



## 2016 FCHCC Officers and Board of Directors

### Officers:



**Chairman: Rebecca Black**

Rebecca served as FCHCC Treasurer in 2013 and as Secretary in 2011 as well as serving on the membership committee for the 2009-2010 program year. She is an immigration attorney and the owner of Rebecca Black Immigration, PA. She has served as Regional Vice Chair of the CFC American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2012 and 2015, as well as a director at large 2013, 2014 and currently.) She spent 15 years in international food and beverage, working in Spain and in France before going to law school in 2004 to become an immigration attorney.) She also sings with the Heritage Singers of Jacksonville and is a member of their Board.



**President and CEO: Maribel Hernandez**

Maribel Hernandez began her career at the Jacksonville Port/Aviation Authority where she served in high level positions such as Director of Customer Service, Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Operating Officer. After a successful 18-year career, Maribel joined Florida Blue in 2007 where she proudly serves to help people and communities achieve better health. She has been actively involved with FCHCC as an executive of the Jacksonville Aviation Authority prior to joining Florida Blue and now represents Florida Blue on the Board. Maribel is also a small business owner as she owns a party business, CELEBRATE! LLC. As the first college graduate in her family, she appreciates the importance of achieving the dream of education and is very engaged with the Chamber's scholarship program. Maribel is past Chair of the Jacksonville Urban League and PACE Center for Girls. She is a graduate of the Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2004 and is also a member of the Jacksonville Women's Network where she serves as an officer on the Board of Directors.



**Vice Chairman: Cesar Grijota**

Cesar has been involved with the First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce since 2011 and has served on the Board of Directors since January 2015. Cesar has served as programs chair where he has assisted in organizing the chamber's business luncheons, professional networking mixers and special events including the Florida Lieutenant Governor's Forum in December 2015. He has also co-chaired the membership committee as well as serving as a board member at large. Cesar has also been part of the Credit Union movement since January 2006. In his tenure with VyStar Credit Union, a \$5.5 Billion Non-profit Cooperative with over 500,000 members in Northeast Florida, he has held key roles in Quality Assurance, Lending Services Underwriting, and

Management presently serving as the Vice President of the Kernan Branch. Cesar has a profound passion for helping people, instilled partly by his Credit Union background. He is equally passionate about promoting the success of Hispanic-owned businesses and by bringing value to the communities that we serve.



**Treasurer: Toni Higgs**

Toni A. Higgs is currently the Director of the Career Development Center at Jacksonville University. She previously worked at Wells Fargo for over 35 years with various positions most recently a Senior Business Banking Relationship Manager. Originally born and raised on Long Island she moved to Jacksonville in 1974 with her son where she started working at the Atlantic Bank which later became Wells Fargo. She graduated with honors from the University of North Florida with a degree in Psychology. Toni is a board member of St. Johns Educational Foundation and mentors in the Athena Powerlink program through the Jacksonville Chamber. She loves to travel and has visited many places including Peru, France, Italy, Spain and Portugal. When not traveling she resides in St. Augustine, Florida where she spends time with her family including two beautiful granddaughters.

**Secretary: Vacant**

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**Directors-at-Large:**



**Andrea Reyes**

Andrea Reyes is the owner and immigration attorney at Reyes Legal, PLLC. She was born in Bogota, Colombia and immigrated to the United States at the young age of 6. Andrea graduated from Florida State University with a double degree in Psychology and Criminology and later earned her J.D. from Florida Coastal School of Law. Andrea has been highly involved in volunteering in social and cultural programs directly related to minorities, human rights and especially, immigration. As a professional, she continues doing this same work with even more enthusiasm. Immigration law was her passion before she attended law school and she has made a professional career out of this same passion. She also serves as an Adjunct Professor at Florida Coastal School of Law working with Human Trafficking Survivors and volunteers on several legal and community committees dedicated to immigration, diversity and minorities.



