e inspira a líderes educativos de todo Arizona. Con el permiso del padre, madre o tutor, las obras y fotografías seleccionadas podrán aparecer en publicaciones, presentaciones y redes sociales de AZALAS.

HOW TO ENTER / CÓMO PARTICIPAR

1. Create original artwork inspired by this year's theme.
Crea una obra original inspirada en el tema de este año.
2. Scan the QR code and complete the registration form with a parent or guardian.
Escanea el código QR y completa el formulario con un padre, madre o tutor.
3. Email one clear photo of the artwork by itself AND one photo of the student with the artwork to:
Studentartazalas@gmail.com
4. Use the subject line: 2026 Art Contest – Student Name – Grade.



DEADLINE / FECHA LÍMITE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026
VIERNES 25 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2026



QUESTIONS?

Studentartazalas@
gmail.com



CAN'T SCAN THE QR CODE? USE THE LINK BELOW:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDyJQqK6f1fzHu831fwjr8UUhCysCpgXQrBvu0z0AM0pCuw/viewform?usp=dialog>

SCAN TO ENTER / ESCANEE PARA PARTICIPAR



Javier Baca

Subcommittee Chair
Pima County

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE

OUR PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Breakout Sessions Subcommittee is to source, review, and select high-quality presentation proposals that align with the conference theme and goals. The subcommittee ensures that chosen sessions offer relevant professional development and actively engage participants.

Key tasks include the following



Proposal Management

Designing and distributing the "Call for Presentation Proposals" form to invite submissions from educators and educational leaders



Review and Selection

Establishing a structured process to review all submitted proposals. This includes conducting internal reviews and convening meetings to discuss and finalize the selection of breakout sessions for the conference schedule.



Strategic Alignment

Ensuring that all selected sessions support the conference's designated strands.



Collaboration and Coordination

Communicating with other conference committees (such as the Technology/Whova team) to ensure that the chosen sessions, including presenter details and session abstracts, are accurately represented in the conference program and app.



Logistics

Managing the proposal submission timeline, monitoring submission progress, and coordinating with presenters regarding their session needs.

MEET THE COMMITTEE



Dagoberto Lopez

Santa Cruz Unified
School District



Gisselle Herrera

Tolleson Elementary
School District



Jigar Mehta

Nogales Unified
School District



Luz Andrade

Santa Cruz Unified
School District



Jesus Perez

Nosotros Academy

★ AZALAS ★

★ CALL FOR AWARD ★ ★ NOMINATIONS ★

*Recognizing outstanding Latino
leaders in education*

**AZALAS MISSION IS TO PROMOTE
EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP THAT
PRODUCE THE BEST OUTCOMES
FOR ALL STUDENTS.**



Aspiring Leader of Tomorrow Award

For an Aspiring Leader working in a Latino community and currently enrolled in a leadership program or working toward administrative certification in Arizona.



Lifetime Achievement Award

For an outstanding Arizona Latino administrator with a minimum of 10 years of service. The nominee may be retired.



Outstanding Administrator of the Year Award

For an outstanding Latino administrator or administrator serving a predominately Latino community who has made outstanding contribution. The nominee must be nominated by their supervisor and the supervisor must submit a letter of recommendation.



Outstanding Board Member Award

For an outstanding Arizona board member serving a predominately Latino community who has made significant contributions to Latino education and shown innovative, creative leadership.



Superintendent of the Year Award

For an outstanding Latino Superintendent or Superintendent serving a predominately Latino community with a minimum of 5 years of experience as a Superintendent.



NOMINATION DEADLINE: September 25, 2026

Recipients will be recognized at the annual conference on

November 8-9, 2026

Please visit AZALAS.org



Ramiro Alvarez

Co Subcommittee Chair
Pendergast Elementary School District



MARKETING COMMITTEE

Bringing the Conference Experience to
Life



Gabriel Gamiño Guerrero

Co Subcommittee Chair
Glendale Union High School District

PROMOTE
ENGAGE
INFORM
INSPIRE

OUR PURPOSE

The AZALAS Conference Marketing Subcommittee supports the promotion, visibility, and overall experience of the annual conference. Our work includes supporting conference communications, promotional efforts, and creative content, while also assisting with various marketing and multimedia elements that help bring the conference experience to life.

