# HISPANIC
## HERITAGE MONTH

# U.S. Department of State
# Careers Representing America
# 2023 Hispanic Heritage Month Media Toolkit

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the following profiles feature exemplary Department staff of Hispanic heritage. Their profiles can be used in publications by media outlets, universities, local stakeholders, and others to spread the word about career opportunities at the Department and inspire the next generation of U.S. diplomats.

To request media interviews, please contact GTM-TACMarketing@state.gov.

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# Letter from the Editor

After college, someone introduced the idea of a career at the U.S. Department of State asking: "Do you like travel and international relations?" That simple conversation shifted my life in a direction I could never have imagined. As the daughter of an immigrant from South America, I had always assumed diplomats were positions reserved for the well-connected elite. However, upon joining, my pre-conceived notion changed as I saw first-hand that diverse heritages and perspectives are, in fact, an asset to diplomacy.

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**"The Foreign Service has quite literally opened the world to me. In honor of Hispanic Heritage month, my hope is that Americans can be inspired by this illustrious group of diplomats and have a much easier time imagining themselves not only joining, but *thriving*, in the Department."**

Building off of the Department's commitment to hire a diverse workforce that represents the United States, I hope to pay it forward and inform others about this life-changing career.

**Pilar Quigua**
Media Affairs Officer
Bureau of Global Talent Management

Biography: As a Foreign Service Officer, Pilar has served in Washington DC, Guadalajara, Ho Chi Minh City, Taipei, and Beijing. Pilar pursued her Bachelor of Arts in Economics and International Development at McGill University and a Master of Social Work at Columbia University.

# Foreign Service Careers

The following featured employees are members of the Foreign Service and the Civil Service of the U.S. Department of State.

Their profiles as well as explanations of the work of Foreign Service Generalists, Foreign Service Specialists, and members of the Civil Service are detailed below.

For more information about the variety of career opportunities at the U.S. Department of State, please visit our official website (https://careers.state.gov/).

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## Connect With Us

# Foreign Service Generalists

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The mission of a U.S. diplomat in the Foreign Service is to promote peace, support prosperity, and protect American citizens while advancing the interests of the U.S. abroad.

If you're passionate about public service and want to represent the U.S. around the world, a challenging and rewarding career is waiting for you. The opportunity to work abroad and experience cultures, customs and people of different nations is truly a career unlike any other.

The work you'll do will have an impact on the world. You will be asked to serve at one of any of the more than 270 embassies, consulates and other diplomatic missions in The Americas, Africa, Europe and Eurasia, East Asia and Pacific, Middle East and North Africa, and South Asia. Some of these posts are in difficult and even dangerous environments but serving in them affords great challenges and rewards.  You will also have the opportunity to work in a domestic assignment in the United States during the course of your Foreign Service career.

Foreign Service Generalist jobs are grouped into 5 major categories:

- Consular Officers
- Economic Officers
- Management Officers
- Political Officers
- Public Diplomacy Officers

# Featured Diplomats

**Antoinette Hurtado - Public Diplomacy Officer**

Diplomat in Residence, Southwest

Hometown: Los Angeles, California

**Biography:**

Joining the Department through the Pickering Fellowship, Antoinette is a Foreign Service Officer with over 19 years of service. She currently is the Diplomat in Residence recruiter for the Southwest region of the United States. Antoinette earned a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University.

**Who is a good fit to work at the U.S. Department of State?**

**"**Now that I am serving in a recruitment role, I always tell people that whatever focus you might have, there is a career for you at the Department. We love to see candidates interested in international relations and political science majors but, STEM students and professionals, we're looking for you too!"

**What is working for the Department of State like?**

"As a Foreign Service Officer, I have had the adventure of a lifetime. I have seen the world and met so many interesting people (including the Pope!) Another joy and the main reason I joined the Foreign Service is that I know the work I do matters - from helping one American through a difficult situation overseas to making an impact on the biggest policy issue. We are truly in public service, and global service, at State."

**Share your introduction to the Department of State.**

**"**As a Latina first-generation college student, I didn't see myself in this career until a recruiter came to my college. I always wanted my career to be an extension of my personal values and how I would make a positive impact in the world. I also wanted to travel internationally, visit amazing places, meet people from different backgrounds, and learn new languages. And when the recruiter mentioned there was a fellowship program that would pay for my master's degree and give me a guaranteed job as a diplomat when I graduated, I was sold!"

