



International Women's Day 2023

Panel Discussion with Women Leaders in Education, International Business, Law, and Healthcare



Minita Ramírez, Ph.D.
President of Laredo College

Maria Minerva Ramirez, Ph.D., President of Laredo College, is an educational leader who has distinguished herself in both public and private sectors of education. Her career has intersected the field of education from pre-kinder to post-graduate studies. Her lifelong goal has been to create seamless transitions and support services that can provide the appropriate information and care to individuals who do not have the skill set or prior knowledge to navigate the numerous higher education requirements. She has held numerous leadership roles in higher education and served on local, state, and national boards.

Dr. Minita is a graduate of J. W. Nixon High School, Class of 1979, holds a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from TAMIU, a Master of Science in School Administration from TAMU-Kingsville, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Capella University. In 2016, she earned a Graduate Fellowship with the University of Michigan's National Center for Institutional Diversity and graduated from the Texas Governor's Executive Development Program, LBJ School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin, 2017.

Today, Dr. Minita is the first female president in Laredo College's 75-year history. As a native of Laredo, she understands the desperate situation of a community that needs educational and workforce training support across the tri-county area Laredo College serves. It is through her initiation, that several workforce programs are under expansion, and new ones are in the works. She understands the crucial role partnerships with four-year institutions are and works closely with them to strengthen and enhance them. The conservation of the College's home, the historical Fort McIntosh, is also a major responsibility that she embraces. It is her honor to preserve and protect the historical grounds where U S Army soldiers of the 1st Infantry guarded the Texas frontier. She is transforming lives and collaborates to enrich the communities she serves proudly.



Dr. Minita has proudly served in her professional capacity and has worked diligently for the community as President of The Washington's Birthday Celebration Association, Chairman of the Mr. South Texas Committee, President of the Society of Martha Washington, President of the Texas Council of Chief Student Affairs Officers Texas and proud board member of the Laredo Boys and Girls Club. In addition, Dr. Minita has served on the Laredo Independent School District Board of Trustees and chairs the Curriculum and Instruction Committee. She is a member of the Caballeros de la Republica del Rio Grande and has served as a board member of the Sisters of Mercy-Casa de Misericordia, Women's Leadership of Texas, and member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and University (HACU) to name a few.

Dr. Minita Ramirez was the Vice President for Student Success at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU). She joined TAMIU in 2001 and has held various administrative and faculty positions. Her commitment continues to be Recruitment, Retention, and Graduation of underserved students and communities of South Texas and Northern Mexico. She initiated intensive and intrusive programming which for 18 years, supported the continuous growth in the student population of approximately 130%. In addition, she is committed to facilitating the seamless student transition from high school to University and supporting student enrollment and on-campus engagement, so that all students can successfully participate in learning that enhances their lives and the lives of their families and communities. This 2018-19 year, under her guidance TAMIU announced their largest freshman class welcoming 1244 Dustdevils.

In addition, she has helped manage the family business, Carmin's Flower Shop, and El Plateado Ranch. Dr. Ramirez is most proud of her son Ruben, a graduate of the Laredo ISD, Hector J. Garcia Early College High School, and graduate of the A.R. Sanchez School of Business (2018 and 2020). She is equally proud of her life's partner, Associate District Court Judge, David E. Garcia.

Prior to joining Laredo College, she was the Vice President for Student Success at Texas A&M International University leading the enrollment management and student life programming. She has taught history and government at both middle and high school levels with the Laredo Independent School District. She directed the United Independent School District Technology Innovative Challenge grant, which led the pathway of infusing technology into the classroom setting and instruction. She has focused her research on "Hispanic Migration to Higher Education," examining the deterrents and hesitations high school students have as they transition to higher education. Using her education experience, Dr. Ramirez was also employed by Silver Burdett Ginn and Prentice Hall, K-12 educational publishing divisions of Simon and Schuster publishing. During her ten years there, she was part of the educational consultant team, contributing author for the Reading, U.S. History, and Music textbooks, academic trainer, and textbook sales representative.

Throughout her career, she has been honored by many organizations she is proud of all of them and honored to have been considered. To mention some, LULAC Tejano Achiever, The STAR of Texas Award by Representative Richard Raymond, and most recently the NASPA Region III John Jones award for outstanding performance as a Senior Student Affairs Officer.