**Dr. Roberto Sanchez**

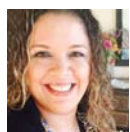
Dr. Roberto Sanchez immigrated to the United States in the 1990's; he is originally from Guatemala, having grown up on a cotton farm in Escuintla. Dr. Sanchez is married to Rebekah Sanchez, daughter of missionaries to Guatemala. They have two sons: Josiah Juda, age 14 and Jonathan Levi, age 12. Dr. Sanchez served in his local Christian church in every position from secretary to Elder. During that time he learned many aspects of leadership and serving others which would help him in the future. He has

lead Logos Christian University as President and CEO since 2008. Dr. Sanchez holds a Dual Doctorate of Business Administration from SMC University Switzerland and Universidad Francisco Marroquin in Guatemala, a Doctor of Ministry from Logos C. U., and a Master of Theological Studies from Logos Graduate Schools. He is a member of Celebration Church. He is working on a new educational project, a Christian Business School. He enjoys reading, soccer, golf and tennis. His life motto is “the best is yet to come.” He is a preacher and administrator and also leads his own ministry along with his wife: Matthew 28:19 Ministries. He has served the FCHCC for the last two years and he is passionate for education, economics and theology. His work for the doctoral degree and research is about Theo-economics.



**Emmanuel Matias**

Emmanuel first joined the FCHCC in 2012 as a student member while attending the University of North Florida. Shortly after graduation Emmanuel joined the membership committee where he has served since and for the past year has serve as membership director. Emmanuel is a Senior Financial Analyst for southeastern Grocers where he helps analyze the companies profitability. Prior to working at Southeaster Grocers Emmanuel was a Financial Representative with Northwestern Mutual where he worked on acquiring new clients. As membership Chair Emmanuel looks forward to continuing to grow membership as we strive towards achieving the Chambers vision of being recognized as the premier Hispanic Chamber of Northeast Florida.



**Dr. Maira Martelo**

Originally from Colombia, South America, Maira has been living in Jacksonville for the past nine years. Her bachelor’s and master’s degrees are in communication, with an emphasis on education. Maira Martelo has more than 12 years of teaching experience as a college professor in Colombia, Mexico and the United States. She also has worked as a research consultant in Colombia and Mexico, evaluating several programs that involved community engagement. Her experience as a contributor writer for Hola Noticias, the local Hispanic newspaper, as well as her engagement in several Hispanic organizations have allowed her to get to know closely the Hispanic community. Maira holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of North Florida. Her dissertation focused on early literacy practices at home and beliefs about education among the Hispanic community in Jacksonville. Based on the results of her dissertation Duval County Public School created the first bilingual Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK) at West Riverside Elementary School. Prior to working at the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, Maira worked as assistant of assessment at the College of Education and Human Services at the University of North Florida. Maira mentors high school students who are pursuing their college education. She also volunteers with the Refugee Program at Catholic Charities.



**Madelene Skinner**

Madelene Skinner is a seasoned public relations and marketing executive passionate about promoting diversity in the community and creating change. Throughout her career, Madelene has been active in community and professional organizations. She currently serves on the board of directors with the Hispanic Chamber of

Commerce as the Media and Public Relations chair. In addition to her strong public and media relations expertise, she volunteered her time as the Publicity Chair for the Friends of Pine Forest Foundation and as coach with Girls on the Run. Her experience ranges from executive and strategic communications to media relations, crisis and issues management, social media and marketing. Madelene's entrepreneurial spirit combined with her knowledge and passion to create experiential campaigns led her to launch MadFab Media, a creative, savvy lifestyle public relations consultancy developing strategies for nonprofits, entertainment, media and local businesses. She's an energetic personality that encourages and inspires everyone she meets. Her experience in working with the community has steered her to successful communications and marketing multicultural campaigns, and establishing media relations. Some of her groundbreaking cultural events in downtown Jacksonville include the annual Friday Night Live Music Festival and Beautiful Bodies Competition. She is as multicultural as it gets having lived in Spain, The Philippines, Japan, Washington, California and Florida. She received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing from University of Phoenix. She is also member of the 2014 Fall Cohort for the JAXBridges program with the JAX Chamber.



**Jesus Montero**

Jesus Montero is a Dominican Republic native. He is an Army veteran with over 10 years of real estate sales and investment experience. He currently is an Executive with Crossview Mortgage, LLC., and is the former chairman of Lam Vending Company and AAA Real Estate Corp. Jesus holds a law degree from Florida Coastal School of Law and is currently pursuing licensure in Florida and Georgia. He provides pro bono work for Duval County's Teen Court program as a magistrate.



