

Latinxs and Hispanics in Mathematical Sciences



Photo courtesy of Daniel Herrera

Luis David Molina

Professor of Mathematics
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Luis Molina is a professor of mathematics at Lone Star College–CyFair, where he teaches a wide range of college-level math courses and works to make mathematics more relevant, accessible, and student-centered. Born in Galveston and raised in South Houston, he's the son of Mexican parents from Ayutla, Querétaro and Matehuala, San Luis Potosí. His focus is on supporting Latinx, first-generation, and underrepresented students in STEM.

Luis is currently developing a course called Mexican-American Mathematics, which looks at math through cultural history, indigenous knowledge, and identity. The course includes systems like the Nepohualtzintzin, a pre-Columbian base-20 counting system, and invites students to explore how math connects to their lives, not just to a textbook. Professor Molina also leads efforts to redesign math courses around real-world use. He's piloting themed sections like College Algebra for Cybersecurity and Statistics for Public Health, along with new ways to bring in workforce relevance and applied learning. He also founded MathSpace, a tutoring and collaboration hub where students can study, get support, and work directly with faculty. His teaching blends traditional skills with projects, cultural context, and tools like AI and modeling software.

What drives Professor Molina's work is the belief that math should be a tool students can use and one they see themselves in. He wants students to feel like they belong in the math classroom, and that what they're learning matters in the world outside of it.

In teaching, Molina brings clarity and intentional design to the classroom. He teaches a broad range of college-level mathematics courses, from algebra and business math to statistics and calculus. Across all levels, he focuses on making content meaningful by using real-world data, student-centered projects, and cross-disciplinary themes. He regularly designs assignments that connect math to career pathways, current social issues, and emerging technologies. His piloting of the Lumen One statistics course reflects his commitment to accessible and flexible learning, especially for first-generation and working students.

Molina's contributions are unified by a clear goal: to ensure that mathematics serves students in real and lasting ways. Through instruction, mentorship, and service, he helps build a version of math education that is rigorous, inclusive, and grounded in the lives of the people it's meant to reach.

"Hispanic Heritage Month reminds me that our achievements aren't just personal, they're rooted in family, culture, and the pride that carries across generations. I think of my father, who lit up anytime he saw one of my students, calling me 'Professor' with deep joy and genuine pride. Though he's gone now, his belief in me lives on and continues to guide my work. This month is a reminder that our heritage isn't something we perform, it's who we are, every day. We carry our history with us not just in celebration, but in how we teach, lead, and live with purpose."

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.

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