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TEACHFORAMERICA

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VELIA RINCON NAMED DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TEACH FOR AMERICA-COLORADO

Pueblo Community College Instructor to Lead Teach For America's Expansion to Pueblo-Area Schools

PUEBLO, Colo., July 30, 2014—Teach For America–Colorado has named Velia Rincon as deputy executive director, effective immediately. In this role, Rincon will be responsible for leading the nonprofit organization's operations in the Pueblo area.

Teach For America and Pueblo City Schools (D60) recently announced a partnership agreement slated to begin this fall. Under the agreement, Teach For America would recruit, train, and develop new teachers as an additional source of teaching talent for high-need schools and subject areas in PCS. Twelve corps members have been hired by area principals to begin teaching this fall.

Rincon, a veteran teacher and school administrator, holds a B.S. in sociology and criminology from Colorado State University–Pueblo and a master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education Human Development and Psychology Program with a concentration in risk and prevention. She co-founded Cesar Chavez Academy and Dolores Huerta Preparatory High School in Pueblo. Rincon also teaches Chicano studies and ethnic studies at Pueblo Community College, and has worked with its community education and training pre-college programs, in partnership with local school districts, to re-engage students who have dropped out of high school.

"I am eager to get to work alongside the many committed educators, civic leaders, and families in Pueblo to give local students the excellent education they deserve," Rincon said. "I look forward to building and expanding collaborations that deepen this impact at the school, district, and state levels as we begin our partnership with PCS and have corps members teaching in high-needs schools this fall."

In addition to the new PCS partnership, Teach For America–Colorado partners with Adams 14, Aurora Public Schools, Denver Public Schools, Harrison School District 2 in Colorado Springs, and Sheridan Public Schools.

"We're thrilled by this important next step in our partnership with Pueblo City Schools and are excited to have Velia leading the charge" said Sean Vanberschot, executive director of Teach For America–Colorado. "Velia's expertise and experience will be an incredible asset to our team's efforts to help provide outstanding opportunity for students in the Pueblo community."

Research indicates that Teach For America corps members have a positive effect on student achievement. Between 2009 and 2013, statewide studies in [North Carolina](#), [Tennessee](#), and [Louisiana](#) concluded that Teach For America is among each state's top teacher-preparation programs. A [2013 Mathematica study](#) found that, on average, students taught by Teach For America teachers gained an additional 2.6 months of learning in math annually.

About Teach For America

Teach For America works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunity for children facing the challenges of poverty. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse

corps of outstanding college graduates and professionals to make an initial two-year commitment to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to end educational inequity. Our corps in the 2013-14 school year included 11,000 teachers in 48 urban and rural regions across the country. Today, our 37,000 alumni are working across sectors to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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