

## SPCSA Application

**First Name:** Cindi

**Last Name:** Rivera

**Reason to Serve:** As an SPCSA board member I know I will be part of a board whose efforts to continue to improve Nevada's education system will put our students and community first. Las Vegas, NV has been home for 23 years. I have seen the Nevada Educational Landscape change, especially in the Las Vegas Valley, but I'm well aware of the continued disparities that exist in education throughout Nevada and our nation. Not just because I'm an Educator, but because I experienced them first-hand. As a child of immigrants, I had to navigate two worlds, one where I spoke Spanish and celebrated our Salvadorean culture and the other where I spoke English and assimilated into American Society. Being raised by a single mother who worked 12-hour days, 7 days a week also meant that her non-traditional work schedule led to the inability to access educational resources available during traditional hours of operations for places such as libraries and community centers. For me, it was luck that led to a handful of dedicated teachers and counselors to notice my perseverance and potential. They then provided me with the much-needed guidance to successfully navigate the maze to pursue higher education.

I believe that luck should not play a role in the level of education that students receive. It is imperative that we provide all our students with access to their right to educational equity regardless of their circumstances. For me being able to beat the odds and obtain college degrees as a first generation American, gave me the ability to start and manage my own business with my sister in Las Vegas, NV. We built it into a successful enterprise that counseled and helped youth and adults with disabilities successfully enter the workforce and/or higher education in order for them to reach their goals to become self-reliant and contributing members to their community.

With the paying-it-forward mindset always at the forefront of my trajectory, I began to volunteer and provide pro-bono educational planning services to local vocational schools and community organizations as well as developing workforce readiness workshops, teaching financial literacy, marketing and entrepreneurship. The Las Vegas educational realm attracted me like a magnet and I became a Teacher through Teach for America (TFA). I was placed in schools where students were disproportionately below grade level when compared to their more affluent counterparts and where resources to provide the adequate support were inadequate or non-existent, which was very similar to the schools I had attended growing up. Like I have always done I stepped up to the plate, delved into my Master's Program and TFA's support and soaked in best practices, instructional coaching and data collection and implementation and provided my students the necessary educational access they needed to succeed. My experience as a Teacher and Counselor has given me the ability to have a direct positive educational impact on students, families and the community at large.

I am a Founding Member and current Associate Executive Director of Futuro Academy Charter School in Las Vegas, NV. As a founding member I understand the need for schools in Nevada that offer high quality rigorous academic instruction, enrichment programs, dedicated team members that represent the community we serve, and that provide family engagement and

community outreach. For these schools will ensure that our students will be provided their fundamental right to a high-quality education that will prepare them to successfully compete with their counterparts throughout Nevada and beyond.

I am also a Board Member for Leaders In Training, a non-profit organization in Las Vegas, NV, that empowers first-generation college graduates to be the next generation of leaders who end systemic and structural inequities. Serving on the Leaders In Training board has brought me full circle, from once being a first-generation college graduate myself to now supporting an organization that is making sure that first generation college bound students become the leaders of the future.

For me, Serving as an SPCSA Board Member will provide the continued opportunity to ensure that our students, families and communities have qualified representation.

**Qualifications:** Attached Resume

**Summary of Experience, education, achievements:** Attached Resume

**County of Residence:** Clark

**Highest Level of Education Completed:** Master's Degree

**Current Employer:** Futuro Academy Charter School

**Job Title:** Associate Executive Director/Vice Principal

**Served on other Board, Commission, etc.:** NO

**Registered to Vote:** YES

**Registered Lobbyist:** NO

**Gender Identity:** Female

**Identify as Hispanic and/or Latino/a:** Yes

**Ethnic Identity:**

**Languages:** Spanish

**Veteran Status:** N/A

**Disability Status:** N/A

# Cindi Rivera

## OBJECTIVE

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To secure a board member position where I can utilize my business administration, teaching and counseling expertise to support the board's efforts to continue to improve Nevada's education system

## EMPLOYMENT QUALIFICATIONS

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04/2017-Present      Futuro Academy Charter School      Las Vegas, NV

