



## Meleny Jacome-Banuelos

Meleny Jacome-Banuelos is from Johnson City, KS. She is a first-generation college student who received a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership with a minor in Music from Fort Hays State University. Meleny is currently a Lead for Kansas fellow who is working as the Community Connection Coordinator at the Kansas Hispanic Education & Development Foundation.

In her new role, she is responsible for collecting and analyzing data regarding the post-secondary and professional needs of the Hispanic Community in Wichita, KS. Before becoming a fellow, Meleny was the Administrative Assistant at United Way of Ellis County. She oversaw Community Impact initiatives which led her to do research on the needs of the Hispanic community. After building a report for the Hays community, she founded the yearly Tardeada - Community Fiesta. Additionally, the Department of Leadership Studies awarded her the Outstanding Leadership and Service Award and the Agent of Change Award.

She is passionate about serving underrepresented communities. One day she hopes to start her own non-profit that aims to serve those in foster care through leadership and civic engagement. Meleny is a Rudd Scholar and Tiger Marching Band Alum. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, running, reading, and playing the clarinet.