MEET THE COMMITTEE

Adriana Alvarado

Parsons, Glendale ESD

Carlos Castro

Glendale ESD

Ciara Goulette

Saddle Mountain Unified
School District

Dan Budzban

Littleton ESD

**Daniella Granillo
Gonzalez**

Alhambra ESD

Dr. Delphina Joyce Avila
JOY - Journey Options
YouChoose

**Gloria Sanchez
McDowell**

Buckeye ESD

Jason Archuleta

Imagine Desert West

Jigar Mehta

Nogales Unified School
District

Joseph Ortiz

Tolleson Union

Karla Escamilla

Tucson Unified

Marisela Felix

Sunnyside Unified

Monica Martinez

Chasse Building Team

Nisha Wallace

AZALAS &
Cartwright Early Childhood
Center

**Victor Hugo
Rodriguez**

Cartwright ESD

November 8-9, 2026

*Our Voice,
Our Future*
LEARN • CONNECT • LEAD



DR. JULIO RUBIO
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR
PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOLARSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

OPENING DOORS.
BUILDING FUTURES.



OUR PURPOSE

The Scholarship Subcommittee focuses on promoting AZALAS conference scholarship opportunities and supporting the selection process for scholarship recipients.



PROMOTE
OPPORTUNITIES



SUPPORT
APPLICANTS



SELECT
RECIPIENTS

MEET THE COMMITTEE



Alfred Battu
Nogales USD



Felipe Carranza
Osborn School District



Karla Martinez
Tucson USD



Ondrea Estrada
Douglas USD

EDUCATION OPENS EVERY DOOR



AZALAS

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO

CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Apply for one of three AZALAS scholarship opportunities, supporting Latino education, and educational leadership in advanced study.



CONFERENCE DATES:
November 8-9, 2026



CONFERENCE LOCATION:
Harrah's Ak-Chin Maricopa, AZ



CONFERENCE THEME:

UNSTOPPABLE: OUR VOICE, OUR FUTURE

Empowering Latino educators and leaders to break barriers and build lasting legacies for the next generations.



ALEJANDRO PEREZ SCHOLARSHIP

- Award: \$10,000 scholarship
- Honors Dr. Alejandro Perez, founding member
- Applicant must be accepted into a Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership
- Award at the November Annual Conference
- Active, current AZALAS membership required

Scan to
apply



BEN BARCON SCHOLARSHIP

- Award: one-time \$5,000 scholarship
- Funded by ADM Group/Ben Barcon
- Supports Latino administrators pursuing an advanced degree in education
- Awarded at the November Annual Conference
- Active, current AZALAS membership required

Scan to
apply



VALLEY SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP

- Award: \$5,000 scholarship
- Provided by Valley Schools Management Group, AZALAS Signature Sponsor
- For an AZALAS administrator pursuing an advanced degree
- Awarded at November Annual Conference
- Active, current AZALAS membership required

Scan to
apply



APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2026



Scholarship recipients are required to provide at least one active year of service to AZALAS, to be agreed upon between the recipient and the Executive Director of AZALAS.



INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE. APPLY TODAY.





DE TODO CORAZON

(WITH ALL MY HEART)

AWARD



The AZALAS “De Todo Corazon” award is dedicated to recognizing educators in our school districts, whose selfless acts, large and small, improve the lives of our students, families and staff. We have educators who are doing acts of service for others because they see the need. They take initiative and act without expecting anything in return. The importance of giving back to our communities has value. Tell us about someone who inspires you. Nominate them for what they do to improve the lives of others. Everyday acts can have ripple effects that are just as impactful as huge act of kindness. Kindness is the sincere and voluntary use of one’s time, talent, and resources to better the lives of others through genuine acts of compassion, generosity, and service. We believe kindness can change communities around us. All gestures matter, and we want to recognize it in others.

Please submit your nomination along with a 250-word essay for the educator in your school district who deserve to be recognized for a De Todo Corazon Award.

Nominations will be categorized by student involvement for FY 2026. There will be one award for category. Categories include.

