

# Latinxs and Hispanics in Mathematical Sciences



Photo courtesy of Zdeňka Guadarrama

*"Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to reflect on my journey as a Hispanic woman in mathematics and the responsibility it carries. I draw strength from the resilience, creativity, and deep sense of community in my heritage as I work to make mathematics more welcoming and accessible. This month reminds me that being a Hispanic woman in leadership is both a celebration of those who came before me and a promise to those who come next: to keep opening doors and lifting others so that future generations feel seen, supported, and truly welcomed."*

## Dr. Zdeňka Guadarrama

Professor of Mathematics  
Rockhurst University

Zdeňka Guadarrama is a Hispanic mathematician who believes mathematics should be accessible, joyful, and seen as part of our shared human experience. She earned her bachelor's degree in economics with honors from Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) before moving to the welcoming environment of the Mathematics Department at the University of Arkansas, where she completed her M.S. and Ph.D. in mathematics. She is now a Professor of Mathematics at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, where she also serves as department chair and directs the Applied Mathematics program.

In 2012, she co-founded Mathapalooza, an outreach program that invites children, families, and teachers to experience the wonder of mathematics through play. Over the years, Mathapalooza has engaged thousands of participants and supported teachers in bringing playful, hands-on math to their classrooms. Her leadership and dedication to outreach have been recognized with awards such as the 2022 STEMMy Educator of the Year and the 2025 Andrews McMeel Universal Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award.

Her work brings mathematics to places where people learn, gather, and create—from classrooms to parks and galleries. She recently curated math-and-art exhibits including Math Play with Light (2025), Tiling for Change (2024), and Visualizing Math: A Pathway to Art and Creative Design (2023), creating immersive experiences that connect diverse communities and blend mathematics with culture. Proud to be a Hispanic woman in mathematics, she draws inspiration from her heritage and is committed to representation and inspiring future generations to see themselves in the mathematical community.

Zdeňka Guadarrama's work spans mathematics education, outreach, interdisciplinary art collaborations, and service leadership. As a Professor of Mathematics at Rockhurst University, in Kansas City, she integrates teaching, mentoring, scholarship, and community engagement to advance the accessibility and appreciation of mathematics. Her teaching blends rigor with creativity, using playful inquiry and visual art to deepen understanding and broaden participation. She has published on guided-inquiry approaches, playful outreach, and the integration of art into mathematics education, as well as co-authoring inquiry-based calculus and algebra texts. Through this body of work, she advances a vision of mathematics education that is engaging, inclusive, and connected to human creativity.

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Lathisms was founded in 2016 in order to showcase the contributions of Latinx and Hispanic mathematicians during Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated in the United States from September 15 and October 15 every year. During this time, we feature/reveal a prominent Latinx/Hispanic mathematician daily. See all the featured mathematical scientists at [LATHISMS.ORG](https://LATHISMS.ORG).

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