# Featured Diplomats

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**Saúl Hernández - Public Diplomacy Officer**

Diplomat in Residence, South

Hometown: El Paso, Texas

**Biography:**

Saúl Hernández lived in military bases in Texas, Germany, and Georgia during his father's service in the U.S. Army. He graduated from high school in Columbus, Georgia before attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After college, he worked for several years as an information technology specialist for IBM and other companies. In the Foreign Service, Saúl served overseas in Bogotá, Prague, Tbilisi, and Lima as well as in domestic assignments in both Washington, D.C. and Atlanta.

**Share your introduction to the U.S. Department of State.**

"At a reunion of college friends, one of them mentioned that his partner was a Foreign Service Officer who had served in Russia, Switzerland, and Washington. I was so intrigued that I traveled to DC so I could learn more about her career, and I started preparing for the test."

**What do you do in your job?**

"As a Public Diplomacy career track officer, I inform audiences about U.S. policy. For example, in the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, my colleagues and I sent multiple messages per day to thousands of U.S. citizens in Peru. The messages informed them about health measures in the country and about the availability of evacuation flights to return to the United States."

**Can you share a career highlight?**

"When I served in the Republic of Georgia, the Department offered academic exchanges from high school through post-doctoral research. I chaired the selection panels for candidates, and it was inspiring to see so many talented Georgians who were thrilled about the prospect of being selected. It's been a pleasure to stay connected to many of these exchange alumni, and to celebrate their ongoing success."

# Featured Diplomats

**Marcia Anglarill - Public Diplomacy Officer**

Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Ankara (*2024*)

Hometown: Silver Spring, Maryland

**Biography:**

I'm a native Washingtonian, first generation Bolivian-American with parents born in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. I grew up in Silver Spring, MD and attended Clemson University for undergrad and American University where I received a master's degree in International Peace & Conflict Resolution. I was also a Peace Corps Volunteer in Costa Rica. I met my husband during my second assignment in Monterrey, Mexico and adopted two dogs during my assignment in Bogota, Colombia.

**What does diplomacy mean to you?**

"Diplomacy is more than relations between countries. It's also about promoting people-to-people ties and mutual understanding. It's about advancing your country's interests while building common ground and contributing to a more positive global community."

**Share your introduction to the U.S. Department of State.**

"I always dreamed of an international career. After working for NGOs and later serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer, my dream of joining the Foreign Service came true! Along with contributing to my personal and professional growth, my Foreign Service career has gifted me unique experiences like riding in helicopters, touring a U.S. ship, planning a cross-country bike ride for a U.S. Ambassador, and meeting fascinating people from around the world."

**Do you have any advice for those considering a career in the Department?**

"Don't let the entry statistics scare you! And don't give up if you don't pass the exams the first, second, or third try. The best way to prepare for the Foreign Service exams is by taking them. There are also so many resources now to help you prepare and different paths to get in. Look into the scholarship programs such as Pickering and Rangel Fellowships."

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## Jason Richard Cubas - Management Officer

Consul General, U.S. Consulate General Osaka

Hometown: Miami, Florida

**Biography:**

I was born in NYC to immigrant parents, and we moved to Miami when I was young. I studied engineering, astronomy, and history eventually doing graduate work in medieval Japanese history before entering law school at the University of Miami. I joined the Service in 1999 and served half my career in Japan, and I am currently the Consul General in Osaka. I also served in South Korea, Iraq, Nicaragua, Peru and Washington.

**What does diplomacy mean to you?**

"In a nutshell, diplomats make and maintain relationships. Relationships with foreign governments, with NGOs, with the business communities, and most importantly, with everyday people in the countries where we serve."

**Why did you choose a career in the Foreign Service?**

"Personally, this career is not a job but a calling. I find it fulfilling in a deep and meaningful way. As a management professional, my team is the foundation for U.S. Diplomacy at the mission, enabling the work everyone else does. Whether that is supporting the repatriation of Americans during a pandemic or coordinating relief after a tsunami among government agencies and with the local government, the work we do matters, daily, in the lives of hundreds if not thousands of people."

