

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S *Message*

The Arizona Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents is dedicating our September Newsletter to administrators new to school districts or promoted to a new position. We are thankful for the school districts that shared information and head shots about these administrators.

Our responsibility as a colleague is to be the person we want to work with in any department or school. We take the initiative to welcome new colleagues to our districts, departments, and schools. We model teamwork by being helpful, dedicated, positive, and willing to collaborate. Successful school districts recruit and retain employees who are cooperative, supportive, and reciprocate reliability.

We know that as a new employee it can be challenging and stressful. Sometimes we just need to take a deep breath and remember we have colleagues who are willing to help. We need to reach out and ask for assistance or guidance. As we navigate through our learning curve, we demonstrate our willingness to work alongside others by being considerate and volunteering to assist with a task and/or activity. When building new relationships, we respect the workplace culture and practices.

Success is attainable when we communicate and value one another.

*Dr. Marvene Lobato*



*Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.*

*- Henry Ford*



# CARTWRIGHT SCHOOL DISTRICT #83

## Patricia Acosta Alvarez *Benefits Administrator Human Resources*

Patricia has been with the school district in various positions and has worked her way up starting many years ago as a special education assistant. Previously, she was an executive coordinator for Educational Services.

Fun fact: She loves to travel by herself and explore different cities.

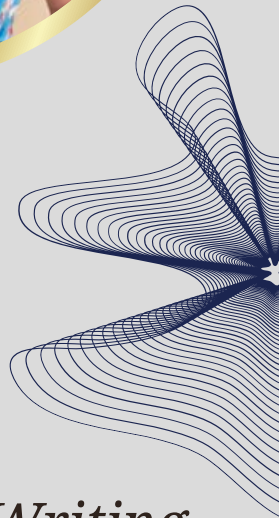


## Amanda Brannon

*Director of Grants Writing  
Educational Services*

Amanda is going on her second year with the school district. She was awarded competitive grants with a multi-year funding total of over 4 million dollars in 2023. She previously worked for the owners of the Minnesota Vikings.

Fun Fact: Her favorite musical artist is Bob Segar.





# CARTWRIGHT SCHOOL DISTRICT #83

## Sarah Hardy-Hernandez

*Director of Child Welfare and  
Attendance, Educational Services*

Sarah has previous experience as a principal, then as director of transportation. She has been with the school district for 26 years.

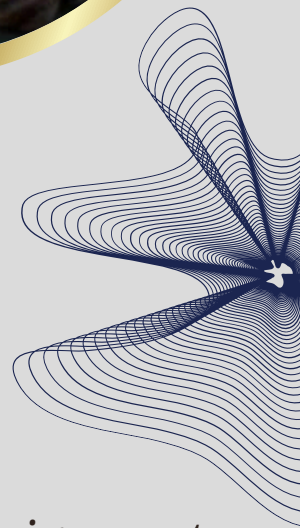
Interesting fact: She is allergic to fruit with fur.



## Nichole Hibbard

*Teacher on Special Assignment  
Estrella Middle School*

Nichole has been with the school district for 14 years (2010). "A fun fact about me is that I am a troll not a yooper!"







## Jessica Larsen

*Director of Teaching and Learning  
Educational Services*

Jessica is returning to the school district after serving as an assistant principal at Borman back in 2014-2015. She served 10 years as principal and several years as assistant principal, LAS, and teacher on special assignment in Cartright School District. Jessica has a Masters of Education in Educational Leadership & Supervision (ASU) and Masters of Arts in Curriculum, Educational Leadership & Supervision.

Fun fact: She loves to do puzzles.

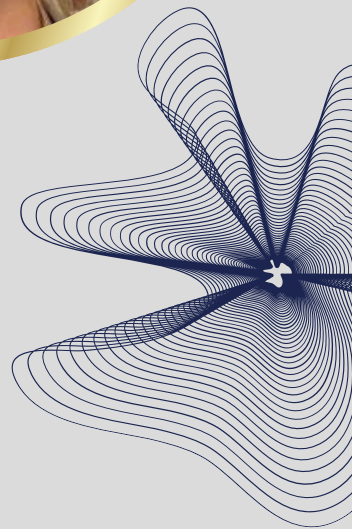


## Phyllis Lussier

*Director of Scholar Experiences*

Phyllis is a former art teacher and is a master at scheduling.

“My role is to expose our scholars to the real world connections to curriculum. The goal is to give purpose and greater understanding to concept taught and learned.”





# CARTWRIGHT SCHOOL DISTRICT #83

## Lorain Marquez

*Assistant Principal  
Charles W. Harris School*

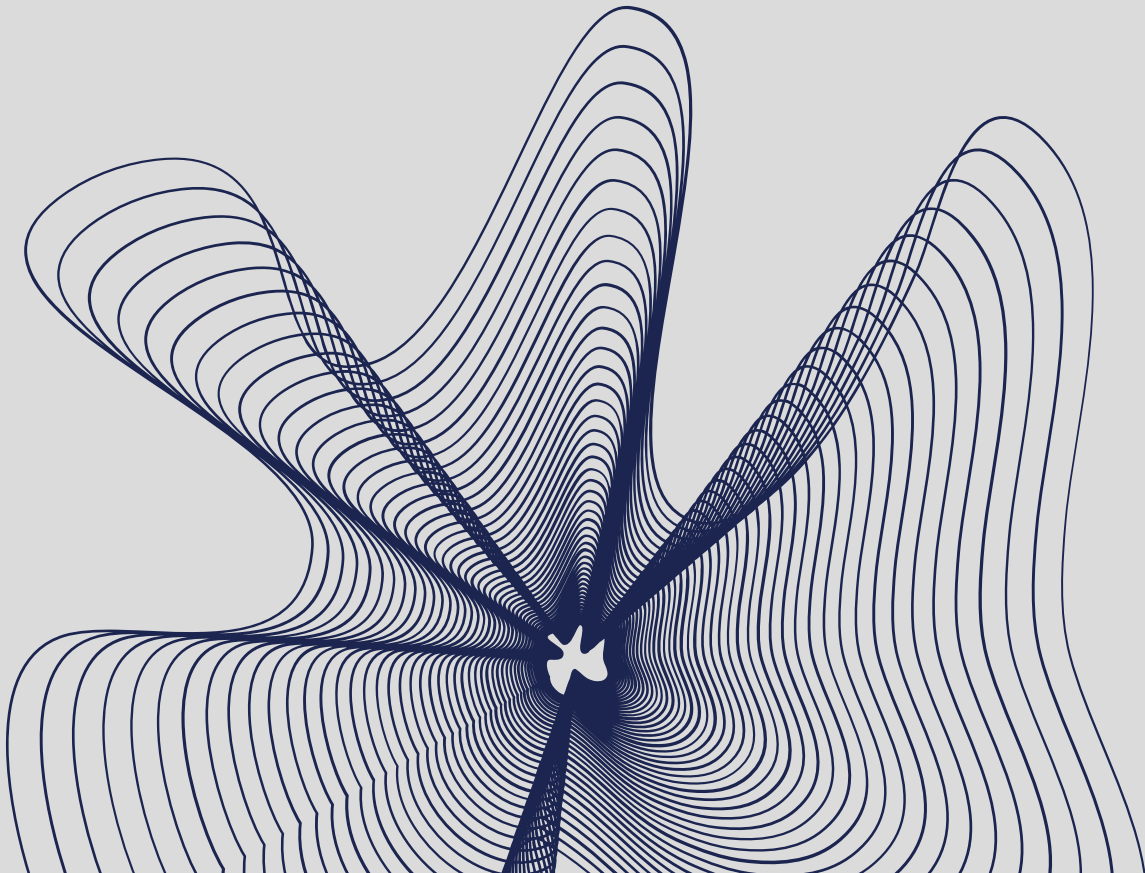
Lorain brings a wealth of experience and innovative vision. She has been with the district for 14 years (2010). She previously taught at Raúl H. Castro Academy of Fine Arts.