### **Associate Executive Director/Founding Member**

- Manage compliance & LEA level responsibility over Special Education & English Language Learner programs
- Support enrollment campaign for students, including engagement in local marketing initiatives, demographic analysis, coordination with local/regional communications specialists
- Respond to & resolve routine internal & external inquiries with parents, employees & school organizations regarding school operations, family & community engagement
- Responsible for site level budget monitoring & management in operational areas with input into budget development
- Manage transportation, food services, facilities maintenance, security & other third party service contracts, ensuring ongoing monitoring & implementation of contracts
- Manage all aspects of National School Lunch Program
- Support & coordinate with the grant process for all federal, state, & local grant applications
- Oversee, in coordination with the Executive Director, year-end audits & site audits from state or federal agencies
- Manage day-to-day activities of designated staff
- Cooperate & coordinate with Executive Director to implement school policies & procedures
- Oversee, Hire, Train, Terminate instructional and non-instructional staff
- Maintain personnel files for all employees
- Lead organizational orientation for new hires
- Lead annual performance reviews for assigned staff

09/1999-Present      Rivera Enterprises, Inc.      Las Vegas, NV

### **Owner/Vocational Rehabilitation Manager**

- Completing personal & business marketing plans
- Performing day to day business administration
- Implementing company policies & procedures
- Interviewing, Hiring, Training and Firing Personnel
- Completing New Hire Orientations, Maintaining Personnel Files
- Implementing, Monitoring and Managing Monthly, Quarterly and Yearly Budgets
- Managing and Preparing Invoices, Payroll and Accounts Receivable and Payable
- Completing Employee Evaluations and Determining Position Advancements
- Procuring appropriate funding from local, state and federal sources for students services
- Counseling providing education, business planning & return to work services to youth and adults that are transitioning, disabled, displaced, and/or new to higher education/workforce
- Developing school and workplace solutions to promote opportunities for all students and employees based on their ability regardless of disability
- Statewide involvement with businesses and schools to assist people with disabilities with successfully obtaining and retaining employment and/or participating in training programs
- Administering & evaluating educational skills and interest exams and assessments
- Preparing training programs, self-employment proposals, marketing & business plans
- Complying with Workers Compensation Laws, Americans with Disability Act, Equal Employment Opportunity Laws & NRS/NAC

# Cindi Rivera

11/2014-07/2015 Ruben P. Diaz Elementary School Las Vegas, NV

## **Pre-Kindergarten Teacher**

- Administering appropriate district curriculum aligned with Nevada State Standards
- Ensuring the opportunity for all students to learn in a supportive environment
- Developing and implementing Effective Lessons for instruction
- Analyzing student progress and providing appropriate instruction
- Providing a classroom management and discipline plan ensuring safety at all times
- Ensuring assessment regulations and guidelines are followed at all times
- Developing a classroom climate that promotes positive learning conditions
- Working professionally with administrators, staff, parents, and community
- Integrating technology into the instructional program
- Implementing Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for students
- Implementing district adopted reporting system for Early Childhood outcomes
- Developing and Implementing Family Engagement Workshops

11/2013-10/2014 Ollie Detwiler Elementary School Las Vegas, NV

## **Pre-Kindergarten Teacher & Teacher Mentor**

- Providing knowledge, skill, and ability to implement specially designed instruction
- Working cooperatively with students, parents, peers, administration and the community
- Guiding the learning process toward achievement of curriculum goals
- Establishing and communicating clear objectives for all lessons, units, and projects
- Maintaining accurate and complete records as required by law and district policy
- Collaborating with staff on the development of present levels, goals, and benchmarks
- Implementing IEP's and attending IEP meetings
- Maintaining and improving professional competence and mentoring first year teachers

## **EDUCATION, CERTIFICATIONS, LICENSES**

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University of Arkansas, Little Rock

**Masters of Counseling, Emphasis-Rehabilitation Services**

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**Masters of Education, Early Childhood Education**

State of Nevada Department of Education

**License for Educational Personnel/Endorsements:**

**Early Childhood, English Language Acquisition and Development,**

**Business Administration, Marketing**

Community College of Southern Nevada

**Certificate: English/Spanish Legal, Law Enforcement & Medical Interpreter**

Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators

**National Employment Services Certification**

Certification of Disability Management Specialists Commission

**Certified Disability Management Specialist (CDMS)**

University of California, Santa Barbara

**Bachelor of Arts Degree**

**Law & Society**

**Bachelor of Arts Degree**

**Spanish**

## **LANGUAGES**

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Spanish Written and Spoken (Fluent)

## **REFERENCES**

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Available Upon Request