Ph.D. student Diana Lopez receives LEAD graduate student excellence award

Lopez studies nanoscale materials in the lab of Professor Maxx Arguilla.
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Ph.D. student Diana Lopez accepted the award at a ceremony on campus.

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On April 3, the UC Irvine Office of Inclusive Excellence, alongside the Latinx Resource Center and Graduate Division, hosted the eighth annual Latino Excellence

and Achievement Awards Dinner (LEAD). LEAD honors graduate students, staff and faculty who support and champion student success and research excellence in the Hispanic and Latinx community at UCI. Diana Lopez, a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Chemistry who studies nanoscale materials in the lab of Professor Maxx Arguilla, received the Graduate Student Excellence Award for her outstanding research and positive impact on the Latinx community. Lopez promotes awareness of solid-state chemistry and graduate school through programs like the California Alliance for Minority Participation – an NSF-funded, cross-UC program that aims to enhance diversity in STEM fields at the Ph.D. and faculty levels through professional support. “I’m incredibly grateful for the mentors and community who believed in me and helped me grow into the scientist I am today. Their support inspires me to pay it forward through outreach initiatives that demystify graduate school and encourage students to pursue careers in STEM,” Lopez said.

"The night was powerful," said Ash Hormaza, program coordinator in the School of Physical Sciences' Office of Access, Outreach and Inclusion. "Our school celebrated this important and defining moment, not only for our awardee, Diana Lopez, but for all of our Latinx students in attendance and those who couldn't be there. It’s a privilege to join together across all of campus to rejoice, celebrate and honor a large part of our populations cultural background."

Image



Lopez gathers with UC Irvine dignitaries at the LEAD dinner. *UC Irvine*

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