

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Dr. Sanjuana C. Rodriguez wins inaugural Nuestra Gente Award**

URBANA, ILLINOIS, September 26, 2016 – The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Latinx Caucus is pleased to announce that Dr. Sanjuana C. Rodriguez, Assistant Professor of Literacy and Reading Education in the Bagwell College of Education at Kennesaw State University has been selected to be the recipient of the 2016 Nuestra Gente Award for outstanding teaching and research as an early career scholar.

The Nuestra Gente Award was established in 2015 by the NCTE Latinx Caucus with special help from caucus member Isabel Baca, Associate Professor of English at the University of Texas at El Paso, and sponsored by Laura Muñoz, CEO S-mart. This award recognizes a Latinx graduate student or junior faculty (in her/his first three years) to support her/his continued education and research agenda. The Nuestra Gente Award will be presented annually. Dr. Rodriguez will receive \$500 to support her research agenda. In addition, Dr. Rodriguez will be recognized at the 2016 NCTE Awards Ceremony during the NCTE Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

As a junior faculty, Dr. Rodriguez is actively researching, teaching, and participating in service related activities. Her research focuses on early literacy development of culturally and linguistically diverse students, writing development, and literacy development of English learners. Rodriguez's passion for teaching began as a practitioner in a Kindergarten classroom, working alongside teachers as a literacy coach. However, her passion is evermore present in her role as a teacher educator.

Her colleagues write, "In her short tenure as an Assistant Professor, Sanjuana has taught a number of literacy methods courses for undergraduates at KSU. Dr. Rodriguez provides both authentic and meaningful experiences for her students by providing telling cases from her experiences working in schools with high Latino/a populations. I predict that Dr. Rodriguez' students will be more reflexive and attentive in honoring children's culture when they embark on their own careers."

Details about the Nuestra Gente Award can be found at  
<http://www.ncte.org/caucus/latino/awards> .

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Established by the [Latin@ Caucus](#) of NCTE and sponsored by Laura Muñoz, CEO S-Mart, **this award recognizes a Latin@ graduate student or junior faculty (first three years) to support their continued education and research agenda** which must align to the NCTE Rainbow Strand.

Rainbow Strand sessions highlight issues and strategies related to enhancing the education of culturally and linguistically diverse students. Affirming the lives and literatures, literacies, and legacies of people across complex and multiple lines of difference is central to the mission of the Rainbow Strand. Thus, Rainbow Strand sessions represent the cultural and linguistic diversity of a nation, if not a globe, and thus affirm and explore, examine and pay unique attention to historically underrepresented populations—specifically Latin@s.

### **Eligibility**

1. Must be a Latin@ graduate student in his/her first 3 years of teaching
2. His/her research must align with Rainbow Strand

### **Application Process**

1. Google form: <http://goo.gl/forms/8SDCsCVF4F>
2. One letter of support from a professor or colleague who is familiar with your research
3. Complete curriculum vitae
4. Proof of college enrollment

**Letter of support, CV and proof of college enrollment** should be sent to [ncteccclatinocaucus@gmail.com](mailto:ncteccclatinocaucus@gmail.com) with the subject line: Nuestra Gente Award

**Applications are due July 15, 2016.**

The award winner will be announced by **September 30, 2016**, and will be recognized at the 2016 NCTE Awards Ceremony during the **NCTE Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.**