

# Hispanic Heritage Month



## Spotlight on Michelle Genao (Admissions)



I was born and raised in Hoboken, New Jersey, a city rich in culture and diversity. Growing up, I was exposed to many different cultures, and it gave me a deep sense of pride in my own upbringing. This sense of connection to various communities shaped who I am today and helped me value the importance of embracing diversity.

My parents were born and raised in Santiago, Dominican Republic, where they still live today. Every summer, I returned to Santiago, where I was fully immersed in the vibrant culture, music, food, and the warmth of family. These summers became a crucial part of my life, giving me a deep connection to my Dominican roots.

Family is everything to me, and I have been blessed with three beautiful children. Watching them grow, learn, and play sports fills my heart with joy. When I'm not cheering them on, I love to read, dance, and spend quality time with loved ones. Whether it's a quiet moment with a book or an evening filled with music and laughter, I cherish the connections that bind us.

Professionally, I spent nine years as a teacher in the Rochester City School District (RCSD). Teaching was a fulfilling experience, and I deeply valued my time with my students. However, I eventually transitioned into a new role as a Property Manager. Though I enjoyed the change, I missed the joy of working with students. That's why, when a position opened up at Monroe Community College (MCC), it felt like the perfect opportunity to return to my passion for education.

I am an alumna of MCC and hold a B.A. in Mathematics from Nazareth University. Being back at MCC as an employee feels like a full-circle moment, as I get to contribute to the institution that shaped part of my educational journey.

I've been at MCC for two and a half years now, and every day brings new challenges and rewards. What some may not know about me is how much pride I take in the work I do—whether it's helping students, supporting my family, or staying connected to my cultural roots. My journey, though varied, has always been rooted in love, learning, and a deep connection to those around me.