The **Teach for America Arizona Alumni Leadership Board** presents:

2019-2020 Speaker Series

**Event Topic:** Immigration & K-12 Education in Arizona

**Date:** October 24th, 2019 at 6:00 - 7:30pm

**Location:** Teach for America Office - 3030 N Central Ave Suite 900, Phoenix, AZ 85012

**Speaker Bios:**

**Jos****é Patiño**: Advocacy & Policy Director at Aliento

José was born in Mexico, raised in the Valley of the sun, Phoenix, AZ. He migrated at the age of six with this family and is part of the 1% DACAmented people in the U.S. with a master’s degree. He is an educator, and an activist. José holds a bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from Arizona State University and a Master’s Degree in Secondary Education from Grand Canyon University. Jose became involved in the Immigrant Rights and Dreamer Movement in 2009. Ever since then José has been standing up against the injustices that undocumented immigrants face. He stopped a bus of undocumented immigrants who were set to be deported, engaged in a direct action where he interrupted President Obama’s speech, and has lobbied for the DREAM Act and Immigration Reform. Due to José’s activism he was featured in The Washington Post, MSNBC, NPR, Univision, Telemundo, Buzzfeed, Think Progress, among others. He was also featured in the documentaries The Dream is Now and Underwater Dreams. Jose leads Aliento’s efforts to gain instate tuition & access to scholarships for all Arizona students regardless of immigration status. He is proud to serve his community and believes in giving back and one of his most recent accomplishments is the he co-founded a scholarship named after him to support undocumented students access to higher ed. He also serves in the National DACA Advisory Board for Teach for America as the Chair of Advocacy Committee. He is also a member of the Arizona Department of Education School Safety taskforce and a member of the City of Mesa Census 2020 taskforce.

**Rekha Nair, Esq**.: Managing Attorney at the Florence Immigrant & Refugee Right Project

Rekha, a first generation immigrant who grew up in Mesa, Arizona, is the lead attorney of the Justice for Immigrant & Families Project, which was launched by the Florence Project, in collaboration with the Phoenix Legal Action Network, in January 2018. This project provides quality, free legal representation to non-detained adults facing imminent deportation in Maricopa County. Rekha previously worked as an Assistant Federal Public Defender’s Office, Managing Attorney of the Florence Project’s adult team, and clerk to the Honorable Magistrate Judge Lois Bloom in the Eastern District of New York. Rekha loves speaking Spanglish, losing herself in a book, and eating chocolate; she abhors injustice and most fruit.

**Eileen Diaz Mc Connell, PhD**: Professor in the School of Transborder Studies at ASU

Eileen earned her doctorate in Sociology from the University of Notre Dame in 2001 and previously worked at Indiana University and the University of Illinois.

Professor McConnell’s most recent scholarship focuses on three areas. The first uses quantitative approaches to examine the broader implications of lacking legal status for adult and child well-being and resilience. One article published in *Applied Developmental Science* in 2018 examines the associations of parents’ nativity, citizenship, and legal status with children’s participation in structured out-of-school activities. An in-progress study examines variation in the family routines and maternal knowledge of children's associations and friendships among a sample of undocumented Mexican immigrant mothers relative to their U.S. born and documented immigrant co-ethnic peers.

A second research focus weaves together Professor McConnell’s interests in U.S. population dynamics, media representations of racial/ethnic groups, and perceptions of racial/ethnic diversification. This focus includes analyses of newspaper coverage of racial and ethnic population change in Atlanta, Georgia; estimates of the number of unauthorized immigrants in Arizona produced by the Pew Hispanic Center; and newspaper coverage of 1990-2010 Latina/o population growth in the *Los Angeles Times*. This work has been published in *Latino Studies, Aztlan: A Journal of Chicano Studies,*and the *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity.*A new, in-progress study examines the predictors of the mainstream U.S. public's views of racial/ethnic census projections using recently-collected longitudinal data.

A third research project analyzes longitudinal survey data to identify the predictors of abstract immigration attitudes and views about immigration policies and immigration enforcement activities before and after the U.S. presidential election of 2016.