



Powered by the Orange County Community Foundation

# AVANZAR GRADUATE PROFILES



**2023-2025  
COHORTS**

[OC-CF.ORG/AVANZAR](https://oc-cf.org/avanzar)



**Orange County  
Community  
Foundation** 

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

01 ALEJANDRA GARCIA  
AMBROCIA LOPEZ

02 ANA FLOR  
ANA LAURA PADILLA

03 ANDREW VALENZUELA  
ANDRES ROBLES (ANDY)

04 ANJALY ANDRADE VALLARTA  
BRENDA GODINEZ

05 CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ MAGEE  
CYNTHIA INDA

06 DAISY SANCHEZ  
DANIEL GARCIA

07 DAVID GARCIA  
DR. GABRIELA CASTAÑEDA

08 EDUARDO GARCIA  
EDWARD MENDOZA

09 ELIA RENTERIA  
EVA OROZCO

10 ERICK PINEDA  
FRANCISCO BARAJAS

11 GENESIS LUVIANO  
GLORIA SAN MIGUEL

12 ISABEL MARIN  
ISRAEL SERNA

13 JACQUELINE FRANCO ACOSTA  
JANICE GORDILLO

14 JANIRA PEREZ  
JAVIER RIVERA-CARBONE

15 JIMMY ARMENTA  
JORGE J ACEBO UBIDIA

16 JOSE BENITEZ  
KAREN CORTEZ

17 LAURA CHAVEZ  
LESLIE MENDEZ

18 LETIZIA ALCIBAR  
LILIANA VENTURA

19 LISA PEREZ  
LISETTE MARTINEZ-ACEBO

20 LUIS CACHUA  
MARTHA RIVERA

21 MARISOL RAMIREZ  
MAYRA C. ROMAN AGUILAR

22 MELISSA LUPERCIO  
MICHELLE GUTIERREZ CORONA

23 MICHELLE LARIOS  
MICHELLE SANCHEZ

24 NANCY RODRIGUEZ  
NATHALY GUEVARA

25 NORA ADRIANA PRECIADO  
OSCAR LEONG

26 PABLO DOMINGUEZ  
PAT DANIEL-CARRERAS

27 PERLA LOZANO  
RACHEL LORENZO

28 RICARDO MUNIZ  
RUTH COSSIO-MUÑOZ

29 DR. STEPHANY CUEVAS  
STACEY ESPAÑA

30 WILLIAM SMITH  
YANIRA MARTINEZ

31 YESSENIA DELGADO  
YVETTER NUÑES

# ALEJANDRA GARCIA

SR. ENGINEERING PROGRAM MANAGER

TESLA

As a kid growing up in Santa Ana, California, Alejandra's dream was to become an architect, but her love for Math and Physics put her on a different path, one that would take her to Stanford University. Through college courses and internships, Alejandra learned of the incredible work being done in the sustainable energy space. After obtaining her Mechanical Engineering degree, she joined the effort to accelerate the world's transition to sustainable energy at Tesla. Alejandra hopes to explore the science, technology, and policy nexus, and work at this intersection to bring about innovation and opportunities for people of all walks of life.



## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Science-** Mechanical Engineering, Stanford University

# AMBROCIA LOPEZ

PROGRAM MANAGER, STAKEHOLDER  
AND PLAN PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

ELEVANCE HEALTH (ANTHEM)

Ambrocia Lopez is a health care professional with 20+ years of experience in community engagement, strategic planning, program planning and management, health policy, grants management, and public speaking. In her current role, she is responsible for the development and ongoing management of one of more multi-year external facing programs. Prior to joining Elevance Health, she worked for Susan G. Komen for 13 years in various roles focused on creating and leading community health equity programming efforts to improve the health outcomes for communities of color.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education
- Immigration
- Workforce Development

## EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-Social Science Honors,** Specialization in Social Studies and Education; Minor in Education, UC Irvine  
**Master of Arts in Teaching-** Elementary and Secondary Education, UC Irvine



# ANA FLOR

## CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICER

### ATTOM DATA SOLUTIONS LLC

As a seasoned HR executive with over a decade of experience in nurturing organizational cultures and enhancing employee experience. As a forward-thinking people leader, Ana Flor leads with a passion for empowering individuals and fostering inclusive environments where all employees can thrive. With a unique background in kinesiology and corporate wellness, Ana brings a holistic approach to her role. Her career journey began in health and safety, where she honed her skills in identifying and mitigating safety risks for an agriculture company. Over the years, she has grown her career in HR, consistently demonstrating her ability to align people strategies with overall corporate objectives. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Ana is deeply committed to giving back to the community. She volunteers her time with various non-profit organizations focused on education, workforce preparedness and youth sports, aiming to create opportunities for individuals from all backgrounds to thrive in the workplace.

## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education
- Workforce Development
- Youth Development

## EXPERTISE

- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Technology (Software Development, Integration,)
- Workforce Planning and Talent Management

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Science-** Kinesiology

**Master of Science-** Kinesiology emphasis in Corporate Wellness

**SHRM-SCP Certification**



# ANA LAURA PADILLA

## BUSINESS OWNER

Ana Laura Padilla is a visionary entrepreneur, dedicated community leader, and esteemed business advisor based in Santa Ana, California. With over a decade of residence in Santa Ana, Ana Laura has become a driving force for economic growth, cultural celebration, and community empowerment. As the owner and operator of Perla Mexican Cuisine, Tacos by Perla, and Themis Multiservices, Ana Laura has established a diverse portfolio of successful businesses that serve as pillars of authenticity and excellence within the community. Ana Laura's dedication to community empowerment extends beyond her professional endeavors. She volunteers her time with organizations such as Downtown Santa Ana Feel Good events, where she helps create impactful initiatives that support small businesses and celebrate cultural diversity and she is a board member for NHBWA. Recognized for her outstanding contributions, Ana Laura has been honored as a Woman of the Year by the National Hispanic Business Women's Association and has received accolades from the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce and Congressman Lou Correa.

## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Business & Entrepreneurship

## EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Fundraising/Philanthropy
- Business Development
- Accounting/Finance

## EDUCATION

**Accounting Certificate**

**ROP Orange County Tax Professional License**

**CTEC License**

# ANDRE VALENZUELA

CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER / VICE  
PRESIDENT, MARKETING

KACHINGA / LENDISTRY

Andre Valenzeula is a passionate, deeply-driven creative marketing executive and brand steward with over 20 years of professional and technical marketing knowledge leading growth driven organizations. He is a respected, enthusiastic servant-leader with high emotional intelligence who combines vision, creative talent, and business acumen to identify market trends and create high impact strategic marketing campaigns to drive leads and brand awareness, while delivering the highest level of quality to enhance revenue growth.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Arts & Culture
- Education
- Youth Development

## EXPERTISE

- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)
- Business Development
- Marketing (Social Media)

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Organizational  
Communication, Minor Marketing  
**Certified Direct Marketing Professional**

# ANDRES ROBLES (ANDY)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SIMON SCHOLARS

Andy graduated from CSU San Bernardino with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and went on to earn an MBA from the University of Redlands in 2009. As the first in his family to obtain a college degree, Andy's journey has not only been about personal achievement but also about breaking barriers and setting an example for future generations. Andy's career began in the nonprofit sector, initially serving as a job developer. In 2008, he transitioned into a role as an elementary school teacher. In 2012, Andy joined Simon Scholars as a program coordinator and quickly rose through the ranks to become the Director of Programs. In 2017, he accepted an opportunity in the Bay Area, where he focused on building successful academic support programs for underserved students. Upon his return to Simon Scholars as Executive Director in 2022, Andy drove the creation of the inaugural Alumni chapter and introduced an added emphasis on workforce readiness. His diverse background and commitment to transforming the lives of students through education make him a valuable asset to the organization.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Workforce Development

## EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Psychology  
**MBA**



# ANGELY ANDRADE VALLARTA

## ORANGE COUNTY UNITED WAY

Angely Andrade Vallarta is an accomplished executive leader with a proven track record in strategy development, operational improvement, and corporate engagement. With expertise in business development, stakeholder collaboration, and fundraising, she has successfully led teams and initiatives that drive financial and organizational success.

