

March 29, 2022

## THE SAMUEL DUBOIS COOK CENTER ON SOCIAL EQUITY

### Remembering Marta Sánchez



The Cook Center is devastated to share the news that Marta Sánchez passed away on March 15. Marta was an affiliate with the Cook Center from its inception and was a visiting professor in 2019-2020 from the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. During that time, Marta was one of the faculty members for the Duke Immerse *Global Inequalities* program run by the Cook Center, a four-course, semester-long curriculum that enabled students to explore issues of inequality in Durham, Hawaii, China, and around the world.

Quite simply, Marta was a joy to work with. She was a people person, a fact reflected in all aspects of her life, including her scholarship. Centered on education in the New Latino South (both in the U.S. and Mexico), her research was always compassionate in its approach to humanity and its focus on the personal effects of societal injustices. She didn't study the effects of varied curriculums in schools; rather, she studied their effects on students, teachers, parents, and families.

"Marta's intellect and spirit was fully devoted to making a just world," said William A. Darity Jr., the Center's founding director. "All that she did in her host of contributions to the Cook Center was animated by that ambition. We wish she still will be among us."

Those familiar with Marta already know her incredible story and the multitudes contained in her life. Her obituary, found [here](#), wonderfully encapsulates Marta's empathetic approach to the world. Whether you knew Marta or not, it is worth reading. A portion is excerpted below:

*Marta was born in Chicago, Illinois to her Mexican immigrant parents Guadalupe A Sánchez and Isabel Sánchez. She is survived by her two brothers, Joseph (Doris) and Heriberto and sister, Patricia (David), nephew Aaron and nieces Isabel and Emma. Marta grew up on Lexington Street which would become her window for analysis of the social, economic and racial challenges facing our nation. The compassion she learned from her mother and the courage she got from her father would be with her throughout her life. Marta was an observer, analytical thinker, commentator and a doer. She had the keen ability to see how small and big decisions impacted the most vulnerable people and created disparities between groups. Her guiding principles in her personal and professional life were ethics and morality. Whether it was a personal interaction, committee or executive decisions, corporate actions, nation politics, she asked was this a moral action, and would this benefit or hurt people, the environment, and society. She did her own research and analysis and did not automatically accept popular beliefs about good and bad. She sought the truth, told the truth and used the truth in her decisions and actions no matter the consequences. She saw the racism and properly labeled it, and confronted it without fear. Her thinking was broad and she saw the common human bond among nations and across borders. When she walked into any setting, she did not see color. She saw the lack of color and asks why are there not more people of color in the room. The world was her study and racial, social and economic equality were her measures of society's efforts towards goodness and greatness. She believed in government's responsibility to take care of the poor, hungry and sick. She believed in using tax revenue for free education at all levels and health care. She was a curious person and accumulated a wealth of knowledge about history, politics and cultures and welcomed a discussion and spirited debate on any topic that impacted on people's lives. She was a scholar and spoke three languages. She was brilliant.*

A memorial service is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, from 4 to 5 PM at the Vista Restaurant of the Washington Duke Inn in Durham, North Carolina. Please join us in celebrating and remembering Marta.

