

# Semester Recap Newsletter

K E A N U N I V E R S I T Y



# crece

The Hispanic Leadership Center

## Welcome to CRECE

Welcome to CRECE, the Hispanic Leadership Center at Kean University. This groundbreaking initiative is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of Hispanic leaders through innovative education, mentorship, and community engagement. As a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), Kean University is uniquely positioned to address the leadership gap and educational disparities faced by the Hispanic community. CRECE, which means "grow" or "rise" in Spanish, embodies our core mission: fostering growth, rising excellence, and cultural empowerment among Hispanic students and professionals.

Welcome to our first CRECE newsletter! We are thrilled to share with you what we have been working on this past semester.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our partners who have continued to support and work with us.

In this edition, you will find a recap of the Fall 2025 semester including our events, conferences attended, a thank you to our partners, and more.

We are excited to see what is in store for CRECE in the future. Enjoy this semester's newsletter!

### In this newsletter you can expect:

- CRECE and MARLAS: Building Together by Frank Argote-Freyre
- Call for Student Researchers
- Event and Conference Recap
- Previous Events
- Thank you to our Partners



# CRECE and MARLAS: Building Together



In keeping with President Lamont Repollet's vision of establishing Kean University as an "anchor institution" deeply rooted and serving the community, the university recently began co-publishing an academic journal – The Middle Atlantic Review of Latin American Studies [MARLAS]. The journal is affiliated with the Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies [MACLAS] which holds an annual academic conference in March. The mission is clear: provide our students with a forum to present their research and receive constructive feedback from fellow student researchers and

more established scholars. Some of these research findings, perhaps in collaboration with faculty members, might find a home at the journal. This is the latest initiative by CRECE: The Hispanic Leadership Center to build a cadre of young scholars and researchers that contribute to the community at large. The acronym stands for: Center for Rising Excellence and Cultural Empowerment. The mission is clear: provide our students with a forum to present their research and receive constructive feedback from fellow student researchers and more established scholars. **Contributed by: Frank Argote-Freyre**

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## Call for Student Researchers from Kean University's CRECE

Kean University's Center for Rising Excellence and Cultural Empowerment (CRECE) has launched a call for students engaged in or interested in developing research projects on Latin America and Latina/o/x studies. The initiative welcomes students from all majors and academic levels.

Students do not need prior research experience to participate. CRECE aims to cultivate emerging scholars by offering early guidance and pathways toward meaningful research contributions. Students interested in Latin America, Latina/o/x identity, or related fields are encouraged to explore this opportunity to build academic confidence and strengthen their scholarly trajectory.

Additionally, student researchers may attend the 2026 Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies (MACLAS) academic conference. Kean University will fully fund the attendance of 8 to 10 selected students, making this an accessible and valuable educational experience. Students with existing research proposals are encouraged to submit their work to the conference.

Students who wish to learn more, receive research guidance, or inquire about the conference opportunity can contact CRECE's Academic Specialist, Rebecca Blaier, at [blaier@kean.edu](mailto:blaier@kean.edu).





## Hispanic Heritage Month KickOff

Grateful to the 300+ people who packed the MSC patio to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month with us on September 15th, 2025!

Huge thanks to Segunda Quimbamba who built community through music and reminded us of the importance of honoring our ancestors.

We're also thankful to all the amazing orgs who joined the festivities and, of course, to our students who showed up ready to celebrate! A special shoutout to Kean HRI for registering over 50 students to vote during the celebration!

## 2025 Events

### September:

Opening of Hispanic Heritage Month  
 Flowers from CRECE  
 The Role of a Federal Judge: The Constitution at Work  
 Yo Soy Afrolatino  
 Una Celebracion de Juan Felipe Herrera

### October:

CRECE Talks: Root to Route; An Evening of Critical Inquiry & Art  
 Picking a New Pope: From Francis to Leo XIV

### November:

Beyond Survival

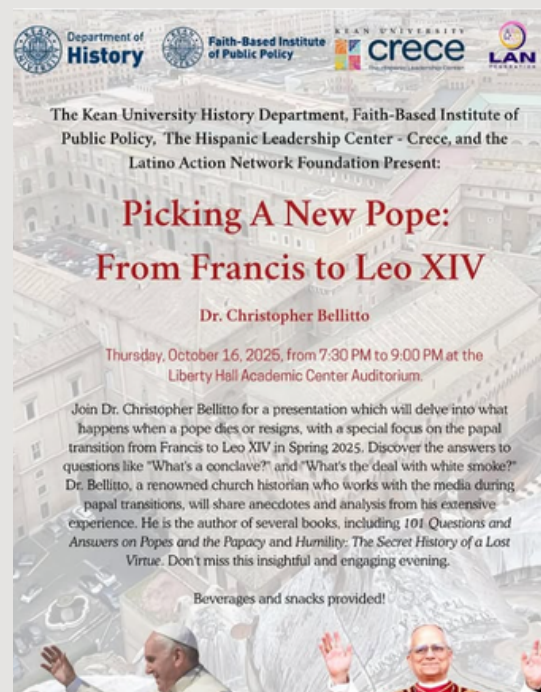


## 2025 Conferences

A delegation of Kean faculty, staff, and students attended the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Conference and the Excelencia in Education Conference.

Both organizations focus on expanding access and supporting the growth of Latino students, as well as those at Hispanic-Serving Institutions, to help them persist through graduation.

The delegation gained valuable insights into the importance of networking, workforce preparation, and leadership development, while also embracing their cultural identity.





## Thank You to our Partners

Thank you for your continued support throughout this semester and since the beginning of CRECE: The Hispanic Leadership Center. Your partnership and belief in our mission have been vital to our growth and impact.

We are deeply grateful for your collaboration and look forward to continuing this work together.