## Vallerie Miller

*Director of Language Acquisition  
Educational Services*

Vallerie has been with the school district for 19 years (2005). She was previously an assistant principal at Estrella.

Fun fact: She has gone waterskiing under the Mackinac Bridge.





## Michele Moore

*Administrator, Food Services*

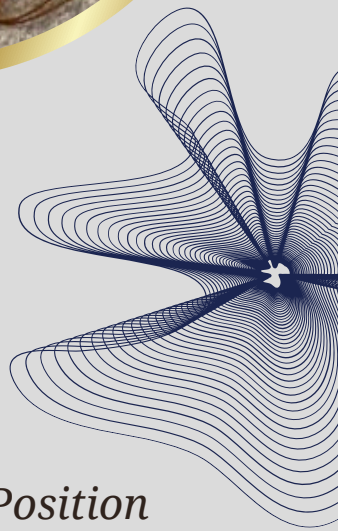
Michele worked as a coordinator in the district and has experience as a kitchen manager at Raúl H. Castro Academy of Fine Arts. She's worked her way up starting as a 2-3 hour employee back in 2003. Michele has 11 grandchildren!



## Becky Nanni

*Assistant Director of Position  
Accountability*

Becky was previously an assistant principal at Charles W. Harris School. She started her career as a math teacher at Marc T. Atkinson Middle School Gifted Academy, and was a math interventionist and instructional support specialist. She has been with the school district for 14 years (2009).

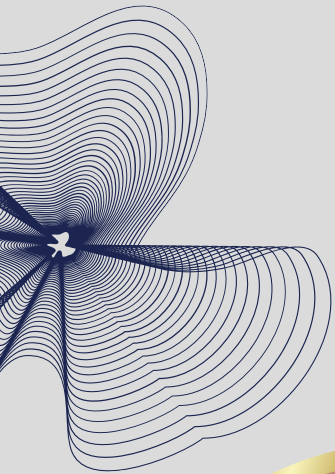






## Brandy Pritchard

*Assistant Director of  
Information Systems*



## Whitney Beth Reis

*Teacher on Special Assignment  
Holiday Park*

Whitney is new to the Cartright family and has 25+ years in education. One of her favorite places to visit is Hawaii and her children--Hanalei and Plumeri--are named after flowers that grow in Hawaii.





# CARTWRIGHT SCHOOL DISTRICT #83

## Meredith Seara

*Director of Federal Programs  
& Grant Development*

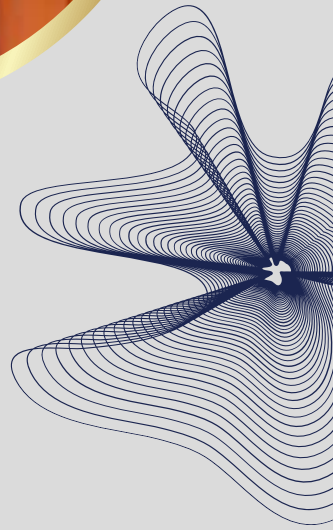


## Andrew Tippins

*Principal  
Cartwright Elementary School*

Andrew is new to the Cartright family with four years as a principal and three years as an assistant principal. He is a Minnesota State graduate and former football player. He even has some experience with the Minnesota Vikings (attended a training camp).

Interesting Fact: Andrew participated in a turkey hunting excursion in Curtis, Nebraska for the first time and took down two turkeys.







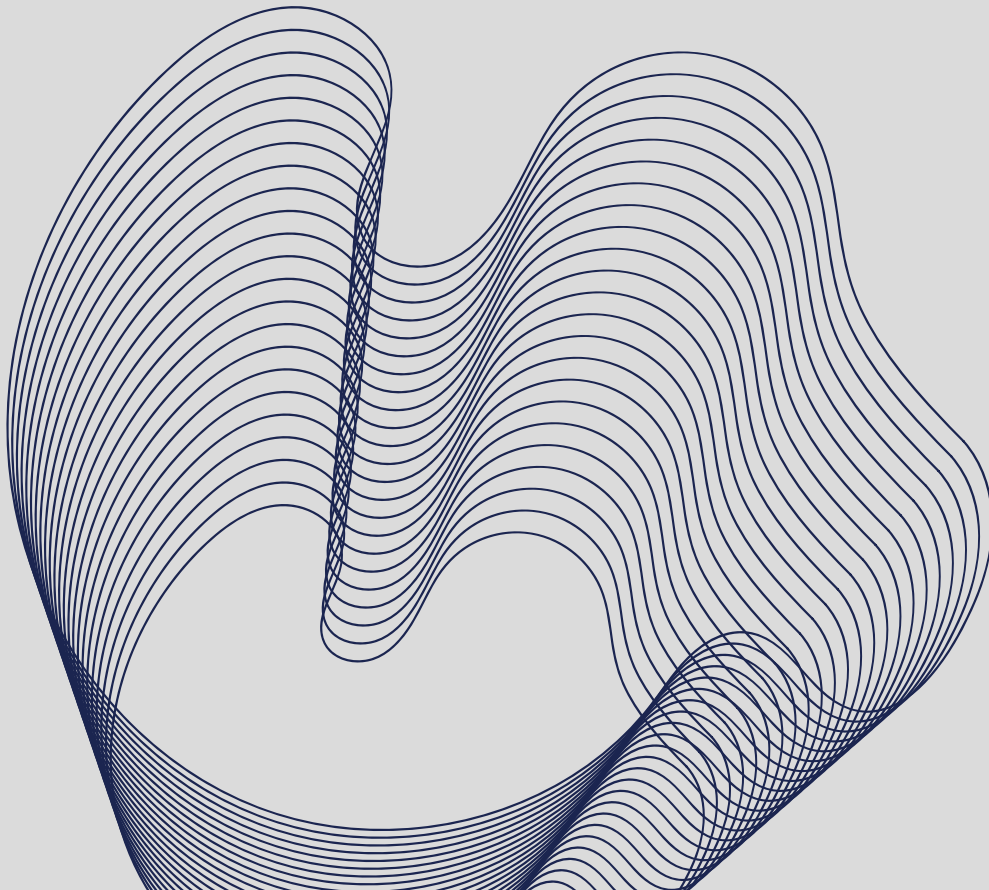
# CARTWRIGHT SCHOOL DISTRICT #83

## Veronica Valdivia

*Assistant Principal, Desert Sands*

Veronica has been with the district for 17 years (2007). She previously taught STEM at Desert Sands.

Interesting fact: She practices hot yoga at least 3 times per week, and says it helps to keep her flexible and healthy.

