WEPAN Women of Color Summit: Leveraging, Learning, and Leading

Speaker Bio

Pamela Padilla
Professor, Biological Sciences; Dean, College of Science,
University of North Texas and President, SACNAS

Dr. Padilla is originally from New Mexico and considers herself Hispanic/Chicana and Native American/Indigenous. She received both a B.S. and Ph.D. in Biology from the University of New Mexico. She received an NSF postdoctoral fellowship to conduct research at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle.

Although she has a very broad interest in all STEM fields, her research focuses on using genetic model systems to understand how organisms respond to stressors including oxygen deprivation and hyperglycemia to address human related illnesses. Her laboratory has been continuously funded by either NSF or NIH and she has mentored over 20 graduate students and over 50 undergraduate/high school students in her laboratory.

In addition to her research grants she is lead PI on two NIH training grants that serve Ph.D. students to early professionals (one grant is through UNT and one is through SACNAS). She was listed in the 100 Inspiring Hispanic/LatinX Scientists in the U.S. (2020) and was elected President of SACNAS in 2020. Her administrative roles include Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Associate Vice President of Research and Innovation, and she currently serves as Dean of the College of Science. When she isn’t working she enjoys being with family, playing with her four dogs, running, and painting.