



# WOODY AND GAYLE HUNT FAMILY FOUNDATION

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## **WOODY AND GAYLE HUNT FAMILY FOUNDATION STRENGTHENS ITS COMMITMENT TO ELEVATE BORDERPLEX LEADERS THROUGH ITS ASPEN INSTITUTE FELLOWSHIP**

*Fellowship has provided 13 Borderplex leaders with scholarships to attend world-class convenings*

EL PASO, TX - Today, the Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation (WGHFF) and the Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program (AILAS) announced that two Borderplex leaders will receive the Woody and Gayle Hunt Aspen Institute Fellowship: Alyssa Benavides and Andrea Tawney. Including the latest fellows, a total of 13 Borderplex leaders have been named Hunt Aspen Fellows since the program launched in October 2020.

The Hunt Fellowship supports academic, civic, community and business leaders from the Borderplex region, allowing them to participate in the Aspen Institute's highly-respected seminars and conferences, to interact with national and international leaders within their respective professional fields, and to bring a Borderplex perspective to discussions of national and global importance.

"The Aspen Institute brings together global leaders and visionaries through their executive seminars and conferences to bring forth new ideas and solutions to some of our country's most challenging issues," said Woody L. Hunt, chairman of the Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation. "Through this fellowship program, we are helping elevate the unique Borderplex perspective to inform these discussions and give local leaders a platform to share their work and ideas at a national level."

This is the second year the Foundation will be supporting the Aspen Institute's Latinos and Society program as part of its \$1 million dollar gift. Over the last twelve months, the Foundation has helped 13 community leaders from El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico to participate in Aspen seminars such as Aspen Socrates, Aspen Words, and Aspen Executive Leadership.

Fellows are provided funding and admitted to an Aspen Institute program based on their personal and professional expertise. They join a global community network of innovators who build personal and professional connections and stay in touch over many years.

“It’s critical to involve local Latino voices in conversations about what is happening in our country and our world,” said Domenika Lynch, executive director of Aspen Institute Latino and Society Program. “We are grateful to partner with the Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation for generously establishing this fellowship to bring Borderplex leaders to the table.”

Alyssa Benavides serves as the Associate Managing Director of the Office of Clinical Informatics at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso. She has served as a business administrator and policy strategist in city and state governments throughout Texas for over 20 years. Benavides earned her Master of Arts degree from the University of Texas El Paso in Public Administration and is currently completing her Ph.D. dissertation in the Education Leadership and Policy doctoral program at Texas Tech University.

Andrea Tawney is Vice President for the Office of Institutional Advancement at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, where she is responsible for fundraising operations and marketing and communications for the institution. Tawney has worked in higher education for 16 years and earned a Ph.D. in Higher Education Studies from Texas Tech University, with a focus on the predictors of academic success for first-generation college students.

Both have been selected to participate in the Aspen Executive Seminar on Leadership, Values, and the Good Society.

The awarded Hunt Aspen Fellows include:

- Rafael Alvarado-Acuña, Author & Associate Professor, El Paso Community College
- Arturo Barrio, Director of Collaboration & Stakeholder Development, UTEP
- Sandra Caraveo, National Programs Manager, League of United Latin American Citizens
- Valeria Contreras, Executive Coordinator, Workforce Solutions Borderplex
- Alejandra Gaytan, Capacity Development Provider, Project Vida
- Taylor Moreno, Program Director, El Paso Children's Hospital Foundation
- Carlos Murguía, Director of the Foster Innovation Exchange, NMSU Arrowhead Center
- Dr. Richard Pineda, Chair of the Dept. of Communication, UTEP
- Tony Ramirez, Vice President of Economic Development, Borderplex Alliance
- Yasmín Ramirez, Author & Associate Professor, El Paso Community College
- Amanda Sanchez, Corporate Trainer for Global HR, Helen of Troy

More information about the Hunt Aspen Institute Fellowship and Aspen Institute programming can be found [here](#).

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**About the Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation:**

The Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation is one of the Borderplex region's preeminent private family foundations focused on creating a globally competitive region. Since 1987, it has made grants and commitments of more than \$117 million in individuals and institutions working to transform education, improve healthcare, advance regional economic and cultural development, and create a greater quality of life for all Borderplex residents.