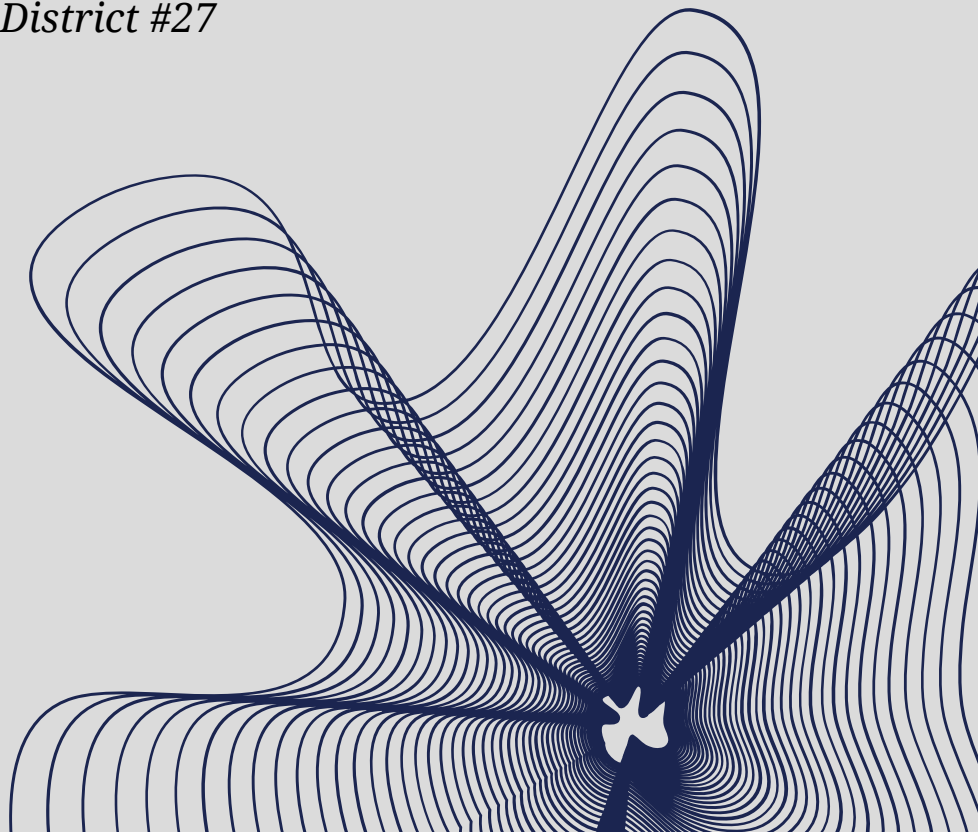




# Douglas Unified School District #27

Douglas Unified School District #27 (DUSD) is proud of the three new members of the District's leadership team. Two years ago, we were struggling to have qualified administrators in our hiring pool and as the Superintendent it was important to have a *Leadership Grow Your Own* Program; therefore, we partnered with American Intercontinental University and nine of our teachers were the recipients of the Impact Grant Scholarship which helped them earn their Masters in Educational Leadership for free. As of today, three of the nine are now administrators at DUSD.

*Superintendent Ana Samaniego  
Douglas Unified School District #27*





# Douglas Unified School District #27

## Jessica Castillo

*Assistant Principal  
Ray Borane Middle School*

Jessica Castillo is a dedicated home-grown educator. She is the new assistant principal at Ray Borane Middle School for Douglas Unified School District #27. Mrs. Castillo is a lifelong resident of Douglas, Arizona, who has dedicated 22 years to the field of education at Douglas Unified School District. She has been an elementary teacher at Stevenson Elementary School, district ELD instructional coach, and district school improvement specialist.



Her career as an educator began by earning her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Arizona. Because she is a life-long learner, Mrs. Castillo earned two master's degrees. Her first Master's degree was in Elementary Education from Arizona State University and recently she obtained a second Master's in Educational Leadership American Intercontinental University.

Mrs. Castillo's educational philosophy is to provide the best learning environment that is appropriate for students, staff, and parents. Her dedication and passion are evident in the work that she has done as an educator and teacher mentor. Giving the very best opportunities to the children in our community and helping them reach their highest potential is what she strives for. She is an advocate for public education and for making a positive impact in a child's life. Mrs. Castillo's educational journey is one of commitment, resiliency, and professionalism. In recent years, she strives to lead instructors toward academic success and professional growth by providing coaching and mentoring support. She is a highly respected and valued member of our educational community. Mrs. Castillo's mission has been to make a positive impact on the lives of students and empower them with the essential knowledge and skills required to achieve success in their desired fields.

Aside from being an amazing educator, her most important role is that of being a mother to Julian, Isabella, Giselle, and Sophia. Her family and four children are the most important joy in her life.





# Douglas Unified School District #27

## Noemi Escalante

*Assistant Principal  
Paul Huber Middle School*

Noemi Escalante was born in Los Angeles, California, and moved to Douglas, Arizona, at age 11. She attended 12th Street Middle School and graduated from Douglas High School in 1999. Mrs. Escalante is a long-time resident and a home-grown educator. She initially earned an associate degree in psychology and worked as a middle school instructional aide at Huber Middle School for two years. She then joined the DMAP program for another two years, where she discovered her passion for education and working with at-risk children.



Mrs. Escalante earned her Bachelor's in Elementary Education from the Arizona State University. Her elementary teaching career took place at Clawson Elementary where she taught second grade for two years and fourth grade for 11 years. Mrs. Escalante is a passionate educator, teacher leader, and a believes that every child is capable of success.

Mrs. Escalante's commitment to education is evident as she was named Teacher of the Year on two separate occasions, and in 2017 she was named the Elementary Teacher of the Year for Cochise County. After participating in the Principal Leadership Academy of Arizona in 2022, Noemi was inspired to pursue a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. She was one of nine recipients of the DUSD's Impact Grant Master's scholarship. While pursuing her masters, she was placed as Interim Assistant Principal at Huber Middle School. Since completing her masters and being a certified administrator in the State of Arizona, she is now the assistant principal at Paul Huber Middle School. Noemi is dedicated to supporting her teachers, students, and the community she loves. Being a leader in the district is one of her biggest honors. Mrs. Escalante has been proudly married to Manuel for 22 years and together they have three beautiful children named Lynette, Gabriel and Daniel.



# Douglas Unified School District #27

## Maria Trinta

*Athletic Director and Assistant  
Principal, Douglas High School*

Maria Trinta is the newest addition to the Douglas High School administration, serving as athletic director and assistant principal for the Douglas Unified School District #27. With nine years of experience in the Douglas, Arizona community, Mrs. Trinta has made significant contributions as a special education teacher in a self-contained/life skills program, as a coach and mentor, and as department chair for the Exceptional Students Department at Douglas High School.



She obtained her bachelor's degree in special education with a minor in arts from the University of Puerto Rico in Cayey in 2010. In April 2023, she earned her Principal Leadership Academy certification from the Arizona Education Foundation. Last year, she served as the interim assistant principal at Ray Borane Middle School in Douglas, while completing her master's degree. This year, Mrs. Trinta completed her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from American Intercontinental University, qualifying her as a certified Administrator.

Her dedication to her profession is evident through numerous recognitions, including being named the 2022 nominee for Assistant Coach of the Year, a 2021 finalist for Cochise County Teacher of the Year, the 2021 Douglas Unified District Teacher of the Year, and a 2020 finalist for Douglas High School Teacher of the Year. Her passion and commitment to serving the best interests of her students and their families are widely recognized.

She demonstrates exceptional leadership skills, adapts well to challenging situations, and is a strong team player. Colleagues, students, and parents alike describe her as a facilitator and a valuable asset to their community. Her leadership priorities include ensuring equity for all students and fostering a collaborative environment with shared goals. Mrs. Trinta's extraordinary commitment to the Douglas community and her positive relationships with all stakeholders have significantly contributed to her success.

Above all, she is a loving wife and mother to three beautiful children, Sofia, Jorge, and Rocio. As a mother and educator, she knows the importance of family values and unity.



