

Hispanic Heritage Month



My name is Dr. Rachel Santiago, and I have been teaching at MCC for 13 years now. I spent 5 years as an adjunct and 8 years as a full-time faculty member. Throughout my years as an adjunct, I hustled to make ends meet, working sometimes 4 jobs simultaneously. I private tutored, helped many people receiving government assistance and young men on probation earn their GEDs, and tutored for services in the Rochester area all while teaching as an adjunct at MCC. When I earned my position as full-time instructor, it was one of the most stress relieving experiences as it allowed for greater financial freedom for myself.

I was born and raised in the inner city of Rochester, NY in a Puerto Rican household, where many of my formative years were spent at my grandparents' house off of Conkey Avenue. Realizing that education was my ticket to personal liberation, I earned a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Applied Mathematics from RIT, as well as a Doctorate in Executive Leadership from SJFC. I continue to strive for greater achievements which has inspired me to start my own education consulting business: Rachel Santiago Education Consulting (RSEC), and to start a podcast called Sabor y Luz. When COVID shut down campus, I was motivated to create my own YouTube channel, Nerd Talk with Dr. Santi, where I continue to post my lecture videos for students to watch whenever they need.

I am incredibly passionate about helping students overcome their greatest fears in their educational journey: taking Mathematics! I am fueled to show my students their innate ability to do math and to validate their lived experiences through our collaboration. My students and I tend to come from similar backgrounds, so it becomes a responsibility on my part to show them they can achieve their goals. I treat the educational journey as a collaborative process, and therefore I prove that I am the best coach, accountability partner, and supporter for my students. I love what I do, and it shows!