



Mireya Vargas

# Support Staff Spotlight

NAME: Mireya Vargas

POSITION: Intervention Specialist

School: Opportunity Program

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 13 years

Q. What are your responsibilities as intervention specialist?

A. I build positive relationships with students. We are the middle link between the home, the student and the teachers and staff at Opportunity Program. We identify homeless students, check for needs like warm coats, bus passes, or anything extra to support the student.

Q. What would happen to students without support from intervention specialists?

A. These students face a lot of challenges and the quality of their education would suffer without additional support. The teachers get really busy working with all of their students and we are able to identify students who are having personal issues. We provide the necessary additional help. We can pull them aside and talk to them and figure out what we can do to support them.

Q. How are the students receiving you at Opportunity Program?

A. Fortunately I knew many of the students from Wa-Hi. It has been amazing. I have been welcomed with open arms. I was thrilled that I was able to reconnect with some of the young moms and meet their children.

Q. You most recently worked at Wa-Hi. How has your role changed?

A. At Opportunity, I can focus on each individual student in greater depth. There are fewer students here. At Wa-Hi, I focused on the fundamentals of checking grades, attendance and behavior. At Opportunity, I can focus on every aspect of their life. I am also able to communicate more efficiently with the staff when I discover an issue with a student. Building relationships happens faster and more in-depth. Since I'm working with fewer students I can better personalize the service.

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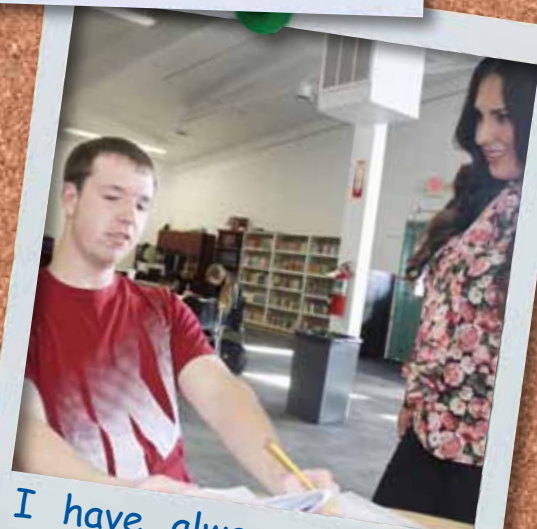
NOTES:  
I enjoy building connections with students making sure they are okay every day. If they know they have a trusting adult at school they can stay focused on their studies and be successful at school. It is very rewarding.



# Highlights

## Mireya Vargas

I was born in Mexico and my family immigrated to the US when I was 10.



I have always felt the need to help others.

I attended Blue Ridge, Green Park, Garrison and Wa-Hi and eventually graduated from the Opportunity Program. I have four children - two boys and two girls.