# Gadsden Elementary School District #32

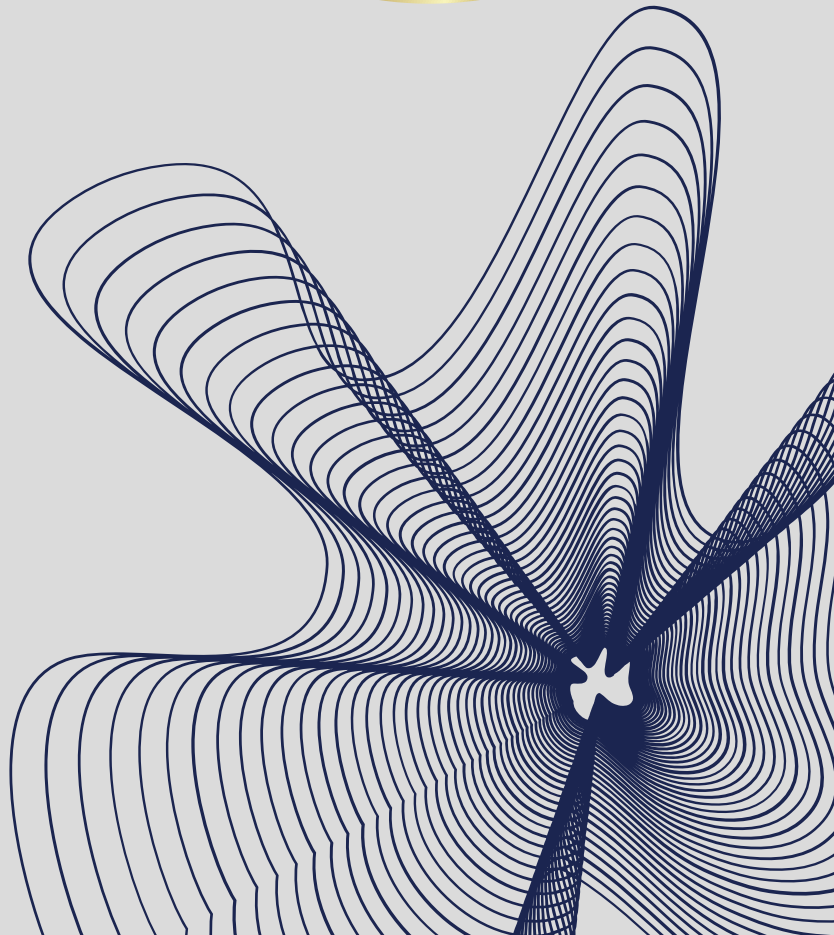
## Teodolina Galvan

### *Interim Associate Superintendent*

Ms. Galvan brings experience to the role and has held different positions in the district such as an instructional assistant, teacher, mentor teacher, master teacher, preschool director, and principal.

“It is an honor and a privilege to be able to serve my district and community in this new capacity. Over the past 18 years, I have dedicated myself to this district in various roles. Each role has shaped my educational philosophy and reinforced my commitment to student success and teacher support.

I am grateful for the trust placed in me and I am committed to building on our district's successes. I look forward to working collaboratively with our board, staff, students, and families to continue achieving great things for our community.”





# Marlene Lopez Duarte

*Assistant Principal  
Poston Junior High*



Marlene Lopez Duarte is a dedicated educator and leader with deep roots in Mesa Public Schools. A first-generation college graduate and the proud daughter of two immigrant parents, Marlene earned her Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education English from Arizona State University (ASU). After beginning her career as a high school English teacher in MPS, she quickly realized the importance of continuous learning to better serve her students. This led her to pursue a Master's degree in Learning Sciences from ASU, with a focus on culturally sustaining pedagogies.

While continuing to teach, Marlene took on leadership roles as an AVID coordinator, student council advisor, and team lead in the teaming teaching model. Through these experiences, she discovered a passion for mentoring teachers and helping them break down barriers for students, which inspired her to pursue a second Master's degree in Educational Leadership. After completing her studies, she was appointed the Assistant Principal at Poston Junior High in Mesa Public Schools.

Marlene is deeply connected to her community, having attended Mesa Public Schools from kindergarten through 12th grade and later teaching at her alma mater. She is proud to send her own daughter to an MPS school and firmly believes in the district's promise. With plans to pursue a doctorate, Marlene is committed to fostering an inclusive, supportive, and educationally safe environment for all students. She credits much of her success to her parents, whose encouragement continues to inspire her, reminding her students often of their mantra, "Ponte las pilas" (Put in the effort).

# Claudia Mendoza

*Principal, Sousa Elementary*



Mendoza's educational journey began at New Mexico State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Her teaching career started in the Tempe Elementary School District, making significant contributions as a bilingual teacher, English language learning specialist, and reading/instructional coach. Her desire to lead and innovate in the educational sector led her to Arizona State University (ASU), where she earned a Master of Education in educational leadership. She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in educational leadership.

Her professional path includes pivotal roles at ASU's Office of Educational Outreach and Student Services, where she served as executive coordinator for ACCESS ASU and executive director of the WeGrad – Family Education Network. In these roles, she was instrumental in dismantling barriers to higher education for students and their families across Arizona.

Mendoza's tenure at ASU Prep Poly STEM Academy was marked by notable achievements, including leading the school to be ranked #1 in the state by the Arizona Department of Education in 2017, being named Transformational School Leader of the Year in 2018, and earning an A+ School of Excellence award by the Arizona Educational Foundation in 2024. She served as the K-6 principal for a decade, later advancing to the role of K-12 principal from 2020 to 2022. Mendoza is currently a principal at Mesa Public Schools.

Claudia and her husband, Armando, met in college and have been married for 28 years. They are the proud parents of twins who attended Chandler Unified School District (CUSD) from Kindergarten through 12th grade. America and Armando David thrived in CUSD and are now pursuing engineering degrees at Arizona State University.

Mendoza, a dedicated Chandler resident and CUSD mom of two, brings her lifelong passion for education to her candidacy for the Chandler Unified School District's governing board. With nearly three decades of experience in K-20 education, Mendoza has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to fostering academic excellence and supporting students, families, and educators alike.

# Jose Esteban Ruiz

*Assistant Principal and Athletic Director, Mesa Public Schools*



Jose Esteban Ruiz is an accomplished educator and dynamic leader in secondary education with a robust background in Spanish language instruction and sports coaching. Holding a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a Master of Education in Secondary Education from Grand Canyon University, Jose Esteban has dedicated their career to fostering educational excellence and cultural exchange. They attended Mesa schools for their K-12 schooling, including Carson and graduated from Westwood.

Currently serving as an assistant principal and athletic director at Carson Junior High School, Jose Esteban has excelled as the head varsity girls basketball coach and assistant varsity football coach. Their previous roles include teaching Spanish at Perry High School and Arizona College Prep – Oakland Campus, alongside various coaching positions. They have also completed fellowships through the Arizona Educational Fund including the Principals Leadership Academy of Arizona during the 2023-2024 school year. Beyond the classroom, Jose Esteban had led National Geographic Student Expeditions as a photography instructor and trip leader, orchestrating experiential learning trips across Latin America and Spain. They also have significant experience in community service and leadership through their work with Putney Student Travel and their long-standing role in their Fraternity Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc. Fluent in both Spanish and English, Jose Esteban is happily married to their spouse Zeida, who is also a Mesa Public Schools grad and are eagerly expecting their first child in 2025. Jose Esteban brings a passion for education and cultural enrichment to every endeavor.



# Thea Andrade

## *Superintendent*

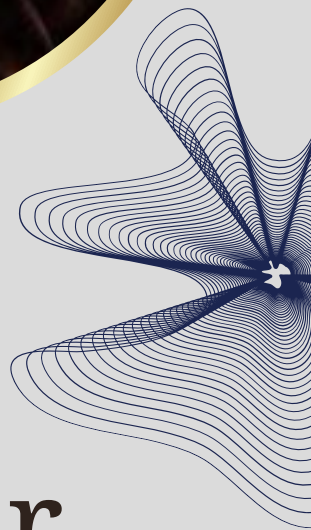
Ms. Thea Andrade is the first female Superintendent in Phoenix Union's 130-year history. She brings 30 years of experience in education and over two decades of school administrator experience to the position.



# Douglas Barringer

## *Academy Principal of Student Success*

Mr. Douglas Barringer joined the PXU Family as the academy principal of student success at Trevor G. Browne High School. He previously served as the principal of Havasupai Elementary.



# Jennifer Bowman

*Freshman Academy Principal*

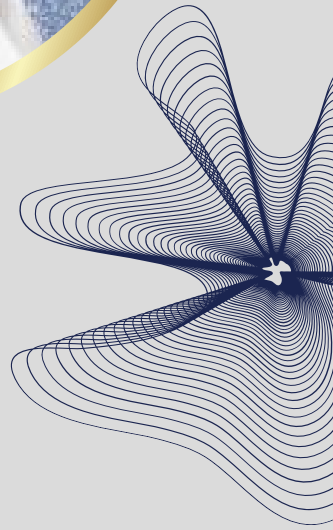
Ms. Jennifer Bowman served as an English teacher at Trevor G. Browne High School. She is now the freshman academy principal at TGB.



