

MARIA SOSTRE

COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EVENT MANAGER, M.S.ED



MARIA SOSTRE, AN IMMIGRANT FROM A ZACATECAS, MEXICO HAS BEEN A DEDICATED RESIDENT OF WAUKEGAN SINCE THE AGE OF 6, EMBARKED ON AN EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY THAT NOT ONLY SHAPED HER OWN LIFE BUT ALSO IGNITED A PASSION FOR FOSTERING POSITIVE CHANGE IN HER COMMUNITY. FROM HER EARLY DAYS AT NORTH ELEMENTARY TO ABBOTT MIDDLE SCHOOL AND WAUKEGAN HIGH SCHOOL, MARIA'S TEACHERS SERVED AS INVALUABLE MENTORS, GUIDING HER THROUGH CHALLENGES AND INSPIRING HER FUTURE IN EDUCATION. FUELED BY THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF HER MENTORS, MARIA PURSUED HIGHER EDUCATION AT ST. NORBERT COLLEGE, WHERE SHE MAJORED IN SOCIOLOGY. HER COMMITMENT TO UPLIFTING OTHERS CONTINUED THROUGH HER INVOLVEMENT IN COLLEGE, WHERE SHE SERVED AS A MENTOR FOR FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM. GRADUATING IN 2013, MARIA TRANSITIONED SEAMLESSLY INTO THE REALM OF HIGHER EDUCATION, JOINING THE COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY. OVER THE YEARS, SHE HAS PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN ADVOCATING FOR COLLEGE READINESS AND DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS, PASSIONATELY SPREADING AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY. AS A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE GRADUATE, MARIA'S CONNECTION TO HER ROOTS REMAINS STRONG. ARMED WITH A MASTERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION FROM NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S ENLACE PROGRAM, SHE CURRENTLY SERVES AS THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EVENTS MANAGER AT CLC'S LAKESHORE CAMPUS, CONTINUING TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY SHE PROUDLY CALLS HOME.