

National Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept. 15 to Oct. 15

During National Hispanic Heritage Month we recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans and celebrate their culture and heritage. The observance started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded to a month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402. The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

2020 Theme: Hispanics: Be Proud Of Your Past And Embrace The Future

The theme is selected each year by the [National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers](#)

OAD HISPANIC PROFILE: Sergio Pezoa, Electronics Engineer, Physical Sciences Laboratory (PSL)



Sergio started his career at NOAA-Boulder in the Infrasound Group in 1994 as a contract Electronic Technician with STC. He said, "I quickly became part of the wind profiler radar group deploying radar and weather towers in the continental USA then transferred to the Ocean Observation group, developing what is now the PSL Flux System in 2000 that has been installed on different national and international research vessels to measure the atmosphere-ocean heat transfer."

Sergio earned a B.S. degree in Electronics Engineering with a major in Control Systems in 1995 from what is now Metropolitan State University and became a federal employee in 2000.

"My previous job as a tool-maker helped me to be involved at NOAA in many challenging projects that require professional knowledge that goes beyond the electronics field. I am very proud to have been able to build, with a small budget, a stabilized platform for radiometers and then for W-Band radars that have been deployed on vessels around the world."

Sergio was born in Santiago, Chile in 1958, graduated from high school there in 1974 then studied Industrial Engineering at the Universidad Tecnica del Estado-Chile in 1976. He said, "I moved to the USA as an immigrant in 1982, and became a US citizen in 1998. I worked as a machinist apprentice in 1984, became a tool-maker by 1988 and started working at NOAA in 1994."

