

## MILAGROS M. BARSALLO RUBIO

### EDUCATION

**University of Colorado- Denver**, Denver, CO August 2011  
Masters: Urban Pedagogy and Leadership, Curriculum & Instruction,  
Concentration: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education

**Cornell University, College of Arts and Sciences**, Ithaca, NY May 2009  
Major: Government Concentration: International Relations

**Libera Università Maria Ss. Assunta, Facoltà di Giurisprudenza**, Rome, Italy January- June 2008  
Studies: Law, Political Science, International Relations

### HONORS/ AWARDS

- Named to the 2016 Forbes 30 Under 30 in Education
- Named to the 2016 International Literacy Association's Global 30 Under 30
- National Dean's List 2005, 2007, Cornell University Clarice Miller Scott Scholarship 2005-2009

### WORK EXPERIENCE

**Director of Public Engagement, Mayor's Office** July 2023- Present  
City and County of Denver, Denver, CO

- Appointed to support Mayor Mike Johnston in the launch and implementation of the House 1000 initiative to connect 1000 unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in Denver to shelter and housing resources, guiding the public engagement effort of the initiative through cross-functional collaboration with Mayor's Office teams and teams across agencies within the City and County of Denver to:
  - Working with the Mayor's Service Providers Working Group to advise and provide feedback on the project
  - Work collaboratively with various agencies to ensure the public is aware of the zoning process for potential new sites for the project, and providing opportunities for community to engage in discussions with city leaders about the project including community meetings.
  - Collaborate with local organizations, community leaders, and residents to increase understanding of the project.
  - Support for public engagement team in work with faith leaders and business leaders working to build support and understanding of the project.

**Founder, Pa'lante Ventures Inc.** November 2019- Present  
Pa'lante Ventures Inc., Denver, CO

- Provide consulting services offering coaching and support for startup founders and organizational leaders through different aspects of startup work and organizational development and transitions. Clients include:
  - **Colorado Department of Education, Office of Adult Education Initiatives (AEI)** March 2020- Present
    - Developing a communications plan and execution strategy for AEI through a communications transition to support them in communicating to stakeholders and partners the evolution of their work in the education field, and the importance of their role in Colorado's education landscape.
  - **Together We Count (TWC)** November 2019- April 2020
    - Provided startup support for TWC, a new nonprofit organization working to increase Census participation in Colorado, especially among immigrant, refugee, and Census Bureau "hard-to-count" populations on program and strategy development for TWC Latinx Community Spanish language outreach and engagement in the 2020 Census.
  - **NeighborWorks** November 2019- March 2020
    - Formed part of a group of consultants that came together to re-envision the new Building Leaders,

Building Community community organizing curriculum for NeighborWorks housing communities across the country, and designed one unit of the curriculum.

### **Independent Consultant**

November 2018- October 2019

The Denver Foundation, Denver, CO

- Provide technical assistance via individual coaching and support for grantees of the Colorado Education Organizing funder's table working in education and community organizing around community organizing modeling, planning, and strategy. Advise start-up strategy by supporting fundraising, organizational development and planning, operations, program support, and organizational leadership development for majority of grantees who are new venture leaders.

### **Advisor & Coach, Organizing & New Ventures, Leadership for Educational Equity (LEE)**

April 2018- October 2018

Leadership for Educational Equity, Denver, CO

- Provided individual coaching and support in community organizing modeling, planning, and strategy; building social capital as a new entrepreneur, and for entrepreneurs of color, start-up support, support on fundraising, operations, organizational leadership and governance for social entrepreneurs founding and leading new nonprofit social ventures working in education, community organizing, and immigration.

