

Carla Mestas, MA

Short BIO

Carla Mestas is the Founder & Executive Director of CIRCLE Organization. CIRCLE stands for Connecting Inclusive Responsive Communities Leading Education. CIRCLE Organization runs the youth leadership program which was started by Carla known as “Students Taking Action & Making Progress” ~ STAMP program in Denver and beyond.

Carla has worked in social justice, diversity, equity, inclusiveness and belonging for over 25 years (before it was referred to as DEIB) in numerous capacities as a consultant, public speaker, facilitator, trainer, writer and community leader.

Carla believes that we are all connected to one another and this earth. She holds true that every person regardless of their background (race, ethnicity, ability, gender/sexual orientation, socio economic) deserves to be seen, heard and included!

Carla is a well-known leader, consultant, coach/peer mentor who has worked extensively in diverse communities on the national, state and local levels. She believes in meeting individuals, groups, organizations and communities where they are through a head, heart and hands approach. This is influenced by her racial and ethnic background of Indigenous/Native American and Latina heritage through the teachings of the importance of a balance of mind, body, spirit and heart.

Carla is currently a 2023-2025 Livingston Fellow with Bonfils Stanton Foundation. She is also the recipient of the Community Rosa Parks Award. She is a graduate of The Denver Foundation’s Executive Directors of Color Institute, a two-year leadership cohort. She was also part of the Visiones Leadership Program through the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Of all her accomplishments, being the mother to three incredible children who continue to make a difference in this world, is her greatest achievement she is the most proud of.