



## Michelle Martinez

Michelle Martinez is a first generation Mexican American from Zacatecas, Mexico. Her education and experience in injury rehabilitation brought her to Wichita to open her business in integrative medicine. However, the difficulties and gaps within the Wichita community took her back to her roots.

From an early age, translating for the Hispanic community in a not for profit and on call basis, became her norm. Realizing the high demand for the Latinx community to gain job, life, and leadership skills led her to encourage her church to create services that supported Spanish-speaking families to achieve economic self-sufficiency and successfully progress in society through education. This plan was developed into a 501c3 and still serves the Washington County Hispanic community through literacy and educational programs in Wisconsin.

She continues to promote multicultural acceptance and inclusion in her role as the Scholarship Manager for KHEDF. Her hope is to continue to prevent and address challenges students and families may face. Addressing issues of equity and justice in higher education motivates her to foster an atmosphere where students feel supported, listened to and motivated to succeed.