As the Director of Corporate Engagement at Orange County United Way, Angely has played a pivotal role in shaping corporate philanthropic strategies, cultivating C-level partnerships, and spearheading donor engagement efforts. Her leadership has directly contributed to achieving multi-million-dollar fundraising goals while strengthening corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Her experience spans diverse sectors, including nonprofit management, government affairs, and legal services. Previously, she held key positions with the Hawaii State Senate and the University of Hawaii medical programs, where she led financial assessments, legislative strategies, and accreditation processes.

Passionate about community impact, Angely serves as a Planning Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa. She holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Hawaii-Manoa and a Bachelor's in Psychology from St. John's University.

Fluent in Spanish, Angely excels in driving strategic growth through collaboration, innovation, and impactful leadership.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Arts & Culture
- Environment/Sustainability
- Homelessness
- Youth Development

### EXPERTISE

- Inclusion (DEI)
- Fundraising/Philanthropy
- Business Development
- Marketing (Social Media)
- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Diversity
- Equity

### EDUCATION

Master's of Public Administration



# BRENDA GODINEZ

## HR DIRECTOR

Brenda Godinez is an HR Director for Camino Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center in southern Orange County. She has 10 years of progressive leadership experience in Human Resources, of which 7+ years have been in healthcare/nonprofit. Brenda is also an HR consultant for Adelante Partners Inc., a Los Angeles-based full-service nonprofit and philanthropic consulting firm. Brenda volunteers as a Board Director for the Latinx MBA Association. She co-chairs the HR Peer Network for the California Primary Care Association, a network of HR professionals in community health. She is passionate about supporting and serving the nonprofit community, helping to advance health equity, and working with various nonprofits to address inequities in marginalized communities. She is a proud daughter of Mexican immigrants and a first-generation college graduate. She holds an MBA with a concentration in Leadership and Managing Organizational Change from Pepperdine Graziadio School of Business, A Bachelor Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis on Human Resources Management from California State Long Beach, and an Associate Degree in Business Administration from Saddleback College. She currently resides in southern Orange County.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Business & Entrepreneurship

### EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Diversity, Equity Inclusion (DEI)
- Human Resources

### EDUCATION

**Certificate-** Leadership Equity Program

**Associate's Degree-** Business Administration

**Bachelor of Science** - Human Resources Administration

**MBA** - Emphasis in Leadership and Managing Organizational Change

# CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ MAGEE

## PREVIOUS ROLE: STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

Claudia is an empowering leader with a professional background in health care administration and community and social services with 20 years of experience in organizational development, team and relationship building, community engagement, people leadership, strategic planning, facilitation, grants oversight, and program and project management experience. Most recently, Claudia was the Interim Director of Strategic Development at CalOptima Health where she led the planning and implementation of the three-year strategic plan, and the member health needs assessment. She also developed and administered the community grants program, launched organization-wide community health initiatives such as the Homeless Health Outreach and Engagement strategies and the Health Equity Initiative.



### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Arts & Culture
- Education
- Youth Development

### EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Community Engagement and Public Relations

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-Dance**

**Master of Science - Leadership and Management, Organizational Development concentration, University of La Verne**  
**Organizational Leadership & Communication and Project Management Certificate**

# CYNTHIA INDA

## SENIOR DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL ORANGE COUNTY

Cynthia was born to Mexican immigrants and is the first in her family to pursue education beyond high school. Cynthia first attended community college in her hometown, where she earned an AA degree with a 4.0 grade point average, and was selected to the USA Today All American Two Year College Academic 1st Team. She transferred to Harvard University, graduating magna cum laude in 1999. Cynthia graduated from Stanford Law School in 2005.

After college, Cynthia worked as a high school teacher in a maximum-security prison for juvenile offenders. In the fall of 2000, she began a nine-month leadership training program as one of eleven Coro fellows in public affairs in Los Angeles. She then returned to her hometown where she worked as a victim advocate in the office of the district attorney. Cynthia was selected as executive editor of the Stanford Law Review. She was an associate at O'Melveny & Meyers in Los Angeles, served as a Deputy District Attorney in the District Attorney Office in Los Angeles, and is now a Senior Deputy County Counsel for the County of Orange.



### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education
- Youth Development

### EXPERTISE

- Legal Compliance
- Human Resources
- Employment Law
- Litigation

### EDUCATION

**Juris Doctor**



# DAISY SANCHEZ

PROGRAM MANAGER

CENTER FOR INVESTMENT AND WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Daisy Sanchez is a dedicated program manager at the Center for Investment and Wealth Management, spearheading initiatives to enhance financial literacy and facilitate pathways to higher education for first-generation students. With a fervent commitment to community service, Daisy has dedicated her entire career to nonprofit work, leveraging her expertise to empower underrepresented groups. As a first-generation Latina, she embodies resilience and determination, striving to bridge gaps and foster connections among diverse communities. Daisy's passion for equitable access to education and financial empowerment drives her to implement impactful programs that uplift and empower individuals. With a strategic vision and compassionate leadership, she aims to cultivate a more inclusive and prosperous society, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Youth Development

## EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Psychology and Social Behavior

**Bachelor of Arts-** Criminology



# DANIEL GARCIA

DIRECTOR OF IT SERVICES

A-Z TECHS

Daniel Garcia is the Director of IT Services at A-Z Techs, where he specializes in implementing non-profit and small business solutions. He is motivated to continue growing his professional network and aspires to learn about different industries and departments by connecting with others. Daniel graduated from the University of California, Irvine, with a dual major in Chicano/Latino Studies and Sociology. In the midst of his college career, he worked as an electrician and learned the value of infrastructure planning and working with hardware. His background as an electrician and IT specialist helps him devise ways to leverage vendors' current infrastructure while also leading their IT team through the implementation of appropriate solutions.

## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Environment/Sustainability
- Youth Development

## EXPERTISE

- Technology (Software Development, Integration, etc.)

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Double major in Sociology and Chicano/Latino Studies, UC Irvine

# DAVID GARCIA

## ICOM TECH INC

Hi I am David Garcia. I am a self-made professional with hands-on experience in Non-Profit programs product marketing, and entrepreneurship, and Non-Profits, currently in a Sales Director role. I didn't follow the traditional college path —instead, I learn by doing.

Over the years, I've built teams, launched products, and grown businesses by staying curious, being a life long learner, and trying things I didnt know I wasnt supposed to do.

As a first-generation son of immigrant parents, I've navigated the professional world without a roadmap. I'm passionate about sharing my journey and insights with others who may not have had someone to turn to for guidance.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Workforce Development

## EXPERTISE

- Marketing (Social Media)
- Technology (Software Development, Integration, etc.)
- AI

# DR. GABRIELA CASTAÑEDA

## DIRECTOR OF LATINX ACHIEVEMENT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Dr. Gabriela “Gabby” Castañeda serves as Chapman University’s inaugural Director for Latinx Achievement in the office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Dr. Castañeda has been a working professional in Higher Education since 2007. Encompassing successful years in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and Career Services, she is fortunate to work within diverse institutions and higher education echelons, which has demanded effective leadership, DEI, and career counseling strategies. She works with an array of talented college students and finds engaging with colleagues and communities rewarding and invigorating.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education

## EXPERTISE

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Education

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Psychology, CSU Fullerton

**Master's Degree-** Higher Education Leadership, CSU Fullerton

**Ed.D.-** Community College/Higher Educational Leadership, CSU Long Beach

**Doctoral Institute Certificate-** Study of Race and Equity in Education, University of Pennsylvania

# EDUARDO GARCIA

## SENIOR POLICY MANAGER LATINO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Eduardo serves as the Senior Policy Manager at the Latino Community Foundation (LCF), the only statewide philanthropic organization solely focused on investing in California's Latino youth and families.

