



Hispanics In Energy

Newsletter

VIRGINIA CHAPTER

SUMMER/FALL 2026



Energy Tech brings together utilities, startups, engineers, policymakers, software developers, and energy leaders. This year, Energy Tech was hosted at the Dewey Gottwald Center and it attracted 450 attendees and over 100 companies with discussions on AI in utilities, renewable integration, transmission planning, battery storage, and next-generation grid infrastructure. We had five members attend the event including Victor Aguirre, Natalia Giraud, Monica Gorena, Carlos Velez, and Alejandro Fumero.

Women in STEM with SHPEtinass

Celebrating Women's History

On March 16, in celebration of Women's History Month, our Community Outreach Chair, **Sindy Colls** and Advisor, **Marlu Deverick**, shared their career journeys, challenges, and advice with students at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The SHPEtinass is a signature program by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) that aims to empower, elevate, and affirm Latina representation at all levels of STEM, from early education to corporate and academic leadership.



MARLU DEVERICK
DOMINION ENERGY



SINDY COLLS
DOMINION ENERGY



Virginia
**HISPANIC
FOUNDATION**

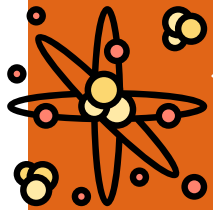
STEM Day with Virginia Hispanic Foundation's Pasaporte a La Educación



The event was a collaborative effort between HIE-VA, the Virginia Hispanic Foundation, led by Lisa Zajur, and the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Together, they introduced students to power generation concepts and the HIE-VA mission while inspiring curiosity about the world of energy. Huge appreciation to Luis Rivera, Denisse Campbell, Edgardo Corporan, and Jose Santos for volunteering at STEM Day at Elizabeth Scott Elementary School. Your enthusiasm and commitment helped spark curiosity and inspire the next generation of STEM leaders.

STEM Day marked the culmination of several weeks of bilingual leadership workshops, bringing learning to life through interactive science games, hands-on lessons, and engaging activities at Falling Creek Elementary and Elizabeth Scott Elementary in Chesterfield County, Virginia. Shout out to Alex Guaman and Fabricio Montesdeoca for volunteering as leadership coaches.

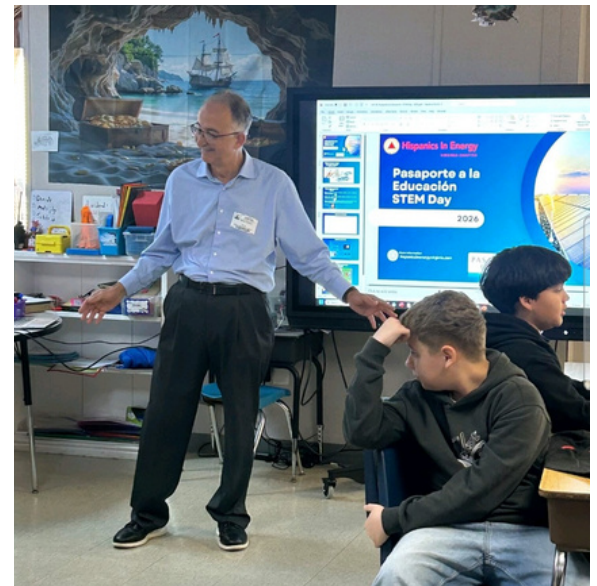
PASAPORTE
a la EDUCACIÓN



Falling Creek Elementary
STEM DAY

STEM Day at Falling Creek Elementary School took place on April 20, where HIE-VA members Jose Santos, Jaime De La Ree Lopez, and David Perez delivered an engaging energy presentation tailored specifically for fifth- and sixth-grade students.

The event introduced students to power generation concepts and highlighted HIE-VA's mission of supporting and empowering Hispanic communities through education, leadership, and service.





SNAP CIRCUIT GREEN ENERGY

As part of the STEM initiative, students participated in a hands-on renewable energy activity by building snap circuits and learning how energy is generated and transformed. Accompanied by educational posters and guided explanations, the activity helped make complex energy concepts easy to understand and fun to explore.

Approximately 50 to 60 students across both schools took part in the events, making STEM Day a memorable celebration of learning, leadership, science education, and community partnership.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Virginia Hispanic Foundation and providing meaningful support to the communities that benefit from educational, leadership, and STEM-focused initiatives.



Thank you also to our HIE-VA volunteers for helping make STEM Day a success by creating meaningful learning experiences for students. The impact of your efforts extends far beyond the classroom, and we are grateful for your commitment to giving back to our communities.

Want to be part of our meaningful community efforts?

Volunteering is one of the most powerful ways to support and uplift our community. Your involvement helps expand access, strengthen relationships, and create opportunities for students. To join these efforts, connect with Sindy Colls or Marvin Morataya in the HIE-VA Community Outreach programs. Don't forget to confirm with your employer if this activity qualifies for volunteer-time credit.



Boxes of Basics

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE BOX AT A TIME



Last April, a few of our HIE-VA members volunteered with Boxes of Basics, a nonprofit organization in Manassas, Virginia, to help ensure a local child had access to a complete seasonal wardrobe.

Boxes of Basics provides children in need with seasonal boxes of new and gently used clothing, carefully selected to match each child's size and needs. Our volunteers hand-picked and packed a personalized box, helping support the organization's mission of ensuring every child has access to essential clothing.

A heartfelt thank you to Jose Santos, Alex Guaman, Luis Rosa-Rivera and Steve Arauz for representing HIE-VA and making a meaningful impact in our community. Special shout-out to Allison Kane (Eaton Corporation) and Sarah Tyndall (Boxes of Basics) for coordinating this event, your generosity and dedication make us proud!