# Adrian De Alba

*Executive Director of Finance*

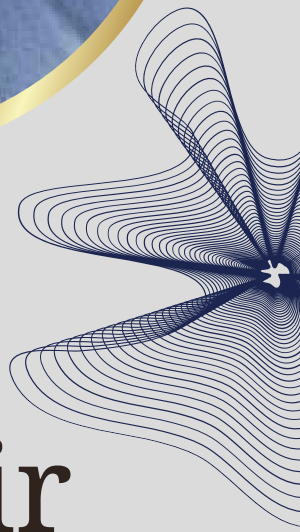
We are pleased to welcome Mr. Adrian De Alba back to PXU, where he began his career as a chemistry/biology teacher. Mr. De Alba now serves as the executive director of finance.



# Dan Dodge

*Assistant Principal of Student Success*

Mr. Dan Dodge, a former assistant principal at Metro Tech High School is now supporting North High School as the assistant principal of student success. Dan is a lifelong PXU teacher and leader with over 38 years of experience in the district.



# Brian Fair

*Director of Student Connectedness*

Mr. Brian Fair, a PXU graduate from South Mountain High School, is our director of student connectedness. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the district.





# Dr. Daniel Garcia

*Academies Principal of Student Success*

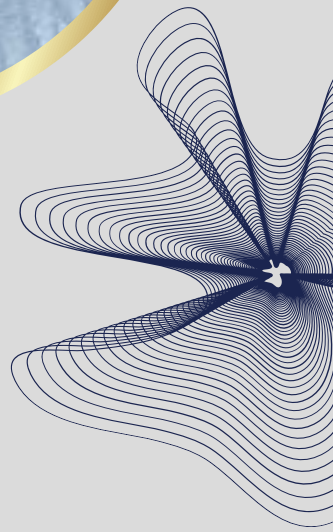
Dr. Daniel Garcia started his career as an English teacher. Later, he became the student success coordinator and now serves as academies principal for student success at the Academies at South Mountain.



# Arsenio Manuel

*Assistant Principal of Student Connectedness*

Mr. Arsenio Manuel began his career in PXU as a teacher-intern in 2017. The following year, he taught science and now is the assistant principal of student connectedness at Carl Hayden Community High School.



# Fredrick Montoya

*Academies at South Principal*

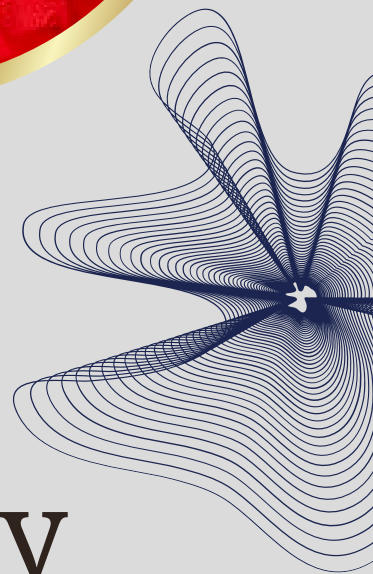
Principal Fredrick Montoya is a proud member of the South Mountain community and has over 20 years of educational expertise.



# Amy Remfrey

*Executive Director of Technology & Logistics*

Ms. Amy Remfrey, an alumna from Trevor G. Browne High School has served Phoenix Union throughout her 32-year career, winning both classified employee and administrator of the year honors in her time with the district.



# Evana Santee

*Assistant Principal of Student Connectedness*

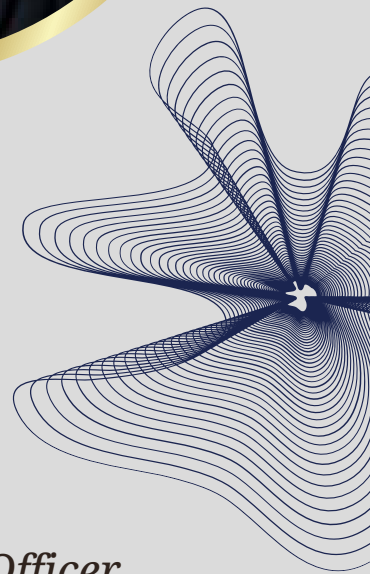
We are delighted to welcome Ms. Evana Santee back to our PXU Family. She serves as the assistant principal of student connectedness at Cesar Chavez High School.



# Laura Telles

*Achievement Chief Officer*

Ms. Laura Telles has served PXU families for 23 years, and previously served as the executive director of technology & logistics and talent. She is now a chief officer for the district.

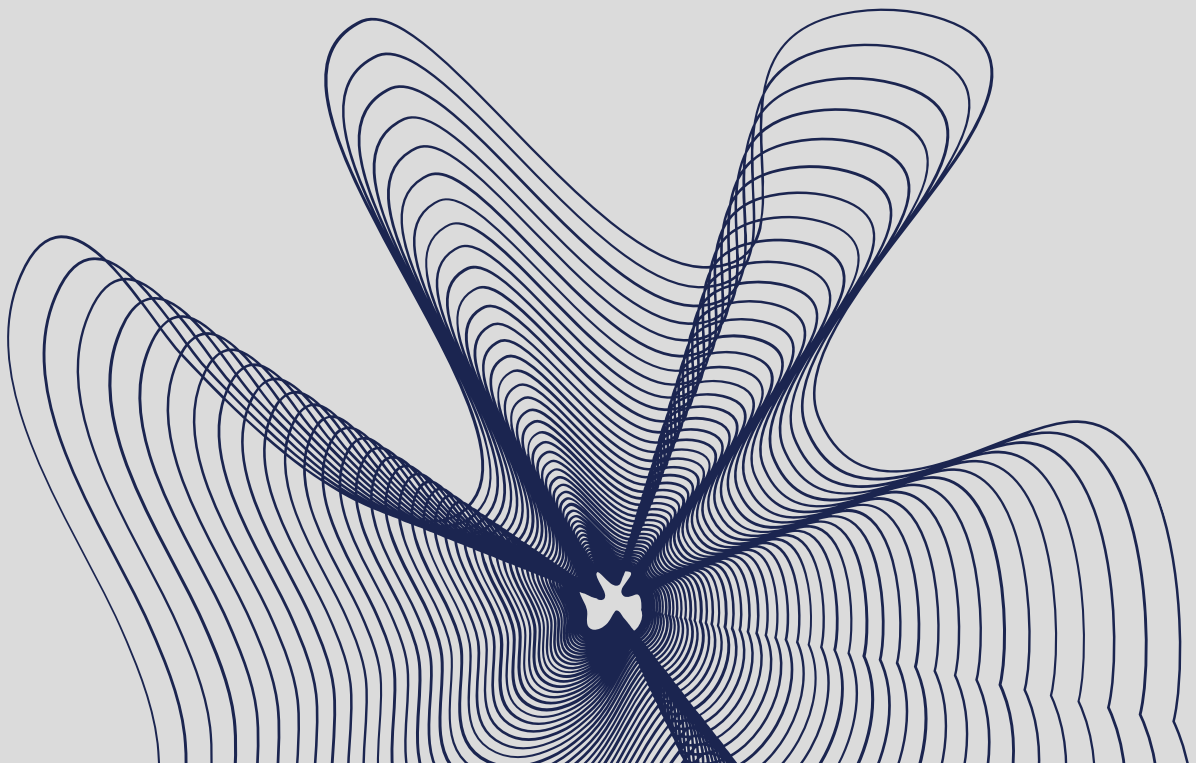




# Cyndi Tercero

*Director of Family Engagement*

Ms. Cyndi Tercero brings over 30 years of youth enrichment experience to the table. She was recognized as an Obama White House Champion of Change in 2016, Community Luchadora in 2017, PXU Administrator of the Year in 2023, and recognized by Education Week as a 2023 Leader to Learn From.



