



**Elba Aranda-Suh, Maria High School, Class of 1989, serves as the Agency Director at the National Latino Education Institute (NLEI).** In this role, Ms. Aranda-Suh oversees the day-to-day operations of the agency. Her primary responsibility is to manage the organization's overall ability to provide seamless delivery of programs and services in the key areas of workforce training, job placement services, supportive/social services, community education, resource development, marketing and communications. Under her leadership, NLEI has expanded its offerings to include new and innovative nationally accredited programs such as the Customer Service and Sales Training, the Bilingual Medical Assistant Program, and the Computer Applications Specialist. Ms. Aranda-Suh also led the design and launched the successful Family Financial Literacy Series and the Community Technology Centers.

Additionally, her direction has expanded the Adult Basic Education offerings into an extensive list of comprehensive programs that assist the adult learner at all levels. Today, NLEI is one of the largest grass-roots community-based adult education providers in the city of Chicago. Ms. Aranda-Suh has been instrumental in the creation and expansion of NLEI's Business Leadership Council, Medical Consortium and Alumni Association respectively, the auxiliary bodies representative of the agency's partnerships. Additionally, under her direction, NLEI's vocational programs have attained the highest grant of accreditation through the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) and have consistently exceeded state and national standards for student retention and job placement. In 2006, NLEI was recognized as a national Honor Roll Institution by the ACICS for demonstrating exemplary standards attaining the highest merit in achieving an 8-year grant of accreditation.

Ms. Aranda-Suh has extensive experience in both direct services and administration ranging from organizational development and human resources to counseling, management, coaching, strategic alignment, public relations, sales, program development and fundraising. Prior to joining NLEI, Ms. Aranda-Suh directed operations for a nonprofit where she was instrumental in increasing the budget by over 500% in just a few years and where she was responsible for the successful reorganization of underperforming programs that gained distinct recognition from the U.S. Department of Labor as a result of her leadership. She designed and implemented numerous new programs and services and instituted innovative fundraising strategies that resulted in a significant revenue increase for the organization. Her accomplishments gained local and national attention for exemplary quality in workforce development.

Ms. Aranda -Suh has served on Boards of Directors and Executive Committees for several community-based organizations. She was the Illinois League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) State Deputy Director for Young Adults, former Co-Chair of the National LULAC Educational Center Advisory Council, Founding Board Member of the Pilsen/Little Village Information Center, member of the Michael Reese Hospital Advisory Council and past Board Member and Committee Chair of the People's Music School, located in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood. Ms. Aranda-Suh's involvement in the nonprofit community has spanned over 15 years, and her passion for the justice and enhancement of the Latino community has been also recognized through special acknowledgement from corporations such as Pepsi and Lucent Technologies. She has been both a "mentee" and mentor and strives to share the impact of mentorship at both the professional and personal level. She views economic independence as an essential component of family stability and believes that families are the cornerstone of healthy neighborhoods. To this end she works tenaciously towards strengthening individual families which, in turn, builds communities.

Ms. Aranda-Suh recently commented on a vision for the future by saying: "As a Latina and parent, my plan of action is to positively impact the issues of education and workforce development that so profoundly affect family lives. We strive to provide options to increase education, broaden and enhance career choices and to become financially independent. Through this empowerment we as a community will embrace and steer the direction of our own future."

Ms. Aranda-Suh is a dual-degree graduate of the University of Illinois with additional studies at the University of Guanajuato in Mexico. A Chicago native, she spent several of her formative years residing in the Pilsen-Little Village neighborhood, graduating in 1989 from Maria High School.