- Small to Medium (1,200 students or less)
- Medium to Large (1,201 to 5,999 students)
- Large to Very Large (6,000 + Students)

PLEASE NOMINATE [HERE](#) OR SCAN THE QR
CODE FOR THE NOMINATION FORM

THE DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 25, 2026



STUDENT PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

*Our Voice.
Our Future*



Lorenzo Cabrera

Subcommittee Chair
Phoenix Union High School District

*Celebrating Student
Talent, Culture & Community*

OUR PURPOSE

The AZALAS Student Performances Subcommittee creates opportunities for students from across Arizona to share their talents, culture, and school communities on the AZALAS stage. Through thoughtful coordination, school partnerships, and committee support, we help ensure each student group feels welcomed, prepared, and celebrated.

At the heart of our work is a simple purpose: to honor and showcase our students, uplift our culture, and let the Corazón of our AZALAS Familia shine.

LET THE
CORAZON
OF OUR AZALAS
FAMILIA SHINE

MEET THE COMMITTEE

Ana Samaniego

Douglas Unified School
District

Christina Boston

Tolleson Union High School
District

Jonathan Chavez

Santa Cruz Valley Unified
School District

Karla Martinez

Tucson Unified School
District

Martha Alonso

Douglas Unified School
District

Martin Perez

Tolleson Union High School
District

Monica Delgado

Santa Cruz Valley Unified
School District

EMPOWERING TODAY'S STUDENTS FOR A
BRIGHTER TOMORROW

AZALAS

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ADMINISTRATORS &
SUPERINTENDENTS

SWAG COMMITTEE

*The Team Behind the Conference
Goodies*

CREATING A SWAG EXPERIENCE MEMBERS WILL LOVE

The purpose of the SWAG Committee is to identify promotional items that positively represent AZALAS while being fun, exciting, useful, and within our established budget. Our committee collaborated to identify products that would be meaningful to our members and enhance their overall conference experience.

Through this collaboration, we also worked with committee members who had community and vendor contacts, willing to provide donations and additional support. Our goal was to meet our expectations of providing attendees with a bag, shirt, and other items that our members would appreciate and find useful. Overall, the committee focused on creating a SWAG experience that reflects AZALAS, builds excitement around the Fall Conference, and provides members with items they will enjoy.

Jorge Moreno

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

Tolleson Union High School District

MEET THE SWAG COMMITTEE

Christina Boston

**Tolleson Union High
School District**

Deedrick Martinez

**Mesa Public School
District**

Efrain Orona Filerio

**Tolleson Union High
School District**

Hector Estrada

**Mesa Public School
District**

Jimmy Navarro

**Santa Cruz Valley
Unified School District**

Mimi Renteria

**Santa Cruz Valley
Unified School District**

Monica Delgado

**Santa Cruz Valley Unified
School District**

Monica Martinez

Chasse

Sheila Berger

IXL

Tania Barojas

**Santa Cruz Valley
Unified School District**

Vanessa Alegria-Rivas

**Santa Cruz Valley Unified
School District**

We look forward to seeing everything come together and appreciate everyone's collaboration in making this a great experience for our members.

*Our Voice,
Our Future*
LEARN • CONNECT • LEAD



NATIONAL PURCHASING COOPERATIVE

CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

1GPA is generously funding
TWO SCHOLARSHIPS
for AZALAS members!

Scholarships cover the cost of registration for the
2026 AZALAS Annual Conference.



NOVEMBER 8-9, 2026
MARICOPA, ARIZONA

SUPPORTING LEADERSHIP GROWTH & ADVANCEMENT



APPLICATION DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 28, 2026



Questions?
Dr. Lupita Hightower
lhightower@1gpa.org

APPLY HERE



Table Decorations Committee



Martin Perez, Jr.
Subcommittee Chair

Tolleson Union High School District



The Table Decorations Committee is creating culturally reflective decorations for 30 tables at the AzALAS Fall Conference. In alignment with “Our Voice, Our Future,” our design features three key elements: jarro-style bases with flowers, the Student Art Contest winner’s artwork, and mini-zarapes. Committee members are working together to finalize designs, materials, and pricing of the items.