DOMINION ENERGY'S CHARITABLE FOUNDATION LUNCHEON

Every year, Dominion Energy hosts a charitable luncheon that celebrates the organizations, community leaders, and partners making a difference across our service areas. Through the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation and other giving programs, Dominion supports causes that strengthen the communities where our customers and employees live and work. In 2025, Dominion invested \$40.3 million in the communities it serves, including \$13.6 million through the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation and employee giving programs.

This year, HIE-VA President Genesis Corporan and Treasurer Edgardo Corporan attended the event and connected with the individuals and organizations whose support helped make STEM Day, Pathway to Science, Summer Camp, and the HIE-VA Student Scholarship possible. Their engagement reflects HIE-VA's ongoing commitment to building partnerships that create educational opportunities and empower the communities we serve.

Thank you, Genesis and Edgardo, for your continued support of our organization and for helping secure resources that allow us to expand our impact and invest in the future of our communities.

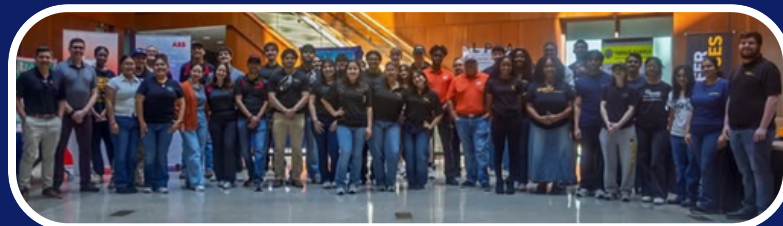


Want to know more about our local involvement in the community?
Follow us on linked in at [Hispanics In Energy: Virginia Chapter](#)

NOCHE DE CIENCIAS

Richmond

On April 11, HIE-VA participated in the annual SHPE Día de Ciencias at Virginia Commonwealth University, welcoming Richmond Public Schools students for a day of hands-on STEM activities and career exploration. A highlight of the event was an inspiring keynote from U.S. Senator Tim Kaine, reinforcing the importance of investing in the next generation of STEM leaders. HIE-VA was proudly represented by volunteers Vicente Ramirez, Francisco Morera, and Victor Aguirre.



Washington, DC



During the month of March, with an invitation from the SHPE DC Chapter, HIE-VA attended Noche de Ciencias y Equipando Padres at the Columbia Heights Education Campus, where volunteers, students, and families gathered for an evening dedicated to inspiration, mentorship, and community. Middle and high school students connected with passionate mentors who shared insights about pursuing higher education — especially in STEM fields. Thanks for our HIE-VA volunteers, Monica Gorena, Marvin Morataya and Jose Santos for coordinating this amazing events!

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Luis Fernando Bustos-Márquez, the first recipient of the 2026 HIE-VA Grant! This award recognizes outstanding student members advancing a more inclusive, diverse, and innovative energy future.

A Ph.D. candidate in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Delaware and researcher at the Institute of Energy Conversion, Luis's work explores how AI, renewable microgrids, and machine learning can improve energy resilience while reducing costs and carbon emissions.

The HIE-VA Grant will support Luis as he presents his research at the IEEE PES T&D Conference & Exposition. We congratulate Luis on this well-deserved recognition and look forward to his continued contributions to the future of energy.



HARD WORK PAYS OFF!

Congratulations to Tanner Cullifer, website manager of HIE-VA's webpage, on earning his Professional Engineer (P.E.) license.

A Florida native, Tanner developed an interest in engineering through his high school math and physics teachers and earned a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Georgia in 2020.

He began his career in the railroad industry, focusing on rail testing compliance, strategy, and reporting, before transitioning to the utility industry as a transmission engineer. Today, he supports process improvement, compliance, and analytical initiatives across multiple business units.



CELEBRATING ALEX'S PROMOTION

Born and raised in New York City with Ecuadorian roots, Alex earned his degree in Electrical Engineering from NYU Tandon School of Engineering in May 2024. After connecting with Dominion Energy at the 2023 SHPE National Convention, he joined the company as an Associate Engineer and relocated to Richmond in August 2024.

Since then, Alex has become a key contributor to the Standards Innovation Services team, championing 3D Design, supporting the Intelligent Design Suite Standardization (IDSS) Program, leading 3D Design implementation training, and contributing to the MicroStation-to-AutoCAD Conversion Project. His outstanding work recently earned him a promotion to Engineer. Alex is also an active member of HOLA and HIE-VA.

Reflecting on his promotion, Alex shared that he feels "**complete excitement and happiness for what's to come**" and is grateful for the opportunities he's had at Dominion.





CELEBRATING YEARS OF THE QUÉ PASA FESTIVAL

25

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the Qué Pasa Festival, held at the newly inaugurated CarMax Park in Richmond, Virginia. The milestone celebration drew thousands of attendees for a day filled with live music, authentic cuisine, cultural performances, artisan vendors, and family-friendly activities.

Representing HIE-VA at the event were Edgardo Corporan, Genesis Corporan, Luis Rivera, Sindy Colls, José Santos and Jose Santos-Ramos. At our booth, attendees had the opportunity to build a circuit and set the switcher to different positions to see the kind of voltage produced by a solar cell or a windmill as renewable sources of energy.

Thank you to our HIE-VA members who volunteered their time to help promote our organization while celebrating the vibrant Hispanic and Latin American community. For 25 years, the Qué Pasa Festival has showcased the rich cultures, traditions, and contributions of our community throughout the Richmond region.

UPCOMING EVENTS



**SEPTEMBER
14**

Toast Masters Event

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
600 Canal St, Richmond, VA, 23219
3rd Floor, Room 211

**OCTOBER
22**

Professional Headshots

120 Tredegar St, Richmond, VA

***To add your upcoming HIE-VA event, please
email Natalia.Giraud@DominionEnergy.com***