## Robert Lucas

*Maintenance Director  
Roosevelt School District No. 66*

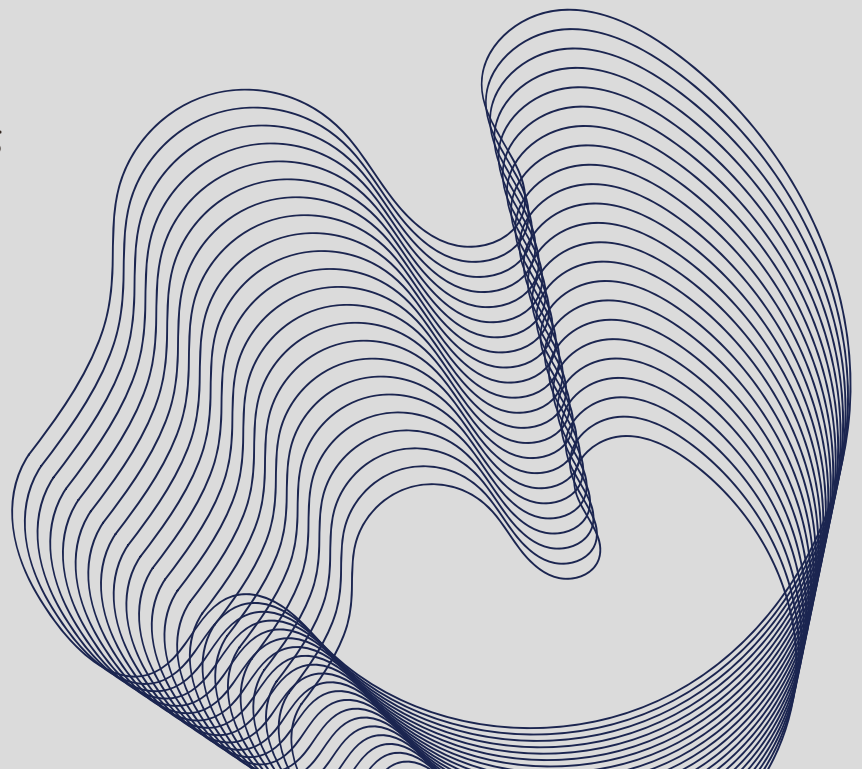
Our supervisor of maintenance and facilities, Robert Lucas, was promoted to Maintenance Director. Mr. Lucas brings more than 30 years of experience to the table. He looks forward to finding ways to grow the district, whether by remodeling older facilities or by building new schools, to secure the future of the next generation of students.



## Matt Gonzales

*Business and Finance Executive Director  
Roosevelt School District No. 66*

Matt Gonzales was named as the new Executive Director of Business and Finance. Mr. Gonzales is a successful finance professional who is passionate about driving excellence and improvement in education. He has a wide range of experience, including operating a nuclear power plant in the US Navy and analyzing business processes for Farmer Mac, which affords him a unique perspective in the education industry. He holds a BS in Mathematics, a BA in Economics, and an MBA. Additionally, he is working toward his doctorate in Business Administration with an expected completion date of August 2025.



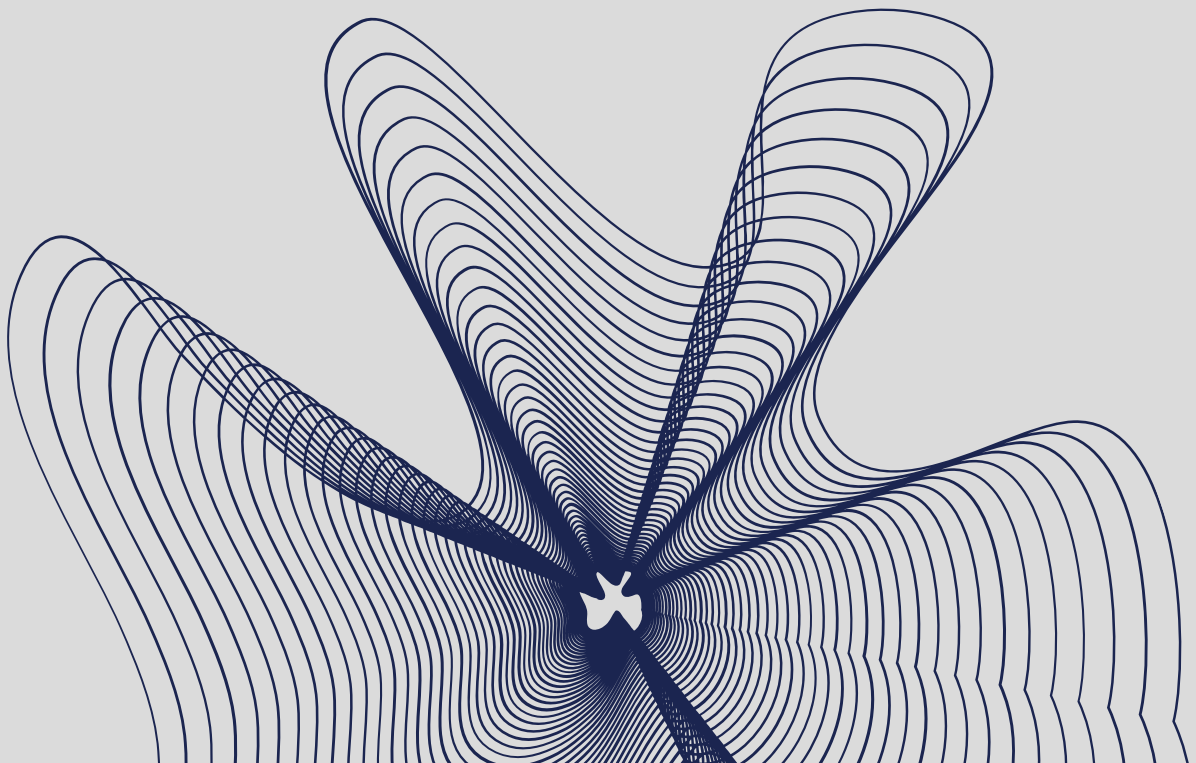


## Sylvia Miller

*Early Literacy and Early  
Childhood Director*

Roosevelt School District No. 66

Sylvia Miller, supervisor of Student Records, was promoted to Director of Early Literacy and Early Childhood education. With more than 20 years dedicated to the education profession, Ms. Miller is a proud alum of the Roosevelt School District. For the past seven years, she has served in various leadership roles, including instructional coach, assistant principal and supervisor of the Roosevelt School District Preschool program.



## Magali Rivera

*Community Relations Director  
Roosevelt School District No. 66*

Magali Rivera, our community engagement and marketing specialist, was promoted to director of community relations. With more than 25 years of experience working in television, Ms. Rivera is versatile and adaptable. She has traversed various roles and departments, gaining valuable insights and honing her skills along the way. Ms. Rivera is rooted in South Phoenix. She was a student at C.J Jorgensen, T.G. Barr, South Mountain High School and South Mountain Community College. Her extensive experience and versatile skill set make her a valuable asset to Roosevelt.



# Robert Thompson

## *Safety and Security Coordinator*

I was raised in Nogales, Arizona and I'm the dad of two kids. I served the City of Nogales for over 26 years in various roles, such as a 911 operator, police officer, detective/corporal, sergeant and lieutenant. From 2019 to 2021, I intermittently served as deputy city manager and city manager while still holding the rank of lieutenant with the police department. During the pandemic timeframe, I worked with Mariposa Community Health Center and the Santa Cruz County Government to put city resources to work by establishing the vaccination center where the majority of the public received their COVID-19 vaccinations. Eventually I retired from the police department and stayed on as housing director for an additional 2 years with the city.



During all this time, I oversaw many community events, worked with civic community groups, and eventually housed "Centro Comunitario los Nogales" at the Housing Authority Gymnasium/ Multi-purpose room and the "Center for Restorative Youth and Community Center," at the multi-purpose room also within the Housing Authority. I am proud to say that both centers are still operational and offering resources to our community.

My 26 years of community work taught me that there is no such thing as a barrier. There are only limitations that we perceive and must learn to overcome. It is up to us to help anyone in need.

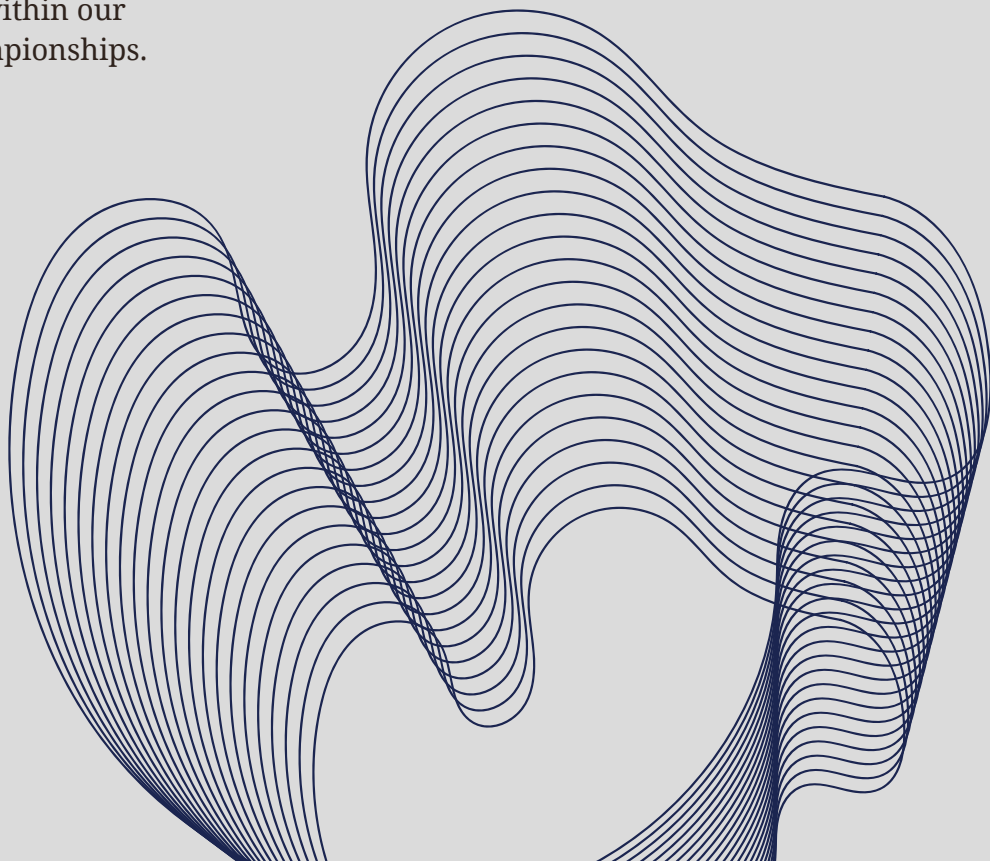
I look forward to applying my knowledge within the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35 by ensuring that we stay informed of evolving school safety protocols and/or trends by modifying the district's approach, response and recovery from anything that could affect the overall safety of staff and students.



# Angel Vidal

*Assistant Principal/Athletic Director  
Rio Rico High School*

“I am in my 30th year in education. I have worked as a middle school and high school history teacher, and for the past 5 years as an administrator. I have worked for Tucson Unified School District and the Douglas Unified School District. I am in my third year as an athletic director for the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35 and really enjoy seeing the athletes mature into strong young ladies and gentlemen. I look forward to seeing Rio Rico become a contender in all of the sports within our region and also at the state championships. GO HAWKS!!!!”





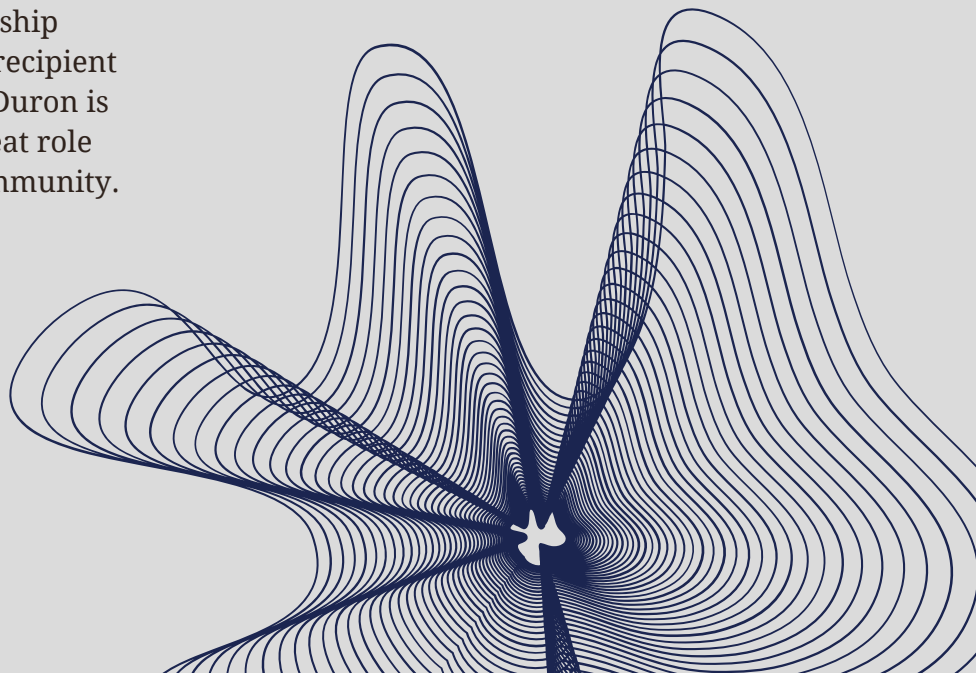
# Omar Duron

*Superintendent*

*Somerton School District No. 11*



Mr. Omar Duron, is the new Somerton Elementary School District Superintendent. Mr. Duron was raised in nearby San Luis, Arizona. His previous education experience was in Gadsden Elementary School District as a teacher, principal, and recently as assistant superintendent. He is the first Latino Somerton Elementary School District Superintendent. Somerton is comprised of seven schools and an adult education program. Mr. Duron was the AZALAS-Valley Schools Management Group Scholarship recipient in 2023. In 2019, he was a recipient of the Milken Educator Award. Mr. Duron is a proud superintendent who is a great role model for his students, staff and community.



