

Dr. Gabriella Durán Blakey

Collaborative leader with a track record of leading system change in large organizations to improve outcomes for children and build successful communities.

- Experienced leader in all aspects of public schools (operational and academics) including classroom teacher, school leader, and cabinet-level leader.
- Systems oriented leadership and exceptional skills at creating system change in large organizations.
- Community driven leader with proven skills in listening to all stakeholders and working positively with governmental and community organizations to create stronger collaborative communities.
- Sought out public speaker including over 30 presentations throughout the country including keynotes on topics including system change, instructional innovation, operational efficiencies, and women in leadership.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2015 – PRESENT ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Chief Operations Officer

Led all operational functions of 70,000 students, 143 schools and 13 million square feet to focus on safety, security, and foundational needs for students' learning environment and operational efficiencies in a large, urban school district.

- Led District initiatives for COVID-19 safety protocols in schools including safe buildings, personal protective equipment, contact tracing, district safety protocols, and safe reopening for 143 schools.
- Coordinated food distribution of over one million meals to the community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Created and implemented new 5-year District Strategic Plan aligned to the School Board's Goals and Guardrails
- Passed \$100 million bond election for school facilities and recent \$265 million mill levy.
- Oversaw APS construction processes including bonding, capital outlay plans, facilities planning and renovation, and management of over \$200 million in construction funds.
- Completed 5-year Capital Master Plan for 143 schools and district facilities.
- Managed District Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to make data driven decisions on the efficiency and effectiveness of district operations performing in the top tier of Districts in operational efficiency.
- Created a public dashboard to communicate the condition of 143 school facilities including maintenance, air filtration, and upgrades.
- Managed over 16 million square feet of facilities.
- Increased school security at schools investing more than \$40 million in security including prevention and response.
- Coordinated annual transportation of over 4.8 million miles annually for students.
- Completed new construction on rebuilds of 5 fully renovated schools and 2 new transportation centers.
- Managed 150,000 meals served daily to students and implementation of the state universal free meals program.

Associate Superintendent for Leadership and Learning

Led all instructional and operational functions of 40 schools and over 22,000 PreK-12th grade students in the city's most diverse community.

- Created and designed school transformation model utilizing community assets and a framework for three schools designated as failing by the State Education Department resulting in statewide policy for school reform and increased student performance outcomes.
- Assisted in the creation of the Newcomer and Refugee Department, including a new K-5 newcomer center.
- Increased support of the Community School model from 7 schools to 40 schools using the community school framework.
- Created school data scorecard to monitor and support schools in a variety of school indicators leading to increase in school KPI's at every school in the Zone resulting in increased student performance on the state assessment of up to 30% increase in proficiency at 40 schools and an overall attendance increase of 3%.

Associate Superintendent for Middle School Education

Manage a portfolio of 30 schools with a total population of approximately 20,000.

- Implemented, trained, and led Instructional Rounds as a model of professional development for 143 principals focusing on task analysis resulting in a double digit increase in student performance on the state assessment.
- Managed and monitored the implementation of middle school reform modeled from This We Believe research.
- Opened a new PreK-8 community collaborative school.
- Created a model based on middle school best practice to redesign and revitalize middle school education to create student advisory, teaming, and collaboration.
- Ensured equitable access to student electives to increase student engagement.
- Worked as a member of the District Budget Steering Committee to reorganize and reduce \$26.1 million dollars from the operating budget.

2014 – 2015

SANTA FE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Professional Development

Assist in district initiatives closing the achievement gap and improving student achievement resulting in increased graduation rates.

- Assisted in oversight and support for 31 schools and 14,000 students.
- Supported 31 PreK-12th grade schools with implementation of Common Core State Standards and use of high-quality instructional materials.
- Conducted school instructional walkthroughs focused on student tasks and use of high-quality instructional materials.
- Assist as the District Representative for the Early Learning Initiative to provide early learning opportunities to all children in collaboration with city partners for all children in Santa Fe County including management of \$1.6 million PreK Grant.
- Coordinated all summer school and extended learning programs increasing access to classes resulting in increased graduation rates.

2012 – 2014

HEALTH LEADERSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Founder/Executive Director

Create, open, and operate a new school for disenfranchised students with a model of Project Based Learning, high levels of student support, and robust community engagement.

- Collaborated with health industry representatives and community partners in the South Valley of Albuquerque to create and open a new high school for disenfranchised high school students with a model of Project Based Learning, high levels of student support, and robust community engagement.
- Worked with NM State Legislature on education policies and securing over \$400,000 in capital outlay.
- Worked with the school governing board to create policies and procedures necessary to create, open and operate the school.
- Developed and implemented a marketing plan to recruit students to the school.
- Built a school budget and allocate appropriate resources to staff and students.
- Hired and trained all staff members in Project Based Learning and Social Emotional Support for students.
- Created a school wide strategic plan and began implementation

2000 – 2012

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Principal, Eisenhower Middle School

Led all academic and operational functions of 80 staff members and 950 students.

- Responsible for a \$2.7 million dollar budget aