Let us introduce ourselves!

Lillian Gomez, M.A.,
PPOHA Director; has over 30 years in federal grant administration and over 36 years of teaching experience in K-12 and higher education. In Ms. Gomez’s work with university academic and administrative departments, she has overseen the successful development and implementation of multiple initiatives to improve the retention and degree completion of Hispanic and low-income undergraduate students. Ms. Gomez Title V work, in faculty and staff professional development to build diversity awareness and the equitable treatment of under served populations at ASU, has underscored the significance of the university’s role as the premier 4-year Hispanic-Serving Institution in Colorado and initiated a culture of inclusive excellence on campus. She also serves as a Steering Committee member for the current ASU HSI-STEM project.

Melissa Freeman, Ph.D.,
has over 25 years of experience in grant administration including federal grant project management at both Ohio University and ASU. As a former instructor in political science & public administration and as a research associate at Ohio University, she supervised both undergraduate and graduate students and coordinated the implementation and budgets for multiple projects. At ASU she served as Assistant Professor in the School of Business and as Chair of the MBA, Public Administration track. Most significantly, Dr. Freeman was the founding director of the online master’s program in Higher Education Administration & Leadership (HEAL) and the Executive Leadership Institute post-graduate certificate program, funded by the FIPSE grant she authored, “Developing the Next Generation of Hispanic Leaders.” Freeman is a research affiliate with the University of Pennsylvania Center for Minority Serving Institutions.

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Adams State University
PPOHA
Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans
U.S. Department of Education
What is PPOHA?
Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans, provides grants to designated HSI’s for:
1. Expanding postbaccalaureate educational opportunities for, and improving the academic attainment of, Hispanic students.
2. Expanding the postbaccalaureate academic offerings as well as enhance the program quality in the institutions of higher education that are educating the majority of Hispanic college students and helping large numbers of Hispanic and low-income students complete postbaccalaureate degrees.

Who may apply for PPOHA funding?
Institutions of higher education that offer a postbaccalaureate certificate or degree program and qualify as eligible Hispanic-serving institution.

Resources:
• Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)
• Excelencia in Education
• Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE)
• U.S. Department of Education

Grant Goals:
2. Provide financial support opportunities for graduate students.
3. Provide faculty and staff professional development.

Grant Objectives:
1. Develop a university-wide orientation program for entering graduate students.
2. Develop a website for ASU graduate academic support services to include admissions, advising, and career placement.
3. Establish an Alumni Mentoring program.
4. Provide workshops to improve student skills and library research.
5. Provide student stipends for attending skills workshops and awards for graduate assistantships.
6. Provide a professional development equity retreat to improve cultural competency, diversity awareness and mentoring skills.
7. Attend annual conferences or workshops to improve graduate level service.

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