### **Co-Founder and Co-CEO, RISE Colorado**

May 2012- July 2016

RISE Colorado, Aurora, CO

- RISE Colorado is a nonprofit organization with the mission to educate, engage, and empower low-income families and families of color to RISE as change agents for educational equity in the public school system.
- Led Development and Communications work for RISE Colorado:
  - Developed and stewarded relationships to invest early stakeholders and supporters in RISE's mission and vision and leveraged key relationships to garner financial support from local and national funders in order to grow and support RISE Colorado.
  - Led the organization to fundraise over \$1.2 million, with over \$600,000 in projected funding in the pipeline at the time of my departure. Created and left the organization with a detailed development plan that included the growth of an individual donor program and over 70 new prospects for funding at the national level.
  - Recruited, developed, and managed RISE Colorado's board of directors and advisory council
  - Led and successfully completed RISE Colorado's fiscal sponsorship and 501(c)3 incorporation processes.
  - Developed and implemented RISE Colorado's communications and social media strategies, and media relationships to engage families and outside stakeholders and build RISE Colorado's name recognition and reputation and share the impact of our work in the Aurora community.
- Co-led RISE Colorado's organizing work
  - Co-created RISE Colorado's original organizing model, collaborated to set organizing strategy, and co-created and co-led all member trainings and curriculum. Translated all Spanish organizing materials and created original materials in Spanish as needed for families.
  - Focused on engaging, recruiting, and training RISE Latinx leaders and members, primarily Spanish-speakers, from RISE Colorado's first three partner school communities.
  - Supported RISE families to successfully execute their first organizing campaigns in the 2015-2016 school year that included policy changes for ECE students at both the school and district levels.
- Successfully co-led the organization from ideation to independent operational nonprofit status in a competitive field, overseeing aspects of operational functions including:
  - Invested early stakeholders and maintained their continuous support in an advisory capacity
  - Built and maintained relationships and community support with grassroots and grassroots leaders
  - Co-created RISE Colorado's strategic plan and tracking mechanisms, and was responsible for sharing impact with stakeholders
  - Oversaw RISE Colorado's budget creation, annual updates, establishment of all Financial Oversight and Transparency Policies, and served as the primary point of contact for all bookkeeping services until RISE hired an Operations Coordinator in late 2015.
- RISE Colorado received the following accolades for its work with students and families in Aurora, Colorado:
  - Winner of the 2014 Teach For America Social Innovation Award
  - 2015 BrightSpot in Hispanic Education by White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics

**Organizing Consultant, Leadership for Educational Equity (LEE)**

March 2013- October 2013

Leadership for Educational Equity, Denver, CO

- Responsible for a variety of organizing projects. Primary projects focused on landscape summaries for members interested in getting involved in politics, policy, and advocacy in regions across the country. Additionally, helped develop, plan, and execute community organizing trainings for LEE members and Teach For America corps members across the country, and engaged LEE members in Colorado around local education issues and campaigns.

**Community Outreach Consultant, Denver Public Schools**

February 2013- August 2013

Denver Public Schools Office of Community Engagement, Denver Public Schools, Denver, CO

- Led outreach and organizing in the DPS Greater Park Hill, Stapleton community process to involve the voices of more low-income families and families of color in the plans for empty space opening in Smiley Middle School, potential new schools set to open in the area, and school choice boundaries.

**Temporary Teach360 Project Coordinator**

August 2012- December 2012

The Colorado Education Initiative, Denver, CO

- Led project management work for The Colorado Education Initiative's first research project, Teach360.
- Created and maintained a detailed project plan for the first phase of research, helped recruit teachers, coordinated and executed delivery of equipment and video capture of 42 teachers across 4 Colorado school districts in the cohort pilot, created systems to track progress and organize information to effectively communicate frequently with participating teachers and district contacts.

**Community Organizer, Stand for Children**

June 2011-March 2012

Stand for Children Colorado, Denver, CO

- Served as the first bilingual staff member in Colorado and organized a group of 60 parents, teachers, and community members in Northwest Denver around local school issues working primarily to engage low-income Latinx families for the first time in the organization's Colorado membership. Focused primarily on actions that would help lower the drop-out and choice-out rates, as they were higher than any other region in the school district, and increase accountability surrounding the implementation and outcomes of school turnaround in the area.
- Organized a group of 130 educators and former educators around district and state policy issues. Focused primarily on increasing authentic teacher voice on the organization's policy priorities. Supported teacher leaders to become part of state and national teacher voice groups.