MEET THE TABLE DECORATIONS COMMITTEE

Aneela Pradhan

**Nogales Unified
School District**

**Anthony Fimbres,
SFO**

**Douglas Unified School
District**

Erika Fragozo

Nosotros Academy

**Gloria Sanchez
McDowell, MPA**

**Buckeye Elementary
School District**

Mackenzie Mattoon

Imagine Learning

**Maria Federico
Brummer**

**Tucson Unified
School District**

Marisa Salcido

**Tucson Unified
School District**

Ondrea Estrada

**Douglas Unified
School District**

Robyann Musil

**Littleton
Elementary School
District**

AZALAS

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ADMINISTRATORS
AND SUPERINTENDENTS

EDUCATE
EMPOWER
ELEVATE
TOGETHER

TECHNOLOGY WHOVA COMMITTEE

The Team Keeping Our Conference Connected

CONNECTING PEOPLE, POWERING THE EXPERIENCE

The Technology/Whova Committee manages technical production and attendee communications for the annual conference. The team sets up main-stage microphones, displays, and keynote slides; equips breakout rooms with projectors, screens, clickers, and sound; and coordinates stage lighting and audio for student performances.

The committee also manages the conference's online presence through the Whova app: uploading schedules, speaker profiles, and room maps; sharing live announcements and schedule updates; moderating discussion boards and direct messaging; and distributing polls and post-conference surveys.

MEET THE TECHNOLOGY / WHOVA TEAM

Dagoberto Lopez
Santa Cruz Valley USD

Ernesto Tostado
Tolleson UHSD

Santosh Kumar
Nogales USD

Deanna Cuevas
Continental ESD

Marco Ruiz
Cartwright School District

Connected. Informed. Engaged.
Supporting every session and every connection.



*Same
Mission
Bigger
Tomorrow*



2026 AZALAS Annual Conference UNSTOPPABLE



CONGRESSWOMAN

Adelita
Grijalva

**Sunday Nov 8, 2026
1:00pm**

**Harrah's Ak-Chin
Maricopa, AZ**



Representative Adelita S. Grijalva is a lifelong public servant, advocate, and proud Southern Arizona resident. Raised on Tucson's south side with her two sisters, she graduated from Pueblo High School and earned a degree in Political Science from the University of Arizona.

Before her election to the U.S. House of Representatives, Adelita worked for more than 25 years at Pima County Teen Court, guiding court-involved youth and their families through a restorative juvenile diversion program. She has long championed public-private partnerships and continues to serve on community organization boards, advancing equity, collaboration, and opportunity.

Adelita was first elected to public office in 2002 to the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) Governing Board, the largest school district in Tucson and second-largest in Arizona. As a volunteer elected official, she led efforts to expand preschool access, defended Mexican-American Studies and bilingual education from legislative attacks, and fought for investments in historically underserved schools.

In 2020, she was elected to the Pima County Board of Supervisors, becoming the first Latina and only the second woman to serve as Chair. Known for building consensus, she tackled major regional challenges including affordable housing, environmental protection, climate resiliency, and community safety. Her accomplishments include launching the county's first free preschool program for low- and middle-income families, securing major affordable housing investments, and protecting open spaces across the Sonoran Desert.

Adelita lives in Tucson with her husband, Sol, and their three children. She is the daughter of Congressman Raúl Grijalva and Ramona Grijalva.

