



VIRTUAL HOMECOMING 2020

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Dr. Mariela Rodríguez, '03



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

“Make connections with faculty, staff, and students. Join organizations that support projects that you’re passionate about. Get involved in initiatives that support the Las Cruces community. These extracurricular activities will enhance your academic experiences at NMSU. All of this will help shape your professional path after graduation from NMSU.”

~ Dr. Mariela Rodríguez

Mariela’s professional accomplishments show her tenacity and dedication to improving the educational experiences of students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The doctoral students that she has supervised in turn have a direct impact on the lives of the children in their schools. Thus, the reach is wide and the impact huge.

She earned her Ph.D. from NMSU in Educational Administration on a W. K. Kellogg Fellowship through the Hispanic Border Leadership Institute. During her years at NMSU, Mariela was a Teaching Assistant and Instructor in the Department of Educational Administration.

Currently she is the Interim Department Chair and Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at The University of Texas at San Antonio, where she was the Associate Dean of the Graduate School prior. Over the past 15 years, Mariela has chaired/co-chaired 41 doctoral graduate student dissertations, and the majority of those students were either women or part of an under-represented group. At UTSA, Mariela has led the Tenure and Promotion committee two years in a row and has participated in several faculty searches within the college as the Diversity, Access and Equity Advocate. She has also served as President of the University Council for Educational Administration and Chair of the Hispanic Research Issues Special Interest Group within the American Educational Research Association.

Dr. Rodríguez has published her research in nearly 20 journal articles, 10 book chapters and 4 co-edited books, and has presented her research at numerous national and international research conferences. She has earned recognition for her research and mentoring activities including the “Professional Pairing of the Year” Mentorship Award alongside her mentee from the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Ed; the Distinguished University Faculty Award; and Best Paper Award from the American Educational Research Association.

A great steward of NMSU, Mariela continues to support the College of Education through charitable gifts and involvement. She collaborates on research initiatives and publications and serves as an external reviewer for Tenure & Promotion dossiers within the Department of Educational Administration.

Mariela’s husband, Edwin Carrasquillo, Ph.D. shares her devotion and passion for promoting education and research.