

Hispanic Heritage Month



My name is Antonia (Toni) Custodio. I come from a very large family. My maternal grandparents had a total of 20 children. My mother is the youngest of nine girls and eleven boys. My paternal grandparents had three sons and one girl. My family lineage is Spaniard, Portugal, Taino, and Puerto Rican. I was born in Utuado, Puerto Rico in the central mountainous region of the Island known as La Cordillera Central. My parents returned to the states where I was raised in the Southern tier of New Jersey. I have a younger brother and an adopted sister.

My Latin routes take me back remembering many of the family traditions especially during the Christmas holiday. Many Latin communities celebrated the holidays with Parrandas. Our house would be filled with 30-40 people at night into the morning singing, caroling, and laughing. The huge pots of soups would be brewing to feed all the guest before they went on to the next house in the neighborhood. The partying would go on for days. There were many traditions but that one stood out as one of my most memorable.

We were raised by a single mom in my teen years but still had an amazing relationship with our amazing humble hands-on dad. Both my parents taught me the value of faith, hard work, humbleness, perseverance, and patience. It is because of those values that I am the woman I am today.

In 1990 I moved to Rochester where the next chapter of my life began. I was blessed with having two amazing boys now 30 and 18 years of age. I started my MCC career in 1992 at the Damon City Campus as a receptionist. I held several positions as a secretary, coordinator, associate director and now Director of Facilities Downtown Campus Operations and Engineering Services. Throughout my tenure at MCC I have grown professionally and personally serving on many external and internal searches, committees, Senate, SCAA, AAWCC, and LEN to name a few. I was a first-generation student in my family. I graduated from MCC in 1999 with a Liberal Arts Degree with a concentration in Business, then after a long hiatus in my late thirties, I went back and obtained my Bachelors in Organization Management and a Masters in Strategic Leadership from Roberts Wesleyan College.

After many years of living in Rochester I am still a Jersey girl at heart. I absolutely love my family time and I love my time alone to reflect and have a connection with God. I love the ocean and sun as both bring me peace and tranquility. I love cooking, landscaping, painting, coloring, walking, entertaining, spending time with my circle of friends whom I have had in my life for over 20 years. I strongly believe that we are made stronger by the positive influences we surround ourselves with each day. My journey continues to evolve and I look forward to seeing what lies ahead.