UNSTOPPABLE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

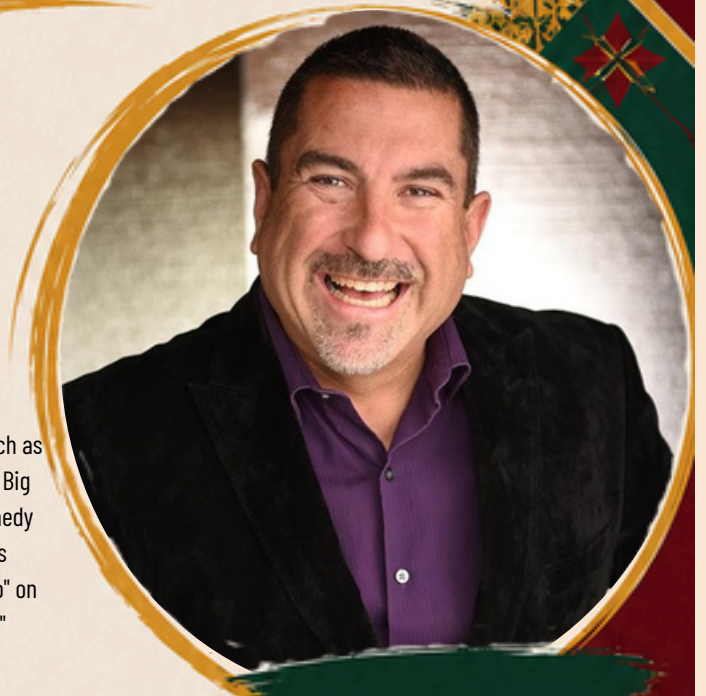
ERNIE G

Ernie G is one of the hottest, multi-talented, young Latino entertainers & speakers in the country today. He has been seen by millions on TV shows such as Comedy Central's "Make Me Laugh," B.E.T.'s "Comic View," Ed McMahon's "Next Big Star," & Sí TV's "Funny is Funny!" He is one of the original stars of the hit comedy show "Qué Locos!" hosted by George Lopez, HBO Latino's "Habla Again," Sí TV's "Latino Laugh Festival!" & "Inside Joke!" He appeared as "The Angry Angeleno" on the FOX KCOP News and as a feature reporter on the channel's "Good Day LA!" popular morning show.

A graduate of Loyola Marymount University with a B.A. in Psychology and a Minor in Chicano Studies, Ernie has developed his own unique form of comedy he calls "Latino Edutainment - Educating and Entertaining with a Latino Flavor!" and has performed for the country's top organizations & corporations, including Pepsi-Co, Disney, General Mills, Warner Bros, U.S. Armed Forces, National Council of la Raza (UnidosUS), Latin American Educational Foundation, Hispanic Scholarship Fund, U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute, Lockheed Martin, NASA: Langley Research Center & St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Ernie G was honored by the City of Los Angeles with the first ever Mario Moreno "Cantinflas" Award for "...representing the Latino community with the same humor and distinction as the legendary Mario Moreno 'Cantinflas!'" He also received the Nix Financial "Father of the Community" Award & the Hispanic Heritage Foundation's "Influential Leader" Award for his empowering, transformational work in the Latino community.

Ernie's heart has always been with inner city & foster youth, delivering leadership & mental health programs for many city & county organizations, including CA Children's Services, Foster Care Agencies & L.A. County Probation Department. He has received rave reviews for his work with government agencies, such as the U.S. Treasury Department & the U.S. Census Bureau. He has also delivered the keynote address at numerous high school & university graduations, including UCLA's RAZA Grad, and has delivered several powerful TEDx Talks on leadership & his phenomenal work as a mental health coach. He currently serves as the Education Program Director, designing and implementing curricula inspired by the documentary film WeRiseUP: The Movie & Movement! to empower and motivate the next generation of leaders.



ERNIE G

**Sunday
Nov 8, 2026
6:45pm**

**Harrah's Ak-Chin
Maricopa, AZ**



UNSTOPPABLE

OUR VOICE, OUR FUTURE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Anthony
Robles

Born without his right leg, Anthony Robles learned early that circumstances do not determine what is possible. At 14, he stepped onto a wrestling mat for the first time, weighing just 90 pounds and finishing his first season with a 5-8 record. Rather than allowing those early struggles to define him, Anthony committed himself to becoming the champion he believed he could be.

That determination took him from last place in his city to an undefeated 96-0 record during his junior and senior years of high school, two Arizona state championships, and a high school national championship. Despite being doubted again when he entered college, Anthony walked onto the Arizona State University wrestling team and ultimately became a three-time All-American and the 2011 NCAA Division I National Champion.

*Today, Anthony inspires audiences around the world with a message built on perseverance, purpose, and refusing to accept limitations placed on you by others. He is a two-time ESPY Award recipient, National Wrestling Hall of Fame inductee, ESPN wrestling analyst, published author of *Unstoppable*, Nike athlete, multiple Guinness World Record holder, and Arizona Sports Hall of Fame inductee. His remarkable journey has also inspired a feature film produced by Ben Affleck and Matt Damon.*

Anthony's story is proof that being unstoppable isn't about having an easy path it's about believing in what's possible and continuing forward when others say you can't.