**Share your introduction to the U.S. Department of State.**

"I was inspired to join by a Foreign Service Officer who spoke at my school. I ended up applying twice. I wasn't offered a position the first time, and I believe a lack of familiarity with the Department and diplomacy contributed. At the time I could not afford an internship as they were unpaid and I come from an immigrant family. I am very glad to see the Department now pays interns, giving a more diverse population the opportunity to participate."

# Featured Diplomats

**Melania Arreaga - Management Officer**

Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Ljubljana

Hometown: Chicago, IL

**Biography:**

Melania Arreaga assumed her role as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana in July 2022. Her previous overseas tours include India, United Arab Emirates, and Estonia, and her domestic tours include the Office of the Under Secretary for Political Affairs and the Operations Center. Before becoming a diplomat, Melania was a Chicago prosecutor and deputy chief counsel for an Illinois regulatory agency. Melania speaks Spanish and French and studied Arabic at Foreign Service Institute. Melania holds a J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law and a B.A from George Mason University. She hails from Chicago and is married with two children.

**What does diplomacy mean to you?**

”Diplomacy means making personal and professional connections to promote and share what we treasure: our freedom and democracy. You represent what many people around the world aspire to - a country where anyone can dream and succeed.”

**How has this career supported your personal and professional development?**

“This job takes you to your personal limit and then extends it. It is an amazing experience for personal growth.”

**What is working at the U.S. Department of State like?**

“Be prepared to be flexible. You will be personally rewarded by meeting fascinating people, living in beautiful places, and representing our values. “

# Featured Diplomats

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## Abdel Perera - Consular Officer

Immigrant Visa Chief, U.S. Embassy Lima

Hometown: Hialeah, Florida

**Biography:**

I joined the Department as a proud alumnus of the U.S. Department of State internship and fellowship programs. Prior to serving as the Immigrant Visa Chief in U.S. Embassy Lima, I most recently served as a Line Officer in the Executive Secretariat Staff, supporting Secretary Blinken's domestic and foreign travel to over 20 cities worldwide. I immigrated to the United States from Cuba and call Hialeah my hometown. I graduated from Florida International University (BS) and American University (MA).

**Why is a career in the U.S. Department of State important to you?**

**"**As a Hispanic diplomat from an immigrant background, I enjoy representing the United States because I know how important it is for others to see people like me and hopefully inspires them to join a career in public service."

**Share your introduction to the Department.**

**"**I am a true product of the State Department Internship Program and the Diplomat in Residence (DIR) Program. I took a Diplomacy 101 class and met an amazing diplomat who inspired me to apply for various internships. Interacting with the DIR in my hometown helped me understand the career, but also inspired me to pursue a career I always thought was unattainable. I say that #FromHialeahtotheWorld experience has shaped me for a lifetime. "

**What is working at the Department like?**

"When someone tells me "wait, you represent America?" I have an opportunity through my work to share what America truly is, including our values, our diversity, and our challenges."

# Featured Diplomats

**Mary Vargas - Economic Officer**

Deputy Director, Office of Security and Human Rights
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
Hometown: Fontana, California

**Biography:**

I am a first generation Mexican American and grew up in California, very close to the border and very close to Mexico in more ways than one. That international exposure sparked my interest in international affairs so I became the first person in my family to move to the east coast for college at The George Washington University. While there, I became a Pickering Fellow and joined the Foreign Service. In my 15 years as an FSO, I've served throughout NEA, Mexico, and Washington, DC with my tandem spouse and now, two kids and a dog.

**How did you first learn about the U.S. Department of State?**

"I learned about the State Department from my high school social studies teachers who introduced me to the Department's unique role in U.S. history. They worked with me to start a Model UN chapter and World Affairs Club so other interested students could learn more."

**What advice would you give to people interested in a career at the Department?**

"Don't be intimidated by this career. The State Department needs people from all backgrounds, skill sets, and points of view. There are opportunities for everyone, whether in the foreign or civil service, specialist or contractor track."

