



## PAULINA SIERRA TO BECOME THE NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LA PUERTA ABIERTA, INC!

The Board of Directors and team of La Puerta Abierta is excited to announce to our community the hiring of Paulina Sierra, the next Executive Director. Cathi Tillman, founding Executive Director, planted the seeds of this important organization and nurtured it over the past 14 years. She will lead the organizational transition with Paulina.

Paulina arrived in the U.S with her family from Ecuador 25 years ago after a long career as a journalist with a regional newspaper, which provided a foundation of experience with communication and community engagement.

Her experiences as a journalist provided extensive interactions with many different communities—many of them underserved. This early exposure to different cultures and communities inspired her lifelong commitment to empowering others and showcasing their strengths.

Early in her time in the U.S., Paulina created an after-school homework club for migrant students while working at a public school in Johnson City, TN. Starting with just eight students, the program has grown and continues to provide crucial academic support to migrant children. This success reinforced her commitment to empowering students and families through education. While pursuing a master's degree in education, Paulina further honed her skills in creating impactful collaborations that benefit the community. As a Family Coordinator with Migrant Head Start, she played a key role in strengthening the relationships between families and educational institutions, advocating tirelessly for the needs of migrant families.

Paulina most recently served as the Project and Recruitment Coordinator for the Migrant Education Program through the state of Pennsylvania and has been instrumental in driving significant growth in the five-county service area. Under her leadership, the Migrant Education Program has expanded its offerings to include a diverse range of services that meet the unique needs of migrant students and their families, all while ensuring compliance with the highest standards.

Beginning October 7, 2024, LPA is excited to have Paulina Sierra begin as the next Executive Director of La Puerta Abierta! Paulina has demonstrated clear passion to serving, learning, and making a lasting impact through her deep and unwavering commitment to the immigrant community of youth and families. We look forward to Paulina leading the way into the next chapters of this organization's work. Please help us in welcoming Paulina to LPA and all its many partnerships and collaborators near and far.

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PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO LPA WITH ANY QUESTIONS AS WE MOVE THROUGH THIS TRANSITIONAL TIME. CATHI TILLMAN, CURRENT (FOUNDING) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILL REMAIN AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT PAULINA AND THE LPA TEAM DURING THIS TRANSITION THROUGH THE END OF 2024.

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