In his role he supports efforts to advance public policies that will improve the lives of California's Latino community, while executing the goals of the Latino Power Fund, the foundation's \$50 million initiative to strengthen Latino-led nonprofit organizations and mobilize Latino leaders and voters to make lasting civic and political change.



### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Immigration
- Workforce Development
- Youth Development

### EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Fundraising/Philanthropy

### EDUCATION

**Master's Degree** - Public Policy,  
University of Michigan

# EDWARD MENDOZA

## ENTERPRISE PRODUCT OWNER AUTOCLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Edward Mendoza is an experienced leader with a demonstrated history of working in the insurance industry. He is skilled in data analysis, underwriting, call monitoring, business process improvement, and project management. Edward is a strong finance professional with a Bachelor's degree focused in Business Administration and Management, General from University of Phoenix. He is a business resource group leader/enthusiast supporting organizational diversity, inclusion and belonging initiatives.

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts**- Business Administration and Management,  
University of Phoenix

**Master's Degree**- Business Administration



### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Animal Rights
- Arts & Culture
- Education
- Environment/Sustainability
- Technology
- Workforce Development

### EXPERTISE

- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Business Development
- Technology (Software Development, Integration, etc.)



# ELIA RENTERIA

## SELF EMPLOYED

Elia is a seasoned non-profit professional driven by a deep passion for positive change. With over two decades of experience, she has led transformative initiatives, excelling in event management, community engagement, and strategic leadership to uplift communities. In her role as Director of Community Engagement & Philanthropic Giving, Elia orchestrated projects that significantly increased donor funding and sparked widespread community interest. Previously, at the Anaheim Police Department, Elia spearheaded initiatives to reduce missing person cases and enhance victim advocacy services. An active member of the Rotary Club and various non-profit organizations, Elia not only contributes but also leads initiatives aligned with her values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Elia believes in leadership to amplify marginalized voices and address systemic challenges. Dedicated to fostering an inclusive, collaborative environment, she continues to navigate the complexities of community engagement and financial management, effecting lasting change in non-profit initiatives.

## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Youth Development

## EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Fundraising/Philanthropy
- Business Development
- Marketing (Social Media)

## EDUCATION

Certified Domestic Violence Counselor



# EVA OROZCO

## WORK-BASED SPECIALIST

Eva Orozco is a compassionate professional with over 15 years of experience in community outreach, stakeholder engagement, and program management and development across public and private sectors. Passionate about serving under-resourced communities and advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), she is dedicated to creating opportunities that help students and communities flourish. Eva has successfully built and maintained strong relationships with local businesses, legislators, educators, and nonprofit organizations to drive meaningful change.

## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education
- Governance and Civic Engagement
- Healthcare and Wellness
- Workforce Development/Community Advocate

## EXPERTISE

- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Business Development
- Marketing (Social Media)
- Technology (Software Development, Integration, etc.)

## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts



# ERICK PINEDA

## BUSINESS COACH

### CIELO

Hi, I'm Erick Pineda, a dedicated Business Coach with CIELO, specializing in providing strategic guidance for small business owners. Recently graduating from UC Berkeley, my commitment is firmly anchored in collaboration, growth, and the empowerment of entrepreneurs. In my current role, I channel my passion for business coaching to navigate the complexities of entrepreneurship. Beyond conventional consulting, I invest deeply in the personal and professional development of my clients, ensuring their journey is not only successful but also uniquely tailored to their vision and aspirations. Whether steering through financial challenges, refining marketing strategies, or enhancing operational efficiency, I collaborate closely with each business owner to craft solutions that align seamlessly with their distinct vision. In addition to my professional pursuits, I actively contribute to the community as a volunteer for Latinx MBA, where my focus lies on corporate fundraising. Outside the business realm, I spend my free time snowboarding in Mammoth Mountain.

## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Business & Entrepreneurship

## EXPERTISE

- Program Development
- Fundraising/Philanthropy
- Business Development

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts**- Political Economy,  
UC Berkeley



# FRANCISCO BARAJAS

## DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY & OPERATIONS

### ADELANTE PARTNERS INC.

Francisco has a wealth of knowledge and experience in global development for the education sector. He served two years as an Education Volunteer with the US Peace Corps in rural South Africa and later transitioned into a Research Fellow drafting policy recommendations for the Ministry of Education in Sierra Leone and Guatemala. After receiving his Masters' in International Education Policy from Harvard, he joined the Latino Community Foundation, assisting in a \$1.4 million grant program for 35 Latino-led organizations focused on ensuring the equitable distribution of the American Rescue Plan. He's currently the Director of Strategy and Operations at Adelante Partners Inc., a full-service consulting firm for mission-driven nonprofit organizations.

## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Arts & Culture
- Education
- Youth Development

## EXPERTISE

- Fundraising/ Philanthropy
- Business Development
- Policy
- Education

## EDUCATION

**Master's Degree** - International Education Policy, Harvard Graduate School of Education

# GENESIS LUVIANO

COLLEGE SUCCESS SERVICES MANAGER

NICHOLAS ACADEMIC CENTERS

Genesis Luviano is an accomplished professional with nearly eight years of dedicated service at the Nicholas Academic Centers, where she currently serves as the College Success Services Manager. With a profound dedication to guiding individuals through various challenges, she has made a significant impact in empowering young adults to achieve their academic and personal aspirations. With a keen eye for detail, she efficiently disperses scholarship funds to hundreds of students attending colleges throughout the nation. While she may not always have the answer, Genesis is steadfast in her commitment to finding solutions and advocating for the success of those she serves. Genesis's professional journey has been greatly shaped by her identity as the proud daughter of immigrant parents and first-generation college student. Her Bachelor's degree in Spanish and Government from Smith College serves as a testament to her dedication to academic achievement and her desire to empower others through education. Drawing upon her unique background and educational experiences, Genesis brings a rich tapestry of perspectives and insights to her work.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Youth Development

## EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Fundraising/Philanthropy

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Spanish, Minor in Government, Smith College

# GLORIA SAN MIGUEL

BEHR PAINT COMPANY

Gloria San Miguel was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and holds an MBA from the University of Puerto Rico. She relocated to Southern California in 1996 and has since built a distinguished career spanning over 30 years in operations and workforce analysis within the computer and paint industries.

Gloria is deeply committed to fostering inclusivity and empowerment within her professional and community spaces. She was an inaugural member of her company's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Board in 2021 and 2022, helping to shape policies and initiatives that promote workplace equity.

Beyond her professional contributions, Gloria is an active leader in the Puerto Rican and Latinx communities. She serves as the current President of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Southern California Chapter (NACOPRW SoCal), advocating for the advancement of Puerto Rican women through education, leadership, and civic engagement. She is also a member of the House of Puerto Rico in San Diego, supporting cultural preservation and community outreach efforts.

As a participant in the 2025 Avanzar Board Leadership Academy, Gloria looks forward to expanding her governance expertise and contributing to mission-driven organizations that align with her values.

She is married with two adult sons and enjoys reading, watching movies, and traveling.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Business and Entrepreneurship

## EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Fundraising/Philanthropy
- Business Development
- Accounting/Finance
- Marketing (Social Media)
- Technology (Software Development, Integration, etc.)

## EDUCATION

**MBA-** Business



# ISABEL MARIN

## COLLEGE SUCCESS COORDINATOR

Isabel is a dedicated advocate for first-generation college students in Orange County, with 5+ years of experience in nonprofit higher education programs. She has mentored and supported hundreds of students as they navigate college, financial aid, and career development, working to bridge the gap between ambition and access. With expertise in scholarship management, program development, and student support, Isabel has played a key role in overseeing multi-million-dollar scholarship funds, ensuring that financial barriers don't stand in the way of educational success. She has also developed and assessed programs that provide targeted resources for students, helping them persist and thrive.