**What do you enjoy about working at the Department?**

"This career enables me to make a positive impact on the world while teaching me new things every day. I am grateful and humbled constantly by the opportunities I have to learn new histories, cultural contexts, and economies everywhere I am assigned. To be able to bridge our society with theirs is a privilege and enormous responsibility."

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## Paloma Gonzalez - Political Officer

Deputy Political Counselor, U.S. Embassy Bucharest

Hometown: San Diego, California

**Biography:**

Paloma Gonzalez is the Deputy Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest and oversees our strategic political-military relationship with Romania. She has 15 years working as a Foreign Service Officer for the Department of State advancing U.S. foreign policy objectives in Romania, Colombia, Brazil, Haiti, and Mexico. Paloma is a Truman National Security, International Career Advancement Program, and Rangel Fellow and was recognized by New America as a Latino National Security & Foreign Policy Next Generation Leader. Paloma is a first-generation Mexican American with a B.A. in International Affairs from Lewis & Clark College and M.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

**Why is a career in the U.S. Department of State important to you?**

"As a Foreign Service officer, your presence makes an impact. It really lifts people up. By supporting marginalized communities, which in some cases have been forgotten by their own governments, you are able to foster the success and stability of those countries. I believe our work leads to a more prosperous and democratic world."

**Share your introduction to the Department.**

"I would not be here if it wasn't for the Rangel Fellowship. After getting a B.A. in International Affairs, I was working for an educational non-profit in San Diego. I could not find paid work in my field with just a bachelor's, but I could not afford a master's. A mentor told me about the Rangel and Pickering Fellowships and I applied. Sometimes that one conversation is all it takes."

**Could you share advice with people interested in a career at the Department?**

"Stay authentic to who you are. I tell all my mentees to always take up space and stay authentic to who they are, because that is the greatest strength of our country."

# Foreign Service Specialists

The U.S. Department of State offers career opportunities to professionals in specialized functions needed to meet Foreign Service responsibilities around the world. As a Foreign Service Specialist, you will provide important technical, management, healthcare or administrative services at any of our more than 270 posts overseas, in Washington, D.C., or elsewhere in the United States. The opportunities that exist for Foreign Service Specialists are as diverse as the countries in which they serve.

Foreign Service Specialist jobs are grouped into 6 major categories:

- Administration
- Building Construction, Operations and Maintenance
- Information Technology
- International Information and English Language Programs
- Law Enforcement and Security
- Medical and Health

# Featured Diplomats

**Robert Monestel - Medical Specialist**

Regional Medical Officer, U.S. Embassy Cairo

Hometown: Tampa, Florida

**Biography:**

I was born and raised in Costa Rica. I was a research chemist before deciding to go to Indiana University for my MD. I obtained my post-graduate residency in Family Medicine in Orlando, FL from the Florida Hospital. After practicing medicine for about 10 years, I joined the Foreign Service. I have served in Dhaka, Belgrade, Seoul, Nairobi, Brasilia and Cairo.

**What is it like to work at the U.S. Department of State?**

"This has been an amazing career. As a Family Physician, I have been able to continue practicing medicine by caring for our diplomatic families, while exposing my family to an amazing world of cultures and opportunities. I have been able to cooperate and participate in many high-level visits and conferences, furthering the diplomatic cause for our country. Our kids have grown up as third-culture kids and two of them have now gone back to the US and reintegrated and obtained their university studies. They have found their life experiences to be rich and unique."

**How has this career supported your professional development?**

"I am exposed to many areas of our U.S. government that I would not have had an opportunity to see as a private physician. While I still practice medicine, I now have many other interesting regional supervisory roles to ensure other Health Units receive proper care."

**Can you share a career highlight?**

"My most recent exciting opportunity was coordinating medical care on site during the annual environment COP27 conference for almost two weeks in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt in which POTUS and many high-level US government officials met with other world leaders."

# Featured Diplomats

**Sonia Miranda-Palacios - Construction Specialist**

Construction Engineer, Overseas Buildings Operations

Hometown: San Juan, Puerto Rico

**Biography:**

I was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico and I had only seen diplomats in the movies. Having always dreamt of an international career, I joined the Department as a Foreign Service Construction Engineer following a mid-career shift. I have a passion for learning about different cultures and people and I am most curious about the things we have in common.

