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## Greetings from the Frances McClelland Institute,

We were thrilled last week to host the 2022 Vision Awards Ceremony. We returned to an in-person event with a virtual component after two years of virtual ceremonies. Although this is always an inspiring event, it was truly exciting to gather in-person again to feel the passion, inspiration and sense of community. As detailed below, these awards are given to honor leaders and organizations who are working towards improving the well-being of children, youth, families, and community.

The Vision Awards provide an opportunity to celebrate accomplishments. At the same time, the remarks of each award winner highlighted that we have much more work to do collectively to create a more just and equitable society for children, youth and families to thrive.

FMI is very honored to be able to recognize these change makers. We are grateful to everyone who made this event possible, including our Advisory Council, award selection committees, award presenters, FMI and Norton School staff, and student volunteers.

This joyful event occurred at a difficult time on the University of Arizona campus, as we mourn the loss of a faculty member, Dr. Thomas Meixner from the Department of Hydrology & Atmospheric Sciences, who was killed on campus by a former student earlier this month. We extend our condolences to Dr. Meixner's personal and academic families, and we hope that the University can come together to heal from this traumatic event and find ways to make everyone feel safe on campus.

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Last week, we held our annual Frances McClelland Vision Awards Ceremony where we honored the lasting legacies of Frances McClelland and Richard Elías. The annual awards are given to those who share Frances's and FMI's vision of strong communities that support family resilience so that children and youth, especially those from marginalized communities, have the opportunity to thrive. We recognized three outstanding individuals and a local Tucson community organization. Congratulations to all of our award winners! Thank you to the guests who attended.

### About the Award Winners

2022 Frances McClelland Vision Award - E. Liane Hernandez



YWCA Southern Arizona in Tucson, AZ. She is a convener and works to create space for individuals and organizations to do the work of inclusive community building. Trained at University of Arizona and Pima Community College as an art historian, chef, and cultural anthropologist she is student of the questions of what community is, who gets to participate,

when, and how. A member of the Tucson nonprofit arts community for many years, she has served as staff as well as on boards, committees, grant review panels, and was a founder of Raices Taller 222. She currently Co-Chairs the Bond Oversight Commission. She is a member of Cohort 14 of the Lodestar American Express Leadership Academy. Formerly, Liane served with Tucson Meet Yourself Festival as the City of Gastronomy Culture Kitchen Coordinator, was a 2016 Fellow of the Tucson Voices OpEd Project, a Commissioner with the Pima Tucson Women's Commission, and part of the Latino Graduate Training Seminar on Qualitative Methodology at the Smithsonian Institute. She was recognized as the Adelita Del Año by Las Adelitas PAC in 2015.

A native of Arizona, she lives in her beloved city of Tucson, Arizona with her partner, Peter and their two dogs.

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2022 Richard Elias Legacy Award - Maria Vianey Valdez-Cardenas



University of Arizona Chicano Hispano Students Affairs, City of Tucson Parks and Recreation as a Recreation Assistant, Arizona State Program Coordinator for Project Ayuda (on the job training program for 50+ Senior Citizens), Community Family Liaison and Folklorico Group instructor at Tucson Unified School District Mission View Elementary, Primavera Foundation as a Resources Specialist for Rapid Rehousing programs for the homeless population in Tucson, and lastly, she worked at U.S. Census Bureau in June 2019 as a Partnership Specialist for Arizona State Local Governments and Hispanic Organizations till September 2021.