**Elementary School Teacher, CASA**

June 2009- May 2011

Cole Arts and Science Academy (CASA), Denver Public Schools, Denver, CO

- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade bilingual Literacy and Social Studies teacher at Cole Arts and Science Academy
- Primary focus in transitioning students from Spanish literacy to English literacy.
- 1<sup>st</sup> year led students to make significant gains in reading: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students grew 1.9 years, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students grew 2.3 years.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year looped with one class and led both classes to make significant gains in reading: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students grew 1.7 years, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students grew 2.3 years, averaging to 4.1 years of growth in 2 years.
  - CASA Family Engagement Committee August 2010-May 2011
    - Served on the committee of school staff that planned and spearheaded outreach for the school to increase family engagement in student achievement
  - Parent Leadership Team August 2010-May 2011
    - Selected as one of three teachers school-wide to sit on the school's parent accountability committee, supporting families in defining priority programming to increase collaboration.

**Teach For America 2009 Corps Member**

June 2009- May 2011

Denver, CO

- Selected from over 40,000 applicants nationwide to join Teach For America (TFA) corps, committing two years to teach low-income children and children of color.
  - Transition Team Leader June 2010- August 2010

- Helped new corps members adjust to the region, and the challenges of being new teachers.
- Corps Culture Committee Member June 2010- May 2011
  - Created events to promote a sense of unity in TFA's mission for corps members in the region.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Giving Campaign Committee January 2011-May 2011
  - Selected to help design strategy, make financial asks, and track donations for the Second Year Giving Campaign. Successfully executed the first campaign in the region's history to have corps members commit to making multi-year gifts.
- Student Achievement Toolkit Writer January 2011- June 2011
  - Selected to write foundational curriculum tools for upper elementary literacy for incoming teachers

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

### **Fellow, Venture Fund & Fellowship**

September 2015- June 2016

Leadership for Educational Equity (LEE)

- Selected through a competitive process to join a cohort of venture leaders across the country to receive support to lead and grow RISE Colorado.
- Participated in intensive professional development through individual coaching, peer coaching, and boot camps that provided support on executive leadership, organizational growth and infrastructure, and organizing support.

### **Fellow, Emerging Political Leaders Fellowship**

November 2011- May 2012

Leadership for Educational Equity (LEE)

- Selected to join a cohort of Teach For America alumni to receive leadership training and development in political campaign planning, fundraising, policy, advocacy, and organizing
- Mentored by Theresa Peña, Former President of Denver Public Schools Board of Education. Developed a long-term leadership plan and received coaching and feedback to determine support needed to pursue those goals.

## **LEADERSHIP ROLES**

### **Founding Member, Law School Si Se Puede Initiative**

March 2014-October 2015

Federal District of Colorado, Court of Judge Christine M. Arguello, Law School Si Se Puede, Denver, CO

- Joined a team of attorneys and community members brought together by Judge Christine Arguello to expand access to higher education for low-income students and students of color by launching the Law School- Si Se Puede Initiative to support students to pursue careers in the law.
- Planned, supported, and executed outreach to recruit inaugural class of student fellows as the only member of the team connected to education landscape in Colorado.

### **Founding Board Member, Montessori del Mundo Charter School**

May 2012- June 2014

Montessori del Mundo Charter School, Aurora, CO

- Chair of Recruitment and Enrollment committee on board of directors for a new Dual-Language, Montessori charter school serving Aurora Public Schools students.
- Developed recruitment strategy, planned recruitment events, and coordinated volunteers for all recruitment events to recruit the first class of students at Montessori del Mundo.

### **Class Council Member, Cornell University 2009 Class Council**

June 2014-Present

Cornell University

- Secretary June 2014- June 2019
  - Responsible for streamlining communications among all officers of the class Executive Board. Maintain and distribute meeting minutes, contact information, and other important documents for Class Council officers.
- General Member June 2019- Present
  - Support class officers in managing class organization, class communications and planning class events.

## **VOLUNTEERING**

### **Volunteer, DESDE**

July 2017- June 2018

## DESDE

- Providing additional capacity on several projects supporting organizational growth and strategy, including:
  - Consulting on the organization's 501(c)3 incorporation process
  - Various projects to support the organization's communications strategy

### **Catechist, Queen of Peace Catholic Church**

September 2017- May 2018

Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Aurora, Colorado

- Taught weekly Catechism (Catholic Religious Education) lessons to a class of Second Grade Students preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Planned and executed lessons, as well as developed relationships with students and their families to support students as they approached an important milestone in their spiritual lives.

## **LANGUAGES**

**Spanish-** Fluent: Native Speaker, Reader, Writer

**Italian-** Proficient Speaker, Reader, Writer