**Dr. Jose Nieto, D.O.**

Dr. Jose Nieto is a Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist at Borland Groover Clinic in Jacksonville. Dr. Nieto joined Borland-Groover Clinic from Orlando Florida, where he was on the clinical faculty staff at Florida Hospital Cancer Institute and was essential in the development of the pancreatic disease and cancer program there. He completed his fellowship in gastroenterology and hepatology at the University of California, Los Angeles, and completed an additional year of advanced endoscopy training in Interventional Pancreatobiliary Endoscopy and Endoscopic Ultrasound at UCLA Medical Center. Dr. Nieto serves on multiple committees at Baptist Medical Center and recently joined the Baptist MD Anderson clinical faculty. He is also the chairman of the Advanced Therapeutic Endoscopy Center at Borland Groover Clinic. He is the chair of the minority affairs and cultural diversity committee for the American College of Gastroenterology.



**Carlos Cruz**

Carlos Cruz is a partner for Hispanic Nexo and has extensive policy communications and public relations experience. Carlos served as a legislative assistant for the pro-tempore of the Florida Senate. His years of service enabled Carlos to become well versed on a variety of local, state and national policy issues. Following his tenure in the Florida Senate, Carlos served as executive assistant to a

member of Florida's elected Cabinet. As the youngest member of the Commissioner of Agriculture's executive staff, Carlos enabled the department to communicate Florida's agricultural importance in the new developing arenas of Latin America and other Caribbean nations. Carlos has close relationships with legislators and staff as a former staffer in both the legislative and executive branches of Florida government. Carlos worked for various law firms creating and managing their state governmental and policy communications practice teams. Carlos has earned a reputation of being an informed advocate that creates consistent solutions for his strong client base. Carlos' ability to work with public opinion leaders and policy makers has created a relational synergy that produces favorable outcomes. Candidates and policy makers rely on Carlos' experience for advice on politics, public relations campaigns and policy trends. Carlos is an accomplished speaker and is frequently invited to educate executives and future policy makers on the process of government relations and policy communications.



**Angela Merritt**

Angela Page Merritt is a Senior Account Manager/Assistant Manager at Dex Imaging, Inc. in Jacksonville. She helps businesses with solutions for office equipment solutions (copiers, printers, fax machines, scanners, document management). Angela was instrumental in helping to open the Jacksonville branch and trained new employees on products and services including hiring, recruiting, training, customer service, and hitting sales goals. Angela has a background in Graphic Design and worked previously for a print shop which she feels gives her a unique perspective of what employees deal with as related to their office copiers. In 2014 and 2015, Angela was honored as Dex Imaging, Inc.'s million dollar producer inductee.



**Maria Kellermann**

Maria Kellermann is the Business Development and Integration Manager for G.E. Capital. She leads cross-functional teams and manages all processes required to successfully integrate projects into larger organizational systems, including coordination of business teams from both the client and capital business. Maria also develops and executes integration project plans that include major milestones, critical risk indicators, measures of success and contingencies. This often involves negotiating resource allocation and timeline for projects, both internally and with clients. She also identifies and recommends improvement ideas for productivity and simplification of integrations processes. This involves use of business analytical skills (KYC & AML) and process management. Key tools and technologies in her role include advanced use of Microsoft Excel (including custom macros, pivot tables and VB), Microsoft Project and Salesforce.



Carlos Infante was born in Madrid, Spain and raised in the Northeast United States (New York, Boston, and Connecticut). Carlos has been involved with the First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce since 2015 and has served on the Board of Directors since January 2016. Carlos has also been part of the

Jacksonville Banking Community since March 2013.

In his tenure with BBVA Compass, an international bank currently managing \$836 Billion Dollars in Assets with over 137,000 employees world wide, he has held key roles in Branch

Management. Carlos is currently managing the Mandarin Branch in Jacksonville, Florida. He has a passion for helping people and has served in the US Army for 4 years with two tours in Iraq. He is equally passionate about promoting the success of Hispanic-owned businesses and by bringing value to the communities that we serve.