In 2017 Valdez-Cardenas opened her own Business as a Paralegal Document Services of Arizona helping families with legal documents. She has been an advocate for the Pima County and Tucson community for 25+ years and builds relationships through community engagement. She has been part of several nonprofit organizations and board of directors, holding a seat on the executive board for LULAC as the State Treasurer. She is currently the City of Tucson Ward 5 appointee for Pima County Tucson Women's Commission and the Treasurer for Citizen Diplomacy Alliance for International Visitors with US Department of State, Las Vistas Neighborhood Association President as well as the Founder and Executive Director of United Hearts of Arizona/Corazones Unidos de Arizona. Throughout her career, Valdez-Cardenas had the opportunity to see the need of basic services for low-income families. In 2014, She founded her own non-profit organization to improve the lives of children and families in Arizona by providing resources that will help them to be prepare for personal lives, professional accomplishments, and responsible citizenship. She provides work and support to cities and towns in Southern Arizona by establishing community partnerships and engagement.

Valdez-Cardenas currently lives in Tucson, Arizona, with her 3 children. She enjoys spending time with her family playing Mexican bingo.



passionately advocating for the safety and well-being of those most marginalized, especially transgender youth. Advocating in his local community, across the state and the country, he has held a deep commitment to supporting his community and friends since the age of 9. His dedication to building an equitable community where the next generation can thrive has included participating in advocacy across the country,

including to the White House. Daniel continues to communicate regularly with those writing federal policy. When Daniel is not publicly advocating, he finds ways to express himself through his love of drawing and creating, building LEGO, playing music, and singing in choir.

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#### 2022 Spirit Organizational Award - Youth On Their Own



Youth On Their Own's mission is to support the high school graduation and continued success of youth experiencing homelessness. They strive to eliminate barriers to education and empower Southern Arizona's housing insecure youth to stay in school by providing

financial assistance, basic human needs, guidance, and more. Through this unique combination of financial, material, and motivational support, YOTO helps youth experiencing homelessness stay in school and achieve their dreams of high school graduation. Since their founding in 1986, they have served tens of thousands of local children and youth. This year alone, they expect to enroll approximately 1,500 young people in our program. Moreover, with a high school graduation rate of 84% for YOTO-enrolled youth, they know their program works!

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**Thank you Sponsors!**

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Thank you to all of our partners for sponsoring this year's 2022 Frances McClelland Vision Award Ceremony. The ceremony would not have been possible without your generous support.

## Current Research from the Institute



FSDH Doctoral Alum Xiaomin Li recently published a new article on the topic of finances and relationships with FSDH faculty Melissa Curran and FSDH Doctoral Alum Ashley LeBaron Black titled, "Couple-level attachment styles, finances, and marital satisfaction: Mediation analyses among emerging adult newlywed couples."

[Read Now](#)



school policy impact on transgender youth on  
Radio IQ.

Listen Now

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## FMI Resources

### Resources for COVID-19

Check out our website for updated COVID-19 resources [here](#).

### FMI's Commitment to Social Justice

Check out our website for an updated list of anti-racist resources [here](#).

### FMI's Commitment to Youth Resources

Check out our website for an updated list of youth resources [here](#).

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invites you to the Pamela J. Turbeville Colloquium



Karen Armknecht, MBA & Victoria Iwinski, MA.,  
Chicanos por la Causa, Inc.

"The Burden of the Pandemic: How Covid-19 Pushed  
Us to the Edge."

Friday, September 23, 2022 from 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Join us in-person in McClelland Park Room 402  
or on Zoom by registering at <https://bit.ly/3eL1nCT>



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES  
Frances McClelland  
Institute for Children,  
Youth & Families  
Norton School of Human Ecology



Frances  
McClelland Institute  
Children, Youth, and Families

Karen Armknecht and Victoria Iwinski Turbeville Speaker Series Event on September 23, 2022



Thank you for your support of the Institute.  
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and [LinkedIn](#).

In Partnership,

**Melissa A. Barnett, Ph.D.**

Director, Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and  
Families

Norton Endowed Chair in Fathers, Parenting and Families

Associate Professor, Family Studies and Human Development

Please invest in the Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families.  
Every dollar you contribute will help us further our work to use the power of  
research to build family, youth and community resilience.

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Questions? Contact FMI Program Coordinator, Alvin Nguyen, at 520.621.8067  
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