Currently completing her M.S. in Student Affairs in Higher Education, Isabel blends data-driven decision-making with a personal, hands-on approach. Whether she's guiding students through the transfer process, refining scholarship programs, or creating initiatives that foster long-term success, her work is centered on one goal: ensuring that first-generation college students in Orange County have the support and opportunities they need to achieve their dreams.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education

### EXPERTISE

- Program Development

### EDUCATION

**MS** - Student Affairs

**Bachelor of Arts** - Sociology



# ISRAEL SERNA

## PARTNER MARKETING + DIGITAL MARKETING; AUTODESK; MARKETING BRAND CONSULTANT

### ADELANTE PARTNERS INC.

Israel is a creative and dynamic marketer with a passion for helping small businesses. As a digital native, Israel rarely misses a beat when it comes to breaking news, trending topics, and emerging technologies. He likes to connect the dots between sales and marketing and utilize an omni-channel approach to a brand's digital strategy. He believes in developing a brand and digital marketing strategy through the lens of a loyal customer. Israel has spent the last 15 years working in various roles within the public and private sector, across various industries - including the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), the Specialty Coffee Association, Constant Contact and other Software as a Service (SaaS) companies while serving several multicultural communities along the way.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Arts & Culture
- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Education
- Immigration
- Technology
- Workforce Development
- Youth Development

### EXPERTISE

- Business Development
- Marketing (Social Media)
- Technology (Software Development Integration, etc.)
- Education

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts**- International Studies with Latin American Emphasis; Minor in Spanish, CSU Long Beach

# JACQUELINE FRANCO ACOSTA

## BUSINESS STRATEGIST

### EVERBLOOM SOLUTIONS

Jacqueline Franco Acosta is a dedicated Business Strategist and the Founder of Everbloom Solutions, specializing in empowering first-generation entrepreneurs looking to launch or expand their businesses, particularly in the CPG industry and global markets. She brings extensive experience with a track record of successfully launching national food and beverage brands into international markets, including renowned names such as La Croix, Hansen's, and Nestle Wonka Candy. Jacqueline's passion lies in championing equitable access to education, technology, and economic opportunities for BIPOC communities. Her drive to create a positive impact stems from her upbringing in a culturally-rich yet socially and economically disadvantaged community of South Central Los Angeles.

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** International Studies; Concentration in Global Management, UC Irvine  
**In current pursuit of Master's Degree -** Integrated Design, Business, and Technology, USC  
**Certified Business Consultant and Global Business Professional (CGBP)**



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Economic Equity
- Education
- Youth Development

## EXPERTISE

- Program Development
- Business Development Marketing (Social Media)
- Marketing (Social Media)
- Technology
- Strategic Planning

# JANICE GORDILLO

## HR ASSOCIATE

### NKGEN BIOTECH

Janice Gordillo is a proud first-generation graduate with a Bachelor's in Communication Studies coupled with a double minor in Spanish and Latin American Studies. She is a passionate, people-driven professional building a career in the people operations sector. She is currently a Human Resources professional in the biotech start up space. Previous to her current role, Janice spent three years working in community engagement and youth development as a program director at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Capistrano Valley. Although she made a switch from the non-profit sector to the corporate world, Janice continues to be active in the nonprofit space. She has four years of experience as an advocate for survivors of sexual assault through Waymakers. Additionally, Janice has two years of experience as a committee member for the DEI committee for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Capistrano Valley.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Animal Rights
- Education
- Immigration
- Reproductive Rights

## EXPERTISE

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Human Resources
- Education

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Communication Studies; Double minor - Spanish and Latin American Studies



# JANIRA PEREZ

**DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC  
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

**MOMS ORANGE COUNTY**

## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Immigration

## EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development

## EDUCATION

**CPSP Trained**

With nearly 30 years of experience in community health, Janira Perez is a passionate promoter of health and well-being for babies, children, and families. Her career includes extensive expertise in community clinic management, field work as a health promotora among farm workers and adults with diabetes, and home visitor to support low-income women and infants. In 2001, she joined MOMS Orange County. Since then, she has served as a Maternal-Child Health Coordinator, Manager of Prenatal Support Services, and Director of Home Visitation, all of which have advanced the program's measurable impact on maternal health, birth outcomes, infant health and developmental milestones, and resilience among underserved communities. More recently, she is building partnerships to address the needs of the community by serving as Director of Strategic Program Development.



# JAVIER RIVERA-CARBONE

**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

**RIVERA CARBONE PC**

## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Workforce Development
- Arts & Culture
- Business & Entrepreneurship

## EXPERTISE

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Employment & Labor Law

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts** - University of Dayton, OH

**Juris Doctorate** - Inter-American University, School of Law, PR

Javier is an employment law litigator and independent workplace investigator. He has a great track record of achieving positive results for clients in employment law and labor relations matters. Javier is dedicated to workplace fairness and primarily represents employers, but he also represents carefully chosen employees.

# JIMMY ARMENTA

## SENIOR CONTRACTS ADMINISTRATOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Jimmy Armenta is a seasoned government professional with extensive experience in budgeting, contract management, procurement, grant management, and capital improvement projects. Throughout his career, he has played a key role in implementing administrative policies and procedures to enhance efficiency and streamline services across various public sector agencies. Currently, Jimmy serves as a Senior Contract Administrator at the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), a Metropolitan Planning Organization. In this role, he focuses on bridging relationships with multijurisdictional groups and agencies within Southern California to foster collaboration and drive regional progress.

Jimmy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology from Cal State Fullerton. Growing up in an underserved community in Orange County, he personally witnessed the vital support provided by non-profit organizations and is passionate about giving back to similar communities. He is committed to being an example of what can be achieved and inspiring the next generation to reach new heights.



### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Youth Development

### EXPERTISE

- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Business Development
- Accounting/Finance

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Science-** Kinesiology

# JORGE J ACEBO UBIDIA

## LITIGATION CASE MANAGER CONSUMER LAW EXPERTS, P.C.

Born to Ecuadorian parents, Jorge's early years were spent in Madrid before his family relocated to Ecuador. At the age of 15, he made the significant move to the United States, eventually finding a home in Orange County.

After completing his education, including earning his Juris Doctorate from Whittier Law School in 2019, Jorge found his place at Consumer Law Experts, P.C. in Los Angeles, where he serves as a litigation paralegal. In this role, he assists clients facing consumer law challenges, drawing upon his legal knowledge and expertise. Beyond his professional pursuits, Jorge remains deeply rooted in his community. Having lived in Orange County for over two decades, he feels a strong sense of belonging and a desire to give back. He is committed to using his legal skills to help those in need, particularly within his local community, where he seeks to provide assistance and support to those facing legal challenges.



### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Technology

### EXPERTISE

- Technology (Software Development, Integration, etc.)
- Legal practice

### EDUCATION

**Juris Doctorate**



# JOSE BENITEZ

## PROGRAM MANAGER

### EXP - THE OPPORTUNITY ENGINE

Jose Benitez is a nonprofit professional dedicated to expanding access to education, workforce development, and mentorship for young people. He currently works at EXP, where he supports students in securing internships, apprenticeships, and career-connected learning experiences that prepare them for success beyond high school. He serves the Orange County region and is dedicated to helping it thrive by equipping students with essential soft skills, including interview preparation, resume and cover letter development, and financial literacy. With experience in business development, program creation, event coordination, and workshop facilitation, Jose thrives on building impactful initiatives from the ground up.

