

Latinxs and Hispanics in the Mathematical Sciences



Marco V. Martinez

Associate Professor of Mathematics and Actuarial Science, North Central College

Marco V. Martinez is an Associate Professor of Mathematics and Actuarial Science at North Central College (NCC) in Naperville (suburbs of Chicago). He was born and raised in Bogota, Colombia. He went to Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, where he double-majored in Biology and Mathematics. He taught for a couple of years as a Lecturer at his alma mater before moving to the United States in 2008 to pursue his graduate studies at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where he was fortunate enough to be mentored by Dr. Suzanne Lenhart. Marco was a Graduate Research Assistant at the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS).

Marco's principal research interest focuses on using mathematical and statistical tools to answer theoretical questions that develop strategies to preserve biodiversity. He has become very involved with the Actuarial Science program since his arrival at North Central College. Marco strongly believes each success in his career has been the result of the work of his mentors. He owes everything to them! Now, when his students come to say thank you for his support, Marco repeats the wise words of his mentors "The way to say thank you is to help others when you have the opportunity, especially those that have had fewer opportunities in life." He is so proud that he already sees many of his students giving back!

Since Marco arrived at NCC, he has been the faculty advisor of the Latinx Student Association. He frequently works one-on-one with students: helping them invest in their careers, coaching them to get involved on campus, and helping them strategically manage their family and work obligations so they can prioritize their goal of graduating from college.

Marco reminds students that nothing is more important than your happiness, your family and your health (physical, mental and emotional): "There is nothing you can not accomplish, but everything will be easier if you do it with your community, that is, if you find and take care of your people. Learn as much as you can from others, but also share what you know to help others. When in doubt, family and health first!"

"[Hispanic Heritage Month] is a time to recognize the contributions and struggles of our communities. But also, it is a time to get inspired and fueled to keep making our communities better prepared and more involved every day. I cannot thank the organizers of this initiative enough: it is an honor to be in this calendar, next to some of my heroes and mentors."

Lathisms was founded in 2016 in order to showcase the contributions of Latinx and Hispanic mathematicians during Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated in the United States from September 15 and October 15 every year. During this time, we feature/reveal a prominent Latinx/Hispanic mathematician daily. See all the featured mathematical scientists at [LATHISMS.ORG](https://lathisms.org).

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