

Hispanic Heritage Month



I consider myself a Latina because both of my parents are from Puerto Rico. My mother is from Aguada and my father is from Arecibo. They met in New York City and that is where I was born.

My family moved to Aguada, Puerto Rico when I was seven years old. Growing up in Puerto Rico near my grandparents' farm provided me with opportunities to learn about the coffee production, the medicinal herbs, and the basics of agriculture. Looking back, we were living in a sustainable household, where most of the food was from the farm and

everything was reused and recycled.

I went to college at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez campus, and graduated with a bachelor's in Art History and Education. After I graduated, I started teaching at a two-year college in Mayagüez. I really enjoyed the experience of working with adult students.

I moved to Rochester to work as a Bilingual Social Studies teacher at East High School at the Rochester City School District. During that time, I completed my master's degree at SUNY Brockport in Educational Administration.

I always missed working with adult students, and when I saw the job opening at MCC, I applied and started teaching Art History and Spanish as an adjunct. After a semester, I obtained a full-time position as a Professor of Spanish language and culture. I have been at MCC for 16 years and last year I was the recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's award for Excellence in Teaching.

It is here in Rochester where I started feeling very passionate about the Latino culture, the music, the food, the arts, and mainly our people. Something which let me to volunteering as a board member at non-profit organizations and that advocate, empower, and support the Latino community.

As a bilingual editor at the publication Rochester La Voz (<http://rochesterlavo.com/>), I feel the responsibility to keep the Latino community informed of the issues that affect us and also the ones that make us a great community in Rochester from a Latino/Hispanic/Latinx/Latine perspective.