Born and raised in Santa Ana, California, to parents from Guerrero, Mexico, Jose carries with him the values of hard work, resilience, and community that shaped his upbringing. He takes great pride in his culture and is passionate about giving back to Orange County.

As a current MBA candidate at the University of California, Irvine, and a cohort member of Avanzar, Jose is committed to advancing Latino leadership and representation in nonprofit governance. He envisions Orange County as a center of innovation and inclusion, and is determined to use his skills, experience, and network to ensure that Orange County continues to thrive as a model for community driven progress.

## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education
- Workforce Development
- Immigration
- Arts and Culture
- Business and Entrepreneurship

## EXPERTISE

- Program Development
- Business Development
- Marketing (Social Media)

## EDUCATION

Bachelor Degree  
Associate's Degree



# KAREN CORTEZ

## FOUNDATION COORDINATOR

### FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK

Karen Cortez is a proud Santa Ana native who is passionate about serving nonprofits and her community. Karen currently works as the Foundation Coordinator for Farmers & Merchants Bank, a community bank born in Long Beach that today serves Orange, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara counties. In her role, Karen helps drive F&M Bank's social impact initiatives across the F&M footprint, by utilizing philanthropy, volunteerism, education, and collaboration to strengthen the local non-profit sector. Karen received her BA from UC Berkeley and has held various roles at several non-profit organizations, gaining valuable skills, experience, and insights while advancing diverse missions. Having personally benefited from the work of non-profits in her upbringing, Karen is grateful for the opportunity to uplift these agents of change in her professional work today. Outside of work, Karen enjoys being outdoors, visiting national parks, and spending time with her loved ones and her dog, Riley.

## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Primary: Business & Entrepreneurship
- Environment/sustainability
- Youth Development
- Immigration

## EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Fundraising/Philanthropy

# LAURA CHAVEZ

## PROGRAM SUCCESS COORDINATOR GIRLS INC. OF ORANGE COUNTY

Laura Chavez serves as a Program Success Coordinator for Girls Inc. of Orange County. She has been involved with Girls Inc. as an alumnae, volunteer, and served as a seasonal staff through Girls Inc.'s summer programs from 2016 through 2019. Laura officially joined the team full-time in the Fall of 2020. In her current role, Laura directly works with high school and college-aged students within all college and career readiness programs. She has supported in increasing participant engagement within the workforce readiness program by 625% since 2016. Additionally, Laura is currently leading a new national pilot program, formally extending programmatic opportunities to current college students and Girls Inc. alumnae.

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Double Major in Psychology and Spanish, Chapman University



### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education
- Gender Justice and Women's Rights
- Youth Development

### EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Marketing (Social Media)

# LESLIE MENDEZ

## DIGITAL MARKETING COORDINATOR CENTERSTONE

Leslie Mendez is a first-generation Latina of Mexican immigrant parents and is Digital Marketing Coordinator for a mental health nonprofit based in Tennessee. Previously, she lived and worked in Pisco Elqui, Chile for over three years as Communications Manager at Beyond English. Mendez graduated Cum Laude from California State University, Fullerton in 2018, with a major in Communications & minor in Sociology. She has returned to CSUF as a graduate student in Communications and serving as Conference Coordinator for PRSSA's International Conference. In her (limited) free time, you can find her reading/writing bilingual poetry, learning authentic Mexican recipes, practicing yoga/pilates, and watching Modern Family reruns.



### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Business & Entrepreneurship

### EXPERTISE

- Marketing (Social Media)

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Communications, emphasis in PR, Minor in Sociology



# LETIZIA ALCIBAR

## ORANGE COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER FOUNDATION

Letizia Alcibar has worked in the nonprofit sector for over six years in Orange County. Her passion for nonprofit work began in 2011 where she worked as an aquatic swim/aerobic instructor for all ages and abilities for the Salvation Army Recreational Center in Anaheim. In 2021, she graduated from San Francisco State University with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology. She has a passion for understanding the impact of social and cultural factors that play a major role in communities. Local nonprofits such as the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club of America had a huge impact on her adolescent upbringing. She currently works for the OC Family Justice Center Foundation, where she leads violence prevention and empowerment programs for at-risk Latinx families impacted by intimate partner violence. Skilled in program management, leadership, staff development, community outreach, grant writing, and building collaborative partnerships. In her professional work, she emphasizes the importance of community building and programming that is tailored to the benefit of youths' wellbeing. Her goal is to strategically plan for more equitable community health education by focusing on identifying and addressing barriers to access. In the near future, she aspires to pursue her graduate degree in Public Health to further research on preventative measures for intimate partner violence specifically in Latinx communities.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Youth Development

### EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Marketing (Social Media)

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Cultural Anthropology



# LILIANA VENTURA

## DIGITAL MARKETING DIRECTOR LCV CONSULTING

Liliana Ventura is a multidisciplinary and multilingual digital marketer and professional development expert passionate about the interconnectedness of digital branding, operational optimization, workforce development, neuroscience, multiculturalism, social entrepreneurship, and AI. She holds an MBA in International Marketing and a Bachelor's of Science in Marketing Management from Cal State University, Los Angeles. She also earned a Neuroscience for Business certification from Wharton and a Certified Master of Career Services from NCDA.

As a LatinAsian professional, Liliana has strategized for global marketing programs, lead multinational go-to-market launches, and guided geographically dispersed teams for Global Fortune 5 to 500 companies spanning various industries, including Apple, Adidas, and Uber. She has also researched, planned, and accelerated the cross-border expansion of small to medium businesses to and from Latin America. Liliana serves as a career development champion and coach, creating, presenting, and optimizing professional development and intercultural adaptation programs for over 25,000 professionals worldwide.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Youth Development
- Workforce Development
- Immigration,
- Arts & Culture
- Technology
- Business and Entrepreneurship

### EXPERTISE

- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Business Development
- Marketing (Social Media)
- Technology (Software Development, Integration, etc.)

### EDUCATION

**MBA-** International Marketing

**Bachelor of Science** - Marketing Management

**Executive Certification** - Neuroscience for Business

**Master's of Career Services**

# LISA PEREZ

## SERVICE NAVIGATION MANAGER FAMILIES FORWARD

Lisa Perez is the Service Navigation Manager at Families Forward, where she leads a team of dedicated Family Navigators in supporting families experiencing homelessness or those at risk of housing instability. Prior to her current role, Lisa gained extensive experience in the nonprofit sector, including positions at a domestic violence agency and other social service organizations, where she specialized in housing support for families. Lisa's passion for social work was ignited during her teenage years in Guatemala, where she volunteered with local social service projects. Her early exposure to community-based efforts laid the foundation for a career focused on empowering vulnerable populations.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a concentration in Child and Family Dynamics. In addition to her professional work, Lisa serves on the board of 22qties Unite, a nonprofit organization that raises awareness of DiGeorge Syndrome and connects families to critical resources. She is deeply committed to advocating for social justice, building strong communities, and supporting underserved populations.



### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Immigration

### EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Fundraising/Philanthropy
- Technology (Software Development, Integration, etc.)

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor Degree-** Sociology  
**Associates Degree -** Sociology

# LISETTE MARTINEZ-ACEBO

## DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CIELO

Lisette was born and raised in Santa Ana and is the daughter of immigrant Mexicanos, a first-generation college graduate, an avid social justice advocate, and a proud mom of a beautiful baby boy. She graduated in 2015 from Chapman University with a major in Psychology and minors in Sociology and Latin American Studies, and then graduated with her Masters in Social Work at USC in 2018, with an emphasis in Community Organizations and Business Innovation. Lisette has dedicated both her personal and professional life to community advocacy and social change work because she values the work her parents have done to get her to where she is, and she loves her community for how they have embraced and supported her along the way. Lisette currently works as the Director for Community Engagement and Leadership Development at a wonderful organization called CIELO (Community for Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Opportunities), where she nurtures strategic partnerships that align and grow CIELO programs and services for small business owners in Orange County. She is looking forward to continuing her mission work--to walk alongside her community and learn from them to advance equity work in Orange County.



### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education

### EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Community Engagement & Impact

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Psychology  
**Master of Social Work**



# LUIS CACHUA

## DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND BRAND PARTNERSHIPS

### FOODBEAST MEDIA

Luis Cachua is a storyteller, community builder and connector of the dots. He has a passion for amplifying the stories of underserved communities and bringing the world of philanthropy into multiple circles. In his current role as director of Brand Partnerships & Strategy (at Food Beast), he works with food brands and CPG business to help tell their stories, market their products, and build communities using digital content and social media platforms. Throughout his career, Luis has managed marketing and brand strategy initiatives, with many national brands including: Wells Fargo, GAP, Chipotle, Anheuser-Busch, USC Football, Northwestern Mutual, Mexican National Soccer Team, and many others. Luis is the founder of the Orange Giving Circle and is part of the Latino Advisory Committee at Children's hospital in Orange County.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Education
- Youth Development

### EXPERTISE

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Business Development
- Marketing (Social Media)
- Entrepreneurship

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Communications and Advertising, USC

**Master's Degree-** Marketing, Southern Methodist University



# MARTHA RIVERA

## PRESIDENT

### MRDT CONSULTING ENTERPRISES

Martha Rivera is an accomplished professional with a profound commitment to community and family engagement. Renowned for her expertise in leading and driving transforming initiatives to achieve positive outcomes for communities, she established MRDT Consulting Enterprises, a consultancy firm specializing in education and non-profit sectors. Her professional experience includes roles overseeing Community Relations, Family and Community Engagement, and improving community wellness outcomes with the Santa Ana Unified School District, the Pomona Unified School District, the Ronald M. Simon Family Foundation, The United Way, and various small business development organizations. Martha also brings experience securing grants to improve health outcomes in school settings for children and families, as well as securing philanthropy support for student scholarships and student basic needs. During her role as the Coordinator of Family and Community Engagement, she implemented the practice of Family and Community Engagement for SAUSD, along with the design and implementation of 57 Wellness Centers. Martha's contributions to society have garnered significant recognition. Her exceptional achievements and dedication have also led her to serve on the boards of esteemed organizations.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Workforce Development

### EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Fundraising/Philanthropy

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Spanish

**Bachelor of Arts-** Psychology

**Ed. M.-** Human Development and Psychology

# MARISOL RAMIREZ

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

**ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITIES ORGANIZED  
FOR RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT (OCCORD)**

Marisol Ramirez is the Director of Programs for Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development. The organization's mission is to build the power of historically marginalized communities in Orange County through community organizing and establishing policy research to strategize and build leadership for an inclusive economy, community-driven education, and responsive democracy. She was raised in West Anaheim and has established roots in North Orange County. Marisol is a firm advocate in building bargaining power for marginalized and disenfranchised communities. At the young age of thirty-one, she holds over fifteen years of community organizing experience.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Animal Rights
- Education
- Environment/Sustainability
- Immigration

## EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Fundraising/ Philanthropy
- Marketing (Social Media)

## EDUCATION

California Department of Insurance License  
Data Bootcamp Certificate

# MAYRA C. ROMAN AGUILAR

WRAPAROUND PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**OLIVE CREST**

Mayra Roman is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She currently serves as the Wraparound Program Director, at Olive Crest. Mrs. Roman has over 16 years of experience working in the social service arena, most of which has been providing in-home psychotherapy services and parenting education. In addition, to the front-line work as a Mental Health Therapist, Mrs. Roman has also served as the Director for a few Home Visitation Programs. Sha has participated in several start up programs and was part of the first Multi-Ethnic Maternal Child Health Network in Orange County. Mrs. Roman and her family also do an extensive work in the faith base community providing support and education to immigrant couples and families.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education
- Immigration
- Youth Development

## EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Education

## EDUCATION

Master's Degree- Counseling Psychology  
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist



# MELISSA LUPERCIO

## DEVELOPMENT AND GRANTS COORDINATOR

### BUILDING SKILLS PARTNERSHIP

Melissa Lupercio is the Development and Grant Coordinator for Building Skills Partnership (BSP) where she is responsible for all grant management aspects of over 40 grants. Prior to her current role, Melissa was the Orange County program coordinator for BSP. She was responsible for recruiting, coordinating, and delivering all programming out of OC including College Readiness, Civic Engagement, Digital Literacy, Financial Capability, and Workforce Development. Melissa received her BA in Sociology from UC Santa Barbara and Masters in School Counseling from Concordia Irvine. A daughter of Mexican immigrants, Melissa strives to continue working for her community to remove barriers that prevent them from succeeding.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education

### EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Accounting/Finance

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts** - Sociology, UC Santa Barbara

**Master of Arts** - School Counseling, Concordia University Irvine



# MICHELLE GUTIERREZ CORONA

## CLAIMS UNIT MANAGER AUTOCLUB ENTERPRISES

Insurance Manager with 18 years of experience in the insurance industry, specializing in claims management, contact centers, team leadership and driving high performance teams. Proficient in insurance claims, contact center operations, management, and change management. Currently a unit manager with 300 employee managing a claims contact center supporting 22 states. As a Business Resource Group Leader, I am deeply passionate about mentorship, fostering growth, supporting the development of individuals and driving our Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging initiatives. I have a strong track record in optimizing operational efficiency and delivering excellent customer service while supporting the community. I hold a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Human Services from California State University, Fullerton, a Graduate of the UCSD RADY school of management.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education
- Immigration
- Youth Development

### EXPERTISE

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Fundraising/Philanthropy
- Contact Center, Claims, Insurance

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts**- Human Services

# MICHELLE LARIOS

STAFF ATTORNEY

PUBLIC LAW CENTER

Currently, Michelle Larios has been working as a staff attorney with the Public Law Center (Santa Ana, CA) for over 2 years in the Health Law/Medical Legal Partnership Unit. Ms. Larios' legal career has focused on providing direct legal services to low income and diverse populations. She is also bilingual in Spanish.

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** History; Minor in Criminal Justice, CSU Long Beach  
**Juris Doctor-** Western State College of Law



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Access to the Justice System
- Environment/Sustainability
- Youth Development

## EXPERTISE

- Public Interest Law

# MICHELLE SANCHEZ

REALTOR

FIRST TEAM MISSION GROUP REALITY

With a background in communications and a passion for serving the community, I bring strong interpersonal skills and cultural awareness to my work. As a bilingual realtor, I help clients navigate the complexities of property transactions while ensuring they feel informed and confident throughout the process.

Beyond real estate, I actively contribute to my community as a board member for Celebrating Life Community Health Care Clinic and my high school, where I support initiatives that enhance education and healthcare accessibility. My diverse experience in sales, education, and property management has sharpened my ability to build meaningful relationships, problem-solve, and adapt to different professional settings.

I am committed to personal and professional growth, always seeking opportunities to make a positive impact.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Business and Entrepreneurship

## EXPERTISE

Marketing (Social Media)

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Communications



# NANCY RODRIGUEZ

## CLIENT NAVIGATION COORDINATOR

### CIELO

#### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education
- Youth Development
- Workforce Development
- Business and Entrepreneurship

#### EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Business Development

#### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Science-** Child and Adolescent Development, Minor in Human Services  
**Certification** - Child Life

Nancy Rodriguez was born in Mexico and raised in Orange County. As a proud first-generation college graduate, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Child and Adolescent Development and Human Services, along with a Certification in Child Life. With over 14 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, Nancy is a dedicated professional driven and deeply committed to her core values of love, trust, unity, and respect—principles she strives to live out both personally and professionally. Her diverse background includes experience as an Educator, the hospital sector, Administration, and Case Management, giving her a well-rounded perspective on supporting individuals and communities.