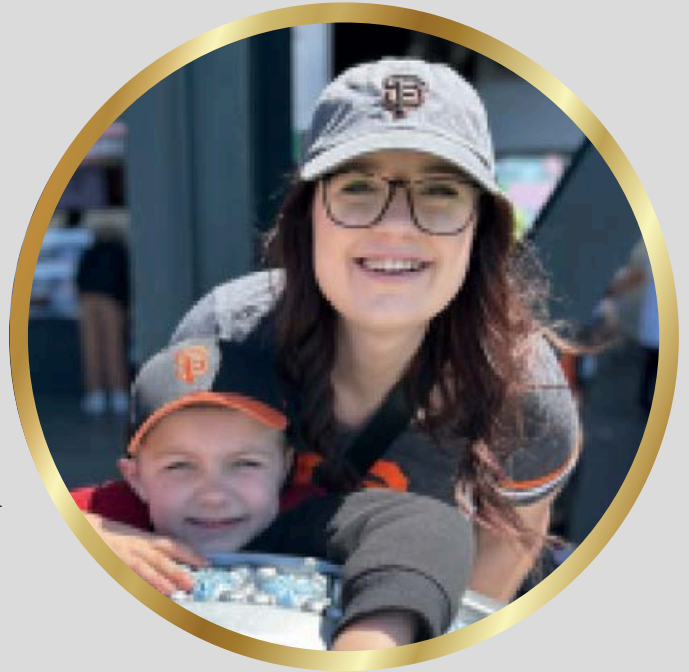


# Tolleson Elementary School District

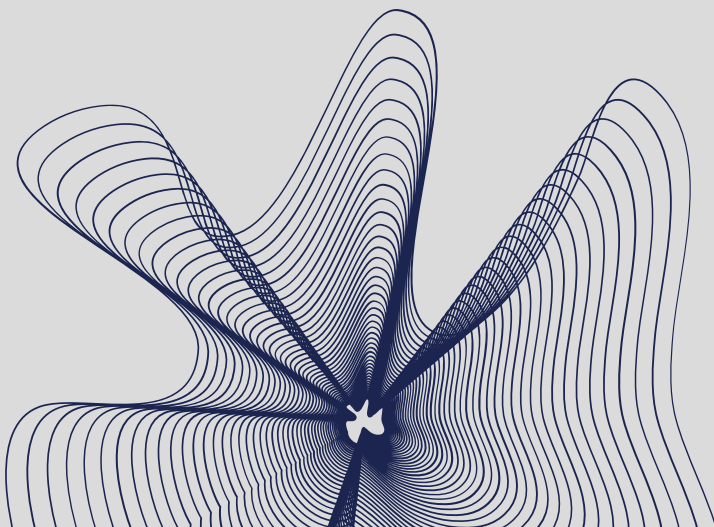
## Ms. Aleksandra West-Taylor

*Assistant Principal  
Tolleson Elementary School District*

Ms. Aleksandra West-Taylor has been a dedicated member of the Tolleson community for the past nine years. Since joining Desert Oasis Elementary School in December 2015, she has served in various roles, including classroom teacher, 21st Century instructor, and ELA instructional coach. Now, as the assistant principal, Ms. West-Taylor is excited to continue her commitment to the school's students, staff, and families.



This past year, Ms. West-Taylor was part of the AZALAS Aspiring Leaders cohort, further enhancing her leadership skills and dedication to educational excellence. Her leadership is driven by a passion for education and a deep desire to help all students reach their greatest potential and make a positive impact on the world. Throughout her time in Tolleson, Ms. West-Taylor has been shaped by the support and mentorship of many outstanding educators and leaders. As assistant principal, her goals are to build strong relationships with students and families, create a positive and safe learning environment, and work collaboratively towards the school's overall success. She is eager to see the growth and achievements of the Desert Oasis community in the coming year.







# Tucson Unified School District #1

## Dr. Rosalinda Rodriguez

*Director of Multicultural Curriculum  
Tucson Unified School District #1*



Dr. Rodriguez is the current Director of Multicultural Curriculum, at Tucson Unified School District #1. She earned her doctorate degree in 2022 from the University of Phoenix. Her dissertation titled, *The Role Of Emotional Intelligence Training in Educational Leadership: A Correlational Analysis*, focused on the impact that leaders who possess emotional intelligence have in their campus culture. Her publications include a couple of books she recently co-authored, *Latina Radiance: Love Letters to the Soul*, and *Latinx Radiance: Leadership Recipes for Success*.

Dr. Rodriguez begun her education trajectory when she arrived in the United States in 1998 from San Luis, Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico. She was 21 years old, had the equivalent to a high school diploma from Mexico and spoke only Spanish. While married, raising two children and working full time, she earned her Bachelor's degree in education in 2006 from the University of Arizona; a Master's degree in curriculum and instruction in 2008, an Education Specialist degree in leadership and administration in 2014. This year she is celebrating her 24th year in public education, entering her 8th year as an administrator.

She was named AZALAS Outstanding Administrator of the year in 2021, for her dedication in supporting students reach their full potential. During her principalship, she was also named Outstanding Principal of the Year in 2024, by the Arizona School Administrators for her dedication to professional growth and community service that has made a significant impact in the school's success and reputation. In addition, she has served in the AZALAS conference planning committee since 2021. Dr. Rodriguez presented her research at the AZALAS conference, most recently she presented a webinar for Voices of ALAS, and she is honored to be a graduate of the 4 Corners Latinx Leadership Academy 23-24 cohort. Her motivation was to show her children that reaching their dreams was up to them. It is with the same passion that she continues to work daily to ensure that as many students as possible, receive the same message. All students can learn, si se puede!



# OCTOBER *Mixer*

**Friday, October 18, 2024**

**5-7 PM**

**Desert Diamond Casino**  
7350 S. Nogales Highway  
Tucson, AZ 85756

## *Join us*

at our October Mixer for networking, refreshments with friends, new members and business partners. Sign in at the registration table for complimentary refreshment tickets. Cash bar will also be available.

Please RSVP to [rsvp.azalas@gmail.com](mailto:rsvp.azalas@gmail.com) by Tuesday, October 15.

## **Win tickets to SHAKIRA!**

A drawing will be held for 2 tickets to the Shakira concert at Footprint Center, Thursday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m. Join other AZALAS members and enjoy the event from a suite! Tickets sponsored by Southwest Food Service Excellence.

## *Thank You Sponsors*

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Valley Schools Management Group

### **Encore Sponsors**

Southwest Food Service Excellence  
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### **Emerald Sponsor**

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### **Special thanks to the October Diamond Sponsors**

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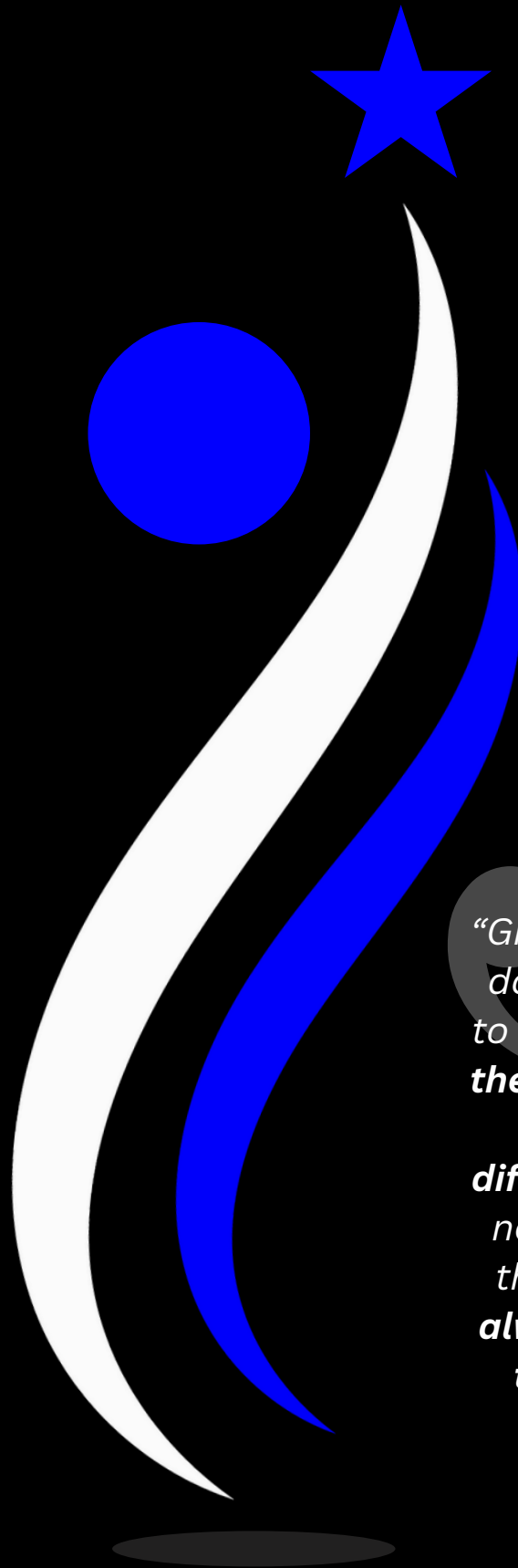
Dr. Mario Ventura  
Board President

Dr. Marvene Lobato  
Executive Director



1988

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*“Great leaders  
don't set out  
to be a leader,  
**they set out to  
make a  
difference.** It's  
never about  
the role, **it's  
always about  
the goal.”***

Make it a great day!

*Tracy Harris*