

2025 KAKEHASHI – LA Latin American Young Leaders Delegation



Alejandra Acosta is Founder and CEO of a college advising business, “One Degree Hotter College Advising,” which helps students apply to college as their authentic selves. Armed with her knowledge of higher education policy and a passion for making college admissions less stressful, she has helped students gain admission to top universities while staying true to themselves. She is also Chief of Staff for Prosper Insight, a company that serves to empower education technology companies with the strategic expertise needed to accelerate

growth and establish a strong market presence. Alejandra has a M.A. in Higher Education from the University of Michigan and a B.A. in Sociology, Spanish, and Chicana/o Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. Alejandra’s hometown of San Jose, home to the oldest of three Japantowns in the U.S., is a sister city to Okayama. She would love to explore how Japan and San Jose can continue to foster a positive relationship with San Jose’s historic Japanese community, what the U.S. and Japanese education systems learn from each other, what opportunities exist or can be created for U.S. students to study in Japan, and how the Latin American experience is similar to the Japanese American experience.



Diego Andrades currently serves as Assistant Director at the USC Dornsife Center for the Political Future, and since June 2025, has been working for the City of Los Angeles as a Charter Reform Commissioner. He is a recent graduate of the University of Southern California (USC) with B.A. degrees in Political Science and Politics, Philosophy, and Law. He previously served as Special Assistant to the CEO in the Biden-Harris Administration at AmeriCorps, where he supported national service initiatives and helped implement a major executive order expanding access to federal jobs. Earlier in his career, Diego was a Public Policy

Fellow at the U.S. Senate and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. He also served as Legislative Fellow in the Office of Pramila Jayapal at the U.S. House of Representatives. At USC, Diego held key leadership roles as Chief of Staff for the Undergraduate Student Government, Student Body Senator, and President of the Delta Omicron Zeta Leadership Society. Upon graduation, he received the Order of the Laurel and Palm, USC’s highest honor for student leadership. Diego is interested in Japan’s democracy and good governance, public-private partnerships and models for import into the U.S. and L.A., and the country’s demographic crisis and its global implications.



Matthew Sánchez is the Founder, CEO, and Perfumer of MATTEO PARFUMS, an award-winning fine fragrance and beauty company, now backed by L’Oreal. His past work experience includes six years with Capital One, most recently as Principal of Investments, and two years as Senior Manager of Product Program Management at GEICO. He is also Co-Founder & CEO of Eroma Health, an odor-based, early disease screening and predictive health management software company. He has B.S. degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles in both Computational and Applied Mathematics and Chemistry. His awards and achievements include Winner of the 2024 L’Oreal Beauty Fund (becoming the first fragrance company to achieve this honor), youngest and one of the newest members of The Fragrance Foundation in New York City and Paris, and amassing +25 million impressions with features across GQ, Allure, NPR, CBS, New York Times, and The Financial Times, allowing for expansion into 15 countries. Matthew would love the opportunity to preserve, innovate, and mindfully honor and blend Japanese and Latin American cultures, customs, and traditions in future MATTEO PARFUMS campaigns, narratives, products, and initiatives.