

BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Maria G. Cervantes

Maria Cervantes is a native of Santa Ana, CA, with a B.S. from CSUF a 2018 Fellow for the USC Latina Global Executive Leadership Program and 2021 EMBA Chapman candidate. She has more than 21 years of experience advocating for children’s well being and access to quality education. Over the past 18 years, she has worked with the MIND Research Institute (MIND), an Irvine, CA-based nonprofit organization. As the Community Partnerships Director, she raises funds and creates national collaborative partnerships in STEM focused program accessible for Latino and under-served students.

Previously, Maria worked for the Child Abuse Prevention Center and the Santa Ana Unified School District. Maria is an active board member OC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as well as the Senior Advisor for the OC Youth Chamber of Commerce and a current Advisory Board member of the National Hispanic Business Women Association.

Maria has been recognized for her tremendous work and impact on behalf of our community’s young students, helping them become tomorrow’s hi-tech professionals. Her most recent recognition was in 2018 as the recipient of the “Corazón de La Comunidad” by Santa Ana’s Delhi Center. In May 2014, Maria was featured in the Orange County Business Journal as Women in Business nominee and OC Metro Top Woman to Watch. In April 2014, she was recognized as the Ambassador of the Year for the Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. In November 2013, she received the Comerica Bank, Best of LA Women's Business Award, in acknowledgement of her leadership and contribution in Southern California. In April 2013, Maria was named a Fun Fearless Latina by Cosmopolitan for Latinas as one of twelve individuals in the community (including actress Michelle Rodriguez and journalist/TODAY Show co-anchor Natalie Morales) who have made outstanding strides in their field.