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## IDRA Opportunity Matters Roundtable Webinar

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**Please join us: IDRA Opportunity Matters Roundtable: New Research on Post-Secondary Access and Success Webinar**, a conversation with Greater Texas Foundation Strategy Manager, Ms. Leslie Gurrola, and GTF Fellows, Dr. Melissa Y. Delgado and Dr. Edna C. Alfaro

**Tuesday, June 16, 2015  
11:30-12:30pm CDT**

**Space is Limited: Register Today!**

**New Research on Post-Secondary Access and Success**, convened via webinar on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, 11:30-12:30pm, will feature a conversation with Ms. Leslie Gurrola, Strategy Manager with the Greater Texas Foundation on the creation of the GTF Fellows Program, and spotlight the research of two GTF fellows, Dr. Melissa Y. Delgado and Dr. Edna C. Alfaro. The discussion will be moderated by Laurie Posner, Director of Civic Engagement, Intercultural Development Research Association.

## About the GTF Fellows Program

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“Only one in five Texas students completes a college credential within six years of graduating from high school. GTF Fellows is creating a network of highly talented and committed Texas researchers working to understand barriers for students and identify solutions to help more Texas students succeed at the postsecondary level.” - Dr. Wynn Rosser, GTF President and CEO

The purpose of **GTF Fellows** is to build research and teaching capacity for Texas faculty working in areas related to the foundation’s mission and strategy, which is to ensure all Texas students are prepared for, have access to, persist in, and complete a postsecondary credential. GTF Fellows will support at least three cohorts of junior faculty from accredited Texas public universities for a period of three years at an amount of up to \$30,000 per fellow per year; selected fellows will also benefit from program-related activities, including professional development and guidance related to their intended career trajectory.

## About our Guests

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**Dr. Melissa Y. Delgado** (GTF, 2014) is Assistant Professor of Family and Child Development, School of Family and Consumer Sciences, Texas State University (Mentor: Dr. Nancy Chavkin, Regents Professor of Social Work, Texas State University). She earned her doctorate and master’s in Family and Human Development from Arizona State University. After that, she completed a W.T. Grant Foundation postdoctoral fellowship. She also has a bachelor of arts in Psychology and bachelor of science in Family and Human Development from Arizona State University.

**Research focus.** Broadly, Dr. Delgado’s research interests focus on family, school, peer, and cultural settings in youth development, from early adolescence to early adulthood. Grounded in

ecological and positive youth development perspectives, her work centers on the understanding of mechanisms leading to academic success, particularly among Mexican-origin adolescents. Her work highlights the normative processes shaping Latino youth well being. Her current project, the ALCANCE Project (funded by GTF), is a mixed-method study examining how parents, teachers, and peers socialize and support Latino adolescents' academic identity and, in turn, how academic identity is related to school belonging and academic achievement.



**Dr. Edna Alfaro** (GTF, 2013), Assistant Professor of Family and Child Development, School of Family and Consumer Sciences, Texas State University (Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Brickman, Professor of Educational Psychology, The University of Texas Pan-American). She received her doctorate in Family and Human Development from Arizona State University, obtained a master's in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and completed her undergraduate studies in Psychology at St. Mary's University-San Antonio.

**Research focus.** Dr. Alfaro utilizes the ecological and academic resilience frameworks to better understand the processes by which individual, relational, and contextual characteristics relate to Latino adolescents' and college students' academic outcomes. She is especially interested in understanding how mothers, fathers, and siblings help Latino students achieve academic success. Additionally, her work has focused on understanding how the processes associated with Latino students' academic success differ based on the gender. Dr. Alfaro is currently running the Mexican-origin Student Success (MoSS) Project, which utilizes longitudinal data from college students and their parents to examine how cultural, university, parental, and individual factors work together to contribute to Mexican-origin college students' academic success.



**Ms. Leslie Gurrola**, Strategy Manager, Greater Texas Foundation. Ms. Gurrola assists in the implementation of the foundation's strategic plan to ensure all Texas students are prepared for, have access to, persist in, and complete a postsecondary credential. She has a Master of Public Service Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Journalism, both from Texas A&M University.

The [Greater Texas Foundation](#) is a statewide education grantmaker, based in Bryan, Texas. The foundation's mission is to support efforts to ensure all Texas students are prepared for, have access to, persist in, and complete a postsecondary education. GTF puts particular focus on helping underserved and disadvantaged populations. GTF pursues its mission by forming partnerships, supporting research, sharing knowledge, and making grants.



## About IDRA's Opportunity Matters Roundtables

The IDRA Opportunity Matters Roundtable series, convened under the office of IDRA President and CEO, Dr. Maria "Cuca" Robledo Montecel, creates a home for national conversations and exchanges about leading edge research and thinking dedicated to improving public education quality and equity for all children. The series has featured a conversation with Dr. Conor P. Williams on *Dual Language Learners and Education Policy and Practice* that explored his work on state and national policy and a conversation with Dr. Paul C. Gorski on his work to advance *An Equity Literacy Approach to Poverty and Education*. [Learn more about the full series.](#)

[Register for New Research on Post-Secondary Access and Success](#)

The **Intercultural Development Research Association** is an independent private non-profit organization dedicated to realizing the right of every child to a quality education. IDRA strengthens and transforms public education by providing dynamic training; useful research, evaluation, and frameworks for action; timely policy analyses; and innovative materials and programs.

IDRA works hand-in-hand with hundreds of thousands of educators and families each year in communities and classrooms around the country. All our work rests on an unwavering commitment to creating self-renewing schools that value and promote the success of students of all backgrounds.

We are a small organization with a powerful mission: to create schools that work for *all* children.



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