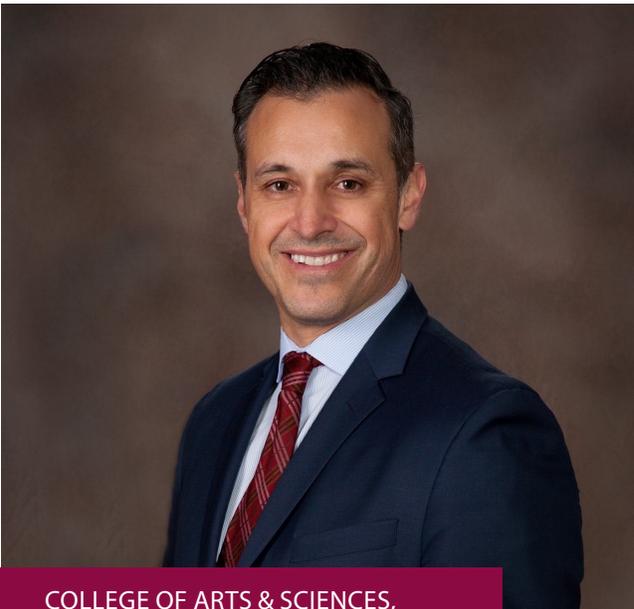




VIRTUAL HOMECOMING 2020

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### Jesse Guardiola, '95



COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES,  
SCIENCES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

*"My involvement is due to my love for the University and a desire to provide opportunities for its alumni."*

*C.S. Lewis said, "You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." This is what I teach my students – it is true that where you come from shapes you but it does not limit where you can go".*

~ Jesse Guardiola

Jesse was born to immigrant parents and was the first in his entire extended family to graduate middle school, high school, and earn two science degrees. His upbringing in New Mexico and a deep understanding of the lives of immigrants and first-generation Hispanic Americans naturally drew him to NMSU and prepared him for a successful career in law enforcement outreach.

Jesse holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from NMSU and a Master of Science from Oklahoma State University.

He is a Senior Officer with the Tulsa Police Department with 24 years of experience and holds three concurrent roles within the Department: Hispanic Outreach Director, Minority Workforce Recruiter and Academy Diversity Inclusion Instructor.

Jesse has been recognized and honored with nearly 20 different service, impact and achievement awards over the years, locally, statewide and nationally. In 2019, Officer Guardiola received one of the highest honors for sworn officers - the National Distinguished Service in Policing Award, chosen and present by William P. Barr, the U.S. Attorney General. His Hispanic Outreach Program also received national recognition by The Vera Institute of Justice. For his extensive research in diversity and inclusion and tireless efforts in building bridges between police, immigrants, and 1st generation Hispanic American children, he was asked to speak on his outreach program in Caux, Switzerland at Initiatives for Change-Just Governance for Human Security.

In time and treasure, Jesse continues to give back to his alma mater. He has worked closely with NMSU career services and the Dean of Criminal Justice, Dennis Giever, to develop and design the right approach to engage students in the industry. He has successfully recruited approximately 50 NMSU graduate students to the Tulsa Police Department, producing a diverse group of bilingual and bicultural officers. He serves actively on a dozen boards, committees, commissions and councils for service, criminal justice, Hispanic programs and public schools and is the Diversity and Minority Recruitment chair of the Tulsa Rotary Club.

Jesse is married to his best friend, Sarah Guardiola, and they have two young children, William (Liam) and Mia Grace. Jesse has led the way for those around him and precedes many family members who are now also NMSU graduates.