Currently, Nancy serves as a Client Navigation Coordinator with CIELO, where she helps clients achieve their dreams of becoming quality Childcare Providers and successful business owners. In this role, she provides ongoing support throughout clients' entrepreneurial journeys, while also collaborating with internal teams and community partners to create programs that address client needs. Nancy's passion for service extends beyond her professional life; she has also dedicated countless hours to volunteering locally and internationally, reinforcing her commitment to making a positive difference in the community.



# NATHALY GUEVARA

Nathaly Guevara is the Senior Manager of Community Engagement at American Family Housing (AFH), bringing extensive experience in fundraising, volunteer management, and event planning within the nonprofit sector. She is passionate about fostering volunteerism, organizing impactful events, and securing resources to support housing stability and community well-being.

At AFH, Nathaly leads fundraising initiatives, donor relations, volunteer programs, and in-kind donation efforts, ensuring alignment with the organization's long-term sustainability goals. Since joining AFH, she has established the organization's donation center, strengthened the volunteer program to better serve clients' needs, and cultivated partnerships with community organizations to expand AFH's mission-driven impact.

Prior to joining AFH, Nathaly worked at The Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research as a Volunteer Coordinator and Events Planner, where she played a key role in organizing large-scale fundraising events, including 5K runs and stationary cycling events along the beach. She successfully implemented peer-to-peer fundraising strategies, engaging community members and supporters to raise critical funds for pancreatic cancer research.

Committed to enhancing nonprofit sustainability and community-driven solutions, Nathaly's career goal is to continue developing partnerships and support networks to ensure long-term housing stability for vulnerable populations.

#### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Arts & Culture

#### EXPERTISE

- Fundraising/Philanthropy
- Marketing (Social Media)
- Technology (Software Development, Integration, etc.)

#### EDUCATION

**Associate Degree-** Working on Bachelor's Degree  
**One OC Certificate** - Fundraising Professionals

# NORA ADRIANA PRECIADO

MANAGING PARTNER

## TZUNU STRATEGIES

Nora Preciado is a passionate, visionary social justice leader with almost two decades of experience in the social justice movement focusing on advancing immigrant rights. She currently serves as Managing Partner at Tzunu Strategies, a leading public and government relations firm, where she supports the firm's operations and services a number of accounts providing strategic policy advice, as well as communications and public relations support.

Before Tzunu, Nora directed Mayor Eric Garcetti's Office of Immigrant Affairs, where she advised the mayor, his staff, city offices and stakeholders on policy and programs relating to Los Angeles' immigrant residents. As an immigrant, she approached the work from both a personal and professional perspective. Nora also worked 11 years at the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), rising from staff attorney to supervising attorney focusing on impact litigation on behalf of immigrants. Nora has been a member of the advisory committee for the National Immigration Litigation Alliance and the Mexican American Bar Association's immigration committee. She has a law degree from U.C. Berkeley School of Law, a BA in political science from U.C. Davis, and is a proud community college alum. She lives with her family in Orange County.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Access to higher education
- Immigration
- Youth development

## EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Marketing (Social Media)

## EDUCATION

Law Degree - UC Berkley

# OSCAR LEONG

CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER

## DELHI CENTER

I have over 30 years of experience in secondary education, focusing on Development and Philanthropy. Before joining Delhi Center, I served as the Director of Development at Samueli Academy for two years. From 2018 to 2022, I was the President of De La Salle North Catholic High School in Portland, Oregon.

I began my career at my alma mater, Cathedral High School in downtown Los Angeles, where I held the positions of Development and Admissions Director for more than two decades.

I am a proud graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in Political Science. My mixed heritage, being both Mexican and Chinese, has provided me with a unique perspective on life. I am mission-focused and passionate about helping community-based organizations elevate their vital work, aiming to shine a positive light on areas that need support. I am a collaborator that enjoys connecting like-minded people and organizations - we are all better by working together.

I have been happily married to my wife, Rosa, for 32 years. We have four adult children and one granddaughter.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education

## EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Fundraising/Philanthropy
- Marketing (Social Media)

## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts- Political Science



# PABLO DOMINGUEZ

## OPERATION/ PROGRAM MANAGER

### CIELO

Pablo Dominguez is the founder of Dominguez Consulting LLC and an accomplished operations and project manager at CIELO with a proven track record of optimizing efficiency and driving organizational success. With a strong foundation in operations management, Pablo has demonstrated exceptional leadership in overseeing critical aspects of business processes. His strategic approach and problem-solving skills have contributed to streamlining operations, finance, and business strategy, resulting in increased productivity and cost savings. Pablo's journey to success is rooted in his dedication to continuous improvement and learning. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from CSULB and leverages his education and professional experience to implement innovative solutions in the dynamic field of operations. Beyond his professional achievements, Pablo remains actively engaged in community initiatives. With his expertise in operations, finance, and business strategy, he has managed to help his clients overcome and improve how they operate.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Business & Entrepreneurship

### EXPERTISE

- Program Development
- Business Development
- Accounting/Finance
- Technology

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts** - Business Administration, CSU Long Beach



# PAT DANIEL-CARRERAS

## BENEFITS ADVISOR

After earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (emphasis in Marketing and Finance), Pat enjoys a 20+ year career in marketing, advertising, communications, research and sales. In her role as a Senior Account Executive with several advertising agencies, Pat was responsible for maintaining cooperative relationships both with her clients and internal stakeholders. She attributes part of her success to her strong organizational and project managements skills, as well as effective oral and written communication. In the past decade, Pat has applied her experience within the financial world. As a benefits advisor, Pat carefully listens to her clients' goals and strategically proposes the products that best fit their needs. Pat believes in giving back to the community. Throughout her professional career, Pat has managed to include volunteer work as part of her daily life as she thoroughly enjoys using her knowledge and skills to help others succeed. She is currently a mentor at Santa Ana Valley High School working with the Global Business Academy freshman. A native from Mexico, Pat loves outdoor activities like playing Tennis, Golf, bicycle rides, swimming, walking and spending time with her husband and two young adult children.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Business and Entrepreneurship

### EXPERTISE

- Fundraising/ Philanthropy
- Business Development
- Marketing (Social Media)

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts**- Business Administration, Minors in Marketing and Finance

# PERLA LOZANO

## DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE MARKETING APCT

An accomplished leader, Perla Lozano blends a rich skill set with a passion for empowering others, both in professional settings and within the community. With a background marked by significant achievements in marketing and team management, Perla excels in driving operational efficiencies and revenue growth through innovative strategies and the adoption of new technologies. Her expertise encompasses strategic planning, mentorship, and the ability to foster a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration. Throughout her career, Perla has been committed to developing talent, demonstrated by the creation of mentorship forums and effective team-building initiatives. These efforts have not only led to high-performing teams but also inspired peers to pursue excellence. Her personal attributes—empathy, resilience, and a visionary outlook—complement her professional skill set, making her a source of inspiration and a role model for both colleagues and mentees. Beyond the confines of the workplace, Perla dedicates herself to mentoring young professionals and coaching youth soccer, applying her leadership skills to encourage growth and teamwork in various contexts.



### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Arts & Culture

### EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI), Fundraising/Philanthropy
- Business Development

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts** - Spanish Language, Minor in Music, CSU Fullerton

# RACHEL LORENZO

## SVP CREDIT ADMINISTRATOR CITIZENS BUSINESS BANK

Credit Administrator at Citizens Business Bank with 20+ years of demonstrated banking experience in C&I, commercial real estate and SBA lending. In my current position, I am an approving credit officer for nine Los Angeles Metro Regional Offices approving C&I and OOCRE credits, as well as overseeing the overall credit quality of the Bank's lending portfolio.

