



Dr. Velia Rincon

Dr. Velia Rincon is a first generation Chicana raised in the Chicano Movement. Her parents were born in Chihuahua, Mexico and began their life in the United States from humble beginnings as fieldworkers. In 2000, she completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology | Criminology at Colorado State University Pueblo. Velia was accepted into the Human Development and Psychology Program with a concentration on Risk and Prevention and graduated with a Master of Education degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Home is Pueblo. Colorado where she has been a teacher, administrator, and co-founder of charter schools in Colorado and Wyoming that have a unique emphasis on Latinx language, history, and culture. She serves on the Packard Fund for Pueblo, Centennial Fund, and Pueblo Community College Advisory boards as well as the Wisdom Circle for El Movimiento Sique. Velia has also taught Chicano Studies at Pueblo Community College for more than 10 years. In 2016, she completed a doctorate program in Educational Leadership with the University of Phoenix as only .2% of Chicanos throughout the US that earn the title of doctor each year. Velia and her husband, Julian, have three children (Andres, Maya, and J.J.). As a Director with Servicios de La Raza she continues to work for the people, by the people.



Victoria Ruiz

Victoria Ruiz is a first-generation Mexican American and proud daughter of a migrant farm working family. Ruiz currently serves as the Assistant Director of Inclusion and Global Initiatives in Colorado State University Pueblo's Center for Student Support and Advocacy. Her heart belongs in DEI work and in the role of culturally authentic practices in cultivating positive learning and working environments that embrace stories, families, and chisme as valid knowledge. Her greatest joy on campus is serving as the co-advisor of the Latinx Student Union where she helps to guide and mentor the next generation of leaders. Ruiz is a CSU Pueblo alumnus and graduated with her BA in Mass Communication with an emphasis in journalism and minors in creative writing and Chicano Studies. In May, she will graduate with her MA in Higher Education Administration and Leadership from Adams State University..



Monique Marez

Monique Marez is a food systems practitioner with experience at every scale of the sector, from grassroots community organizing, to international trade policy. Her consulting practice, Eptimizo LLC provides strategic services to food and agriculture businesses, governments, and non-profits in an effort to build a more resilient and just food system. She was raised in Pueblo, and has worked in nearly 40 countries around the world. Monique holds degrees from Yale University and New York University. She received her permaculture design certification from the Central Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute, and farm certification from the Farm School.



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