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## Fearless Friday: Ivana Lopez Espinosa

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*Gettysburg College*

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# Fearless Friday: Ivana Lopez Espinosa

## **Abstract**

Today we honor **Ivana Lopez Espinosa '19**, a senior Sociology major. Ivana is a student assistant at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, belongs to the Campus Climate Study Implementation Group as well as and the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Advancement group. She is also a student senator, Vice President of LASA, violinist in Symphony orchestra, an active participant in BSU, and a member of the newly formed Muslim Student Alliance. [*excerpt*]

## **Keywords**

Gettysburg College, Digital Scholarship Summer Fellowship, Musselman Library, Senior, Office of Diversity and Inclusion

## **Disciplines**

Civic and Community Engagement

## **Comments**

Surge is a student blog at Gettysburg College where systemic issues of justice matter. Posts are originally published at [surgegettysburg.wordpress.com](https://surgegettysburg.wordpress.com) Through stories and reflection, these blog entries relate personal experiences to larger issues of equity, demonstrating that –isms are structural problems, not actions defined by individual prejudice. We intend to popularize justice, helping each other to recognize our biases and unlearn the untruths.

# SURGE

[ VERB ] : to move suddenly or powerfully forward or upward

## FEARLESS FRIDAY: IVANA LOPEZ ESPINOSA

[February 8, 2019](#)

Today we honor **Ivana Lopez Espinosa '19**, a senior Sociology major. Ivana is a student assistant at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, belongs to the Campus Climate Study Implementation Group as well as and the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Advancement group. She is also a student senator, Vice President of LASA, violinist in Symphony orchestra, an active participant in BSU, and a member of the newly formed Muslim Student Alliance.

“When I first arrived at Gettysburg College, my life did a 180,” Ivana says. In high school, her engagement in issues of justice was limited, but upon starting college she became very passionate about diversity and ensuring that everybody felt comfortable on campus. Taking a position at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion helped her become exposed to new ideas and directing her academic and personal focus to be on inclusion in higher education.

Originally from Mexico, Ivana grew up in Gettysburg and participated in the Migrant Education Program. She believes this opportunity allowed her to see that she did have a pathway to college. Once at Gettysburg College, she became involved with immigrant advocacy through like Casa de la Cultura and food access through the Center for Public Service. Having received support from similar community initiatives as a child, supporting those still experiencing challenges is essential. It is also what motivates her to want to make change.

One of Ivana’s proudest accomplishments is the work she did over the summer in 2018 as a Digital Scholarship Summer Fellow at Musselman Library. She developed a [website on the diversification of Gettysburg College](#). She now knows a great deal about the history of marginalized people on campus, and she hopes this information will be implemented into first year programming in the future. Through this project, Ivana has lifted voices of marginalized voices buried in archives, and created a foundation for the next generation of students who work with diversity at Gettysburg College. Although this is a period of change at Gettysburg with the arrival a new president, Ivana hopes Gettysburg College continues to make progress towards the creation of a more inclusive community.

After graduation, Ivana is headed off a graduate program at University of Michigan to study Diversity and Social Justice in Higher Education. She hopes to gain experience in both academia and business before eventually becoming president of a college one day.

**Thank you for all your amazing work Ivana!**