I immigrated into the US as a child and had the privilege of attending UCSB, with a double major in BA of Business Economics and BA of Law and Society. I have a passion for mentoring and helping young people who wish to pursue a higher education as a way of providing social mobility for their families. I also wish to be an agent for change and support for immigrant families that come to this country to better their lives. Through my contributions to my non profit work, I seek to improve the lives of those that need the most assistance and guidance.

### EDUCATION

**Bachelors Degree** (Economics with emphasis in Accounting), Law and Society  
**Pacific Coast Banking School** (Banking Program and Leadership)



### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Youth Development
- Immigration
- Entrepreneurship

### EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Accounting/Finance
- Review of contracts and brochures



# RICARDO MUNIZ

## ENTREPRENEUR AND GOTV CANVASSING COORDINATOR

Ricardo is a passionate advocate for community empowerment and social change, dedicated to supporting Latino professionals in Orange County and surrounding areas. During his free time, he enjoys watching documentaries, staying updated with technology, and learning about nature. With a background in community organizing and leadership, Ricardo has been actively involved in initiatives aimed at uplifting marginalized communities. Notable projects include participation in local district elections in Anaheim, advocacy for AB 130 and 131 for statewide undocumented student financial assistance, and supporting DACA work permits for undocumented youth. Having served in various leadership roles within his community, including Director of Community Engagement for LSBA (Latino Student Business Organization) and President of ENF (Immigrant student-led organizations), Ricardo brings a wealth of experience in communication, stakeholder engagement, and project management.

### AREA OF INTEREST

- Business & Entrepreneurship

### EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Fundraising/Philanthropy
- Business Development
- Accounting/Finance
- Marketing (Social Media)
- Technology

### EDUCATION

Currently in Pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree



# RUTH COSSIO-MUÑOZ

## INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT

## RANCHO SANTIAGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

With a strong passion for community development, Ruth is a results-driven professional with over 20 years of experience in public relations, fundraising, workforce training and economic development. She has successfully implemented innovative strategies and marketing campaigns that promoted educational initiatives, raising monies from private, state, local and federal funds. Ruth's expertise lies in leveraging data-based insights to drive program effectiveness and foster economic growth in our communities. She is interested in joining a board that values diversity and inclusivity, both in terms of board composition and the organization's programs and services.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Business & Entrepreneurship
- Education
- Workforce Development
- Youth Development

### EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)
- Fundraising/Philanthropy
- Marketing (Social Media)
- Business Development

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor's Degree-** Public Relations, USC  
Annenberg School of Communication and  
Journalism

**Master's Degree in Business Administration-**  
Marketing, University of Phoenix

# DR. STEPHANY CUEVAS

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION  
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Dr. Stephany Cuevas is an Assistant Professor of Education at Chapman University. Her interdisciplinary research and practice focus on Latinx family engagement in students' higher education aspirations. She also works with schools, out-of-school organizations, and nonprofit community organizations topics relating to family engagement in education, postsecondary access and success for first-generation students, and supporting immigrant and undocumented families. Her current research is exploring how schools, educators, and community organizations are supporting the academic and socioemotional needs of Central American unaccompanied minors in California public schools. Dr. Cuevas is the author of *Apoyo sacrificial, sacrificing support: How undocumented Latinx parents get their children to college* (Teachers College Press) and a co-author of *Everyone Wins! The Evidence for Family-School Partnerships and Implications for Practice* (Scholastics). Her scholarship has also appeared in the *Journal of Higher Education*, the *Harvard Educational Review*, and the *Journal of Latinos and Education*. During her free time, Dr. Cuevas enjoys getting lost in a really good book, rooting for the Dodgers, and dancing to Beyoncé.



## AREA OF INTEREST

- Education

## EXPERTISE

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Family and Community Engagement
- College Access and Success

## EDUCATION

**Doctorate** - Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

**Bachelor of Arts** - Sociology and Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley

# STACEY ESPAÑA

SENIOR COLLEGE ACCESS COORDINATOR  
SIMON SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Stacey España Amezcua is an enthusiastic professional with over seven years of experience in education. Her background is in college access, non-profit, teaching and curriculum design. Stacey is also well versed in Urban Education, where through research she was able to address common education and mental health issues that appear in urban settings, successful intervention methods, family dynamics, working with public and private agencies, and community building. She currently leads as a Senior College Access Coordinator at Simon Scholars, working as a liaison between management and employees, managing a caseload and leading initiatives throughout the organization.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Education
- Workforce Development
- Youth Development

## EXPERTISE

- Program Development
- Marketing (Social Media)
- Education

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts**- Child and Adolescent Development, focus in Applied Sciences, CSU Northridge

**Currently in Pursuit of Master's Degree**- Educational Leadership, Pepperdine University

**Fellowship in Urban Education**

**NCAN Certified Advisor**



# WILLIAM SMITH

## PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER GILERO

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Environment/Sustainability
- Technology

### EXPERTISE

- Program Development
- Business Development
- Technology (Software, Development Integration, etc.)

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor's Degree-** Biomedical Engineering, UC Irvine

William Smith is an engineer in the medical device industry where he enjoys product development and creating devices for a variety of clients. Through his career, William has been able to work with numerous innovation projects that are helping patients every day. A Southern California resident, William grew up in Oxnard, mainly an agricultural community. He attended the University of California, Irvine with a degree in Biomedical Engineering. During his undergraduate studies, he was part of Nu Alpha Kappa and Orange County Hispanic Youth Chamber of Commerce. He is interested in healthcare innovation and has volunteered at Lestonnac free clinic and Crescent Clinic.



# YANIRA MARTINEZ

## GM ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR PEPSICO

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Youth Development

### EXPERTISE

- Program Development
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- Fundraising/Philanthropy
- Accounting/Finance

Yanira Martinez, I am a people leader, overseeing a team of 17 across five buildings. My team focuses of administrative support functions such as accounts payable, accounts receivable, reconciliations, control and compliance, as well as general administrative functions.

I am a community and culture and inclusion champion for my market and organization. I enjoy supporting local non-profits focusing around early education, career development, and food insecurities.

My career aspirations are to continue to grow, showcase my skillset and abilities and bring others along.

# YESSENIA DELGADO

PROJECT MANAGER

**GIRLS INC. OF ORANGE COUNTY**

Yessenia Delgado holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from UC Berkeley in Gender and Women's Studies. She is passionate about the intersections of education and accessibility, which lead her to pursue a career in nonprofit education. Through her six years of nonprofit programming experience, she has seen the transformative power of providing youth the tools and resources they need to succeed. She currently serves as a Senior Program Success Coordinator at Girls Inc. of Orange County, where she leads the college and career readiness initiatives. Whether through mentorship, guidance, or connection to opportunities, she is committed to opening doors for the next generation of leaders.



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education

## EXPERTISE

- Program Development

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts-** Gender and Women Studies, Minor in Education, UC Berkeley

# YVETTE NUÑEZ

PROGRAM OFFICER  
ADJUNCT FACULTY

**FIRST 5 ORANGE COUNTY  
SANTA ANA COLLEGE**

Yvette Nuñez has made an impact over the past 15 years by her ability to connect, educate, and empower. Since 2015, Yvette has been an adjunct faculty member at Santa Ana College teaching in the Early Childhood and Education Studies department. For nearly eight years, Yvette was a Community Liaison for Help Me Grow, where she was responsible for supporting the central region of Orange County, developing relationships, discovering new resources, facilitating large networking events, and identifying new opportunities for collaboration. Currently, she is a Program Officer with First 5 Orange County, where she oversees several programs focused on early intervention and programs for families prenatal to five. This work aligns with her own personal mission to be an "impact navigator".



## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Education
- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Workforce Development

## EXPERTISE

- Nonprofit Management
- Program Development
- Business Development
- Resource Connections

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Science-** Child and Adolescent Development, CSU Fullerton

**Master of Arts-** Education, CSU Long Beach