Monday
Nov 9, 2026
9:00am

Harrah's Ak-Chin
Maricopa, AZ

Anthony
Robles

- 2011 NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL CHAMPION
- 3-TIME WRESTLING ALL-AMERICAN
- 2-TIME ESPY AWARD RECIPIENT
- NATIONAL & ARIZONA SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE
- AUTHOR OF *UNSTOPPABLE* • ESPN ANALYST • GUINNESS WORLD RECORD HOLDER

“I AM UNSTOPPABLE.”

AN UNSTOPPABLE STORY

Meet the Author - Celebrate Resilience

A LIFE OF PURPOSE & PERSEVERANCE

Dr. Judy Robles is a passionate advocate for student success with over 15 years of service at Arizona State University, where she currently works in Sun Devil Athletics supporting student-athletes through conduct, engagement, and family outreach. A proud first-generation college graduate, Judy is dedicated to helping others overcome barriers to education.

As CEO, Vice President, and Co-Founder of the Robles Unstoppable Foundation, which provides scholarships and support to student-athletes and single parents pursuing college degrees. A devoted mother of five and nana of twelve, Judy's journey is grounded in faith, resilience, and an unshakable belief in the power of perseverance. Her life's work continues to inspire others to rise above challenges and embrace their own unstoppable spirit.

DR. JUDY ROBLES

Author - Advocate - Mother of Anthony Robles

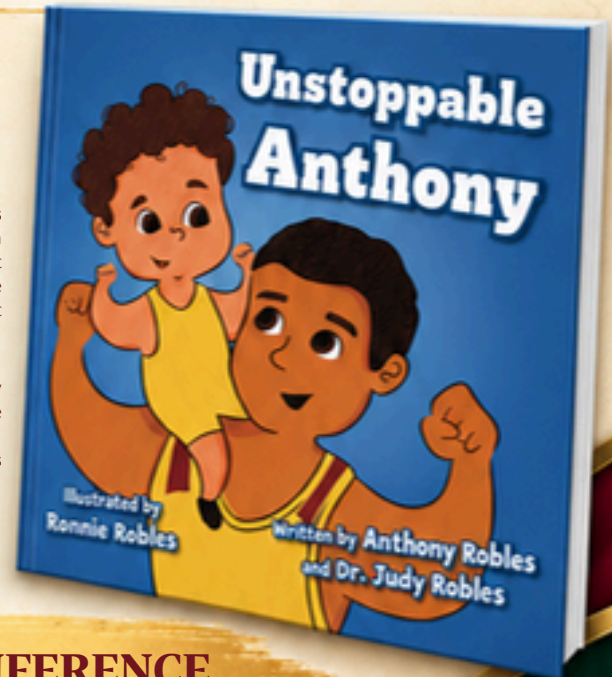
UNSTOPPABLE ANTHONY

Written by Anthony Robles and Dr. Judy Robles

Illustrated by Ronnie Robles

Unstoppable Anthony is a heartfelt true story of perseverance, resilience, and family. As a Latino family, they felt called to tell this story authentically, from the inside, with honesty, love, and heart. Anthony has faced challenges that could have defined him, but instead, they became the source of his strength. Through grit and determination, he continues to inspire those around him and reminds young readers that obstacles do not determine their future.

Beautifully illustrated by Anthony's sister, Ronnie, this book is a true family collaboration. Every page reflects pride, love, and belief that resilience should be celebrated and shared with others. Unstoppable Anthony encourages children and families to embrace their own strength, even during difficult moments, and reminds readers that courage often grows in the very places we least expect.



A SPECIAL GIFT FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

EACH CONFERENCE ATTENDEE WILL RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BOOK. DR. JUDY ROBLES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SIGN COPIES AT THE CONFERENCE.

AZALAS Annual Conference - November 9, 2026
Harrah's Ak-Chin- Maricopa, Arizona

SWAG COMMITTEE

