



OUR TEAM

ERIKA L. ZAMORA, M.S., P.P.S.

Professional Learning Specialist



BIOGRAPHY

"I often say that school counseling is not just my profession but my passion. I chose this career in hopes that I could be the school counselor that I needed as a kid growing up. I strive to provide a safe space for my students and build rapport with their families because I genuinely care about them. Our role is challenging, but it is the most rewarding position I have ever held. My why is our youth and understanding that it is a privilege to be able to see them succeed and learn from their choices and life circumstances. The passion and commitment I have to serve my school community is what drives me to continue to learn and grow as a person and as a school counselor."

Erika's work experience in education has provided her the opportunity to have firsthand knowledge in bilingual education, family engagement, attendance regulations, disciplinary procedures and interventions as well as experience in school registration procedures. She credits her 15 years in those roles for being able to advocate for her students and families as a school counselor. Erika became a foster parent to two of her former students and this personal experience has given her a new perspective on the needs of both foster youth and their foster families. She has since started a support group for foster youth and has worked with community stakeholders to provide support and resources for both foster youth and their families.

As Chair of the Student Support Services Committee of the California Teachers Association (CTA), she has been able to help guide state legislation that affects school policy. As a member of the Racial Equity Advisory Committee in the California's Teachers Association, she is able to continue her work for racial and social justice by advising the CTA board of directors in matters that affect both students and educators. As LGBTQ+ Coordinator for San Geronimo Service Center, she was able to provide training to educators on how to create safe and supportive spaces for LGBTQ+ youth. One her proudest achievements as a school counselor was helping her students in starting the first GSA club at her school site. Erika is proud to present to school counselors and educators about her data-driven counseling program, and extremely honored to have that opportunity to meet fellow school counselors and learn ways to better serve her school community.

PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Alford Unified School District Middle School Counselor of the Year 2020
- Chair of Student Support Services Committee for California Teachers Association (CTA), 2019-present
- Presenter at ASCA (2018) and CASC (2017, 2018, 2019)
- CTA presenter for Good Teaching, NEW Educators, Human Rights and Equity Conferences (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)
- Vice Chair for CTA Hispanic Caucus and member of the CTA Racial and Equity Advisory Committee

FUN FACTS

- Erika is a bit obsessed with true crime podcasts, books and documentaries.
- Growing up, Erika wanted to be a teacher or an FBI agent.
- Erika has an irrational fear of wide/ long buildings.

TESTIMONIALS

In the 5 years Erika was at RMK she made an undeniable positive impact on our students, staff, parents, and overall school culture. She is a creative, out of the box, and enthusiastic educational leader who is always looking for ways to improve students' education and well-being.

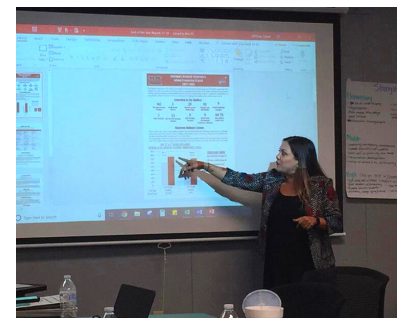
– Meghan Martinez, 5th Grade Teacher, RMK Elementary School

Mrs. Zamora is more than a school counselor. She treated me like I mattered and like she actually cared. I've been in many schools because I'm in foster care but this was the first time I felt like I could trust someone. Mrs. Zamora will always be an important part of my life.

– 8th grade student, Arizona Middle School

Mrs. Zamora's passion for school counseling was evident in how she handled herself in the classroom, in meetings and in the office. Parents often looked for her for guidance and staff members respected her expertise and her role. She was an asset to our school and I am confident she will continue to make an impact in our community.

– J. Casillas, Former Admin Supervisor



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