Denise Galarza Sepúlveda is the inaugural director of the University of Michigan’s new office of Community-Engaged Academic Learning (CEAL). A native of Puerto Rico, she received her Masters from Purdue and her Ph.D. from Emory University. She was a member of the Lafayette College faculty for twelve years where she also served as chair of the College’s Latin and Caribbean Studies Program. Throughout her career she led various initiatives designed to bridge academic endeavors with work in communities, both locally and abroad. Her research on nation-building and the forging of cultural identity has appeared in top journals, including Revista de Estudios Hispánicos and Revista Iberoamericana. A National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, Dr. Galarza Sepúlveda has also received grants for archival research at the John Carter Brown Library and the Archivo General de Indias in Seville, Spain. While a faculty member at Lafayette, she received awards for her teaching, course design, and for her commitment to supporting underrepresented students on campus. In her current role as director of CEAL she provides strategic leadership for community-centered initiatives. The curricular aspects of her role involve working with academic departments and liberal arts faculty to develop new CBL courses and initiatives. She has also developed a graduate student training, the Engaged Pedagogy Initiative, that introduces future faculty to the theory and practice of community-based learning and also provides academic support and professional development for undergraduates engaged in place-based learning.