

CSN's Mariachi Plata Takes Top Honors at Annual National Competition

Singers from the college group took first and third place in the vocalist category

December 8, 2020 – In only its second year, the College of Southern Nevada's official mariachi group bested competition from across the country this weekend at the 26th Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza National Vocal Competition.

Mariachi Plata member and CSN student Yasmine Duenes took first place at the December 5 event, while member and student Precious Carrasco took third in the vocal competition. The event was held virtually this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year, students from Mariachi Plata took first and second place in the vocalist competition.

“This is a historic milestone for our CSN family and Southern Nevada community,” said CSN President Dr. Federico Zaragoza. “The results from these prestigious national competitions show that Mariachi Plata reflects the world class standards of our Music and Performing Arts programs. Mariachi is an important part of our culture, particularly to Southern Nevada's growing Latino population of Mexican descent. I am so proud of everyone involved in this tremendous effort, including the many local mariachis that keep this tradition strong.”

Mariachi Plata is comprised of students from CSN's mariachi courses, part of the college's fine arts music curriculum.

The Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza National Vocal Competition hosted a nationwide search in October that attracted top talent from across the country. Hundreds of vocalists auditioned by video submission, and 35 students from across the United States were selected to compete in elementary, middle school, high school and college categories.

***About CSN:** The College of Southern Nevada empowers our students and communities to achieve, succeed, and prosper. Founded in 1971, CSN is a nationally recognized student success leader specializing in two-year degrees and a select number of bachelor's degrees in specialized fields. Connect with the state's largest and most diverse higher education institution on our [Newsroom blog](#), via our [press releases](#), or by following us on social media.*

