

Dr. Martha Garcia

As Superintendent/President of College of the Desert, Dr. Martha Garcia is driven to serve the students, whose experiences often reflect her own.

Dr. Garcia was the first in her family to pursue higher education, getting her start at a community college. Her parents, both from Mexico, worked as farmworkers so their children could have better opportunities in life.

Dr. Garcia is committed to the transformative power of higher education and student-centered leadership. The values she learned from her parents – hard work, perseverance, honesty and respect – guide and inspire her.

Dr. Garcia was named the eighth superintendent/president of College of the Desert in August 2021. Before joining COD, Dr. Garcia served as Superintendent/President of Imperial Valley College in Imperial, California, where she developed numerous programs to remove barriers to student success.

To help students facing food and housing insecurity, she helped create a tiny housing community, student food pantry and food distribution program on campus. She also secured more than \$23 million in grants to support the creation of innovative programs and services.

In her 21 years at Imperial Valley College, Dr. Garcia also served as Vice President of Student Services, Acting Vice President of Academic Services, and Special Projects Coordinator overseeing Career Education programs. She was named one of the 2018 Distinguished Woman of the Year by Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia.

Dr. Garcia holds a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University, a Master's Degree in Educational Counseling from National University, a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from San Diego State University, and an Associate Degree from Imperial Valley College.

She also serves or has served in leadership roles on boards and task forces of numerous organizations, including the California Association of Latino Community College Trustees and Administrators, Community College League of California Committees, and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Implementation Workgroup.

Dr. Garcia is interested in becoming the next President/CEO at Mount San Antonio College because she will have an opportunity to continue serving students at a highly regarded College in the state California. Mount San Antonio College is recognized for their contribution to student success and the great work they have achieved. She would feel honored to serve this amazing College and its communities. Dr. Garcia commends the employees, Dr. William (Bill) Scroggins and the Board of Trustees for their accomplishments.