**What does diplomacy mean to you?**

"Diplomacy is about learning what unites different groups of people to safeguard their common interests while promoting peaceful relationships. And we do it every day! For me, it takes place through interactions at the construction site, at the Embassy or Consulate, with the diverse NGOs and business communities, and with the foreign governments and institutions."

**How did you find about the U.S. Department of State?**

"After earning my master's in architecture from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and working as a licensed architect and professor at the University of Puerto Rico, I learned about this career from a friend. After joining, I can say that this is not just a job, but a career that has allowed my family and me to travel the world while representing the United States. I've been with the Department 10 years now, and have served in Washington D.C., Maputo, Mexico City and Tunis. I've worked on new embassy construction projects of different scales and complexities, and I cannot imagine a different path than this one."

**Do you have advice for those considering a career at the Department?**

"Be flexible, be curious and apply! There are many resources out there and a strong emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion. We all bring something to the table, and it's important that we realize we all have things to contribute. There are many programs and paid internships, and our diversity will make us better."

# Featured Diplomats

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## Kaleb J. Lopez - Law Enforcement & Security Specialist

Special Agent, Washington Field Office

Hometown: Lubbock,TX

**Biography:**

Special Agent Kaleb J. Lopez is from Lubbock, TX. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1999-2009. Post military service, Kaleb served as a Uniformed Officer with the United States Secret Service. He has now been a Special Agent with Diplomatic Security Service serving over 14 years including tours overseas in Afghanistan and Austria.

**How has the U.S. Department of State supported your personal and professional development?**

"This career has benefitted me greatly on a personal level as it is not normal for someone from little ole West Texas to obtain a position in which they are on the cusp of American Foreign Policy. The Department of State has been the best career I have had. As a member of the Department, you impact global initiatives and travel the world in a way no other agency, department, or organization does."

**Do you have any advice for those considering a career in the Department?**

"If you're looking for a challenge where the benefits of working in a high-paced, high-profile, high demand industry come in the form of world-wide available service and unique experiences unlike anything you could imagine, then this is the place for you."

**Can you shed light on what your work as a Special Agent is like?**

"Being a Special Agent with Diplomatic Security, we are trained and educated to immediately begin working at the highest levels for protection details and other security related events. Unlike agencies that require so many years of experience before being eligible for even the smallest consideration, we immediately serve on the leading edges of international affairs and cooperation."

# Featured Diplomats

**Monica Skinner - Information Technology Specialist**
Information Management Specialist
U.S. Consulate General Frankfurt
Hometown: Ashburn, VA

**Biography:**
Monica E. Skinner was born in Lima, Peru. She joined the Department of State in 2003. Monica is a Foreign Service IT Manager who held overseas assignments in Mexico City, Tel Aviv, Montevideo, and Islamabad. She is presently working as a Branch Chief in Frankfurt.

**What have learned from your work at the U.S. Department of State?**
"Working for the Department of State which is at the epicenter of major worldwide events has taught me to be able to see events from multiple perspectives."

**How has a career at the Department supported your professional development?**
"All of my assignments, both domestic and overseas, provided countless personal and professional development opportunities. A special moment in my heart was when I worked as a team lead within the Secretary of State's Mobile Communications Unit at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. "

**Can you share a highlight from your experience in the Department?**
"The Foreign Service is a family in and of itself. Over the years serving in the U.S. overseas missions in Mexico, Israel, Uruguay and Pakistan, I have forged incredible friendships with other members of the Foreign Service community."

# Featured Diplomats

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## Adriana "Adri" Luna - Administration Specialist

Office Management Specialist

U.S. Consulate General Guadalajara

Hometown: Destin, Florida

**Biography:**

Originally from Bogota, Colombia. First generation Colombian-American, Adri joined the State Department in 2014. She is a native Spanish speaker and speaks intermediate French. She is currently serving at the U.S. Consulate General Guadalajara as the Regional Security Office Manager, and has previously served in U.S. Embassy Asuncion and U.S. Embassy Abidjan.

**Do you have any advice for those considering a career in the Department?**

**"**I applied to the Foreign Service FIVE times, failed the Specialist Assessment three times, and finally passed the Specialist Assessment on my 4th attempt. Nothing held me back, and my persistence paid off. I wanted to serve the country that provided me and my family with great opportunities."

**Can you share a career highlight from your time in the Department?**

"In the Foreign Service, I have met amazing people and have had the chance to see the world. A career highlight for me was my assignment in Cote d'Ivoire. Having the opportunity to not just visit but actually live in Africa, a continent I never dreamed of being able to visit, was amazing."

**How has your fluency in foreign languages supported your work?**

**"**As a native Spanish speaker, I have used my language skills to serve the United States abroad during my assignments in the U.S. Embassies in Paraguay and Mexico whether through interpretation and translation or public speaking at official events. In fact, I was chosen by the United States Marine Corps to be the Master of Ceremonies in English, French, and Spanish for three Marine Balls in 2019, 2022, and 2023."

# Civil Servants

A career in the Civil Service is a unique opportunity to help Americans abroad and represent America to the world. From improving trade opportunities for U.S. businesses, to monitoring human rights issues, to providing management supervision, you can use your skills in a Civil Service career to directly impact foreign policy issues or uphold the business practices and processes involved in supporting the U.S. Department of State's diplomatic efforts.

Civil Service jobs are grouped into 11 major categories:

- Foreign Affairs
- Human Resources
- Management Analysis
- General Accounting and Administration
- Budget Administration
- Legal Counsel
- Passport/Visa Services
- Public Affairs
- Contract Procurement
- Information Technology Management
- Foreign Language & Professional Training

# Featured Diplomats

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**Melissa "Missy" Ledesma-Leese - Civil Service**

Senior Advisor for Retention

Bureau of Global Talent Management

Hometown: Perrysburg, OH

**Biography:**

Melissa Ledesma-Leese began her Department of State career in the Bureau of Consular Affairs serving both in Washington and in Lesotho. Thereafter, in GTM, she was the Chief of Staff for the Director General of the Foreign Service and Bureau of Global Talent Management as well as the Deputy Advisor of the Diversity and Inclusion Unit. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University and her Juris Doctor from the University of Toledo.

**What kind of background is necessary to work at the U.S. Department of State?**

"I have waited tables, I have been an actress, I have been an asylum officer, I have been a teacher, and I have been a legal advocate, and I promise you I have used the skills in all of those jobs to do the work at the Department. That's the amazing part about the Department. It takes the collective of our experiences and skills and puts all of them to good use."

**Can you share your introduction to the Department?**

"Honestly, coming from Midwest Ohio, I had never heard of a Foreign Service Officer or what they do. I didn't get my first passport until I studied abroad in Spain during undergrad. Prior to joining the Department, I was an asylum officer and one of the many sources we used routinely was the Human Rights Report. I remember thinking, I want to do that! Luckily, I found a great fit when I came to work for Consular Affairs."

**Do you have any advice for those considering a career in the Department?**

"There is no one cookie cutter or path to a particular job. We all bring different perspectives and experience to the table, and you might be exactly what we are looking for!"

# Featured Diplomats

**Irelys Marti-Sanchez - Civil Service**

Industrial Hygienist, Overseas Buildings Operations

Hometown: Manati, Puerto Rico

**Biography:**

Irelys holds a Master Degree in Sciences in Industrial Hygiene, and is also a board Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) and Certified Safety Professional (CSP). Prior to this position she worked as an Industrial Hygienist at the U.S. Army Public Health Command and in the private sector. Currently, Irelys is supporting two main areas, the Mishap Reporting and Investigation and the Motor Vehicle Safety Management Program for overseas posts.

**How has your fluency in foreign languages influenced your work at the U.S. Department of State?**

"I love to be that channel between the Department and other nations to foster diplomacy. As a bilingual person (English and Spanish), I speak Spanish during my meetings with the local employees when I am working overseas. By communicating in their own language, I can see how bilateral relationships are strengthened."

**What is like to work at the Department of State?**

"Working with the Department has opened my eyes to the world! It has given me the opportunity to travel to unexpected places as well as meet and share with people from different cultures."

**Please share a career highlight.**

"I never thought I would be meeting and briefing Ambassadors! The Department has trusted me and has appreciated and recognized my work. At the Department, I have been able to apply my previous scientific knowledge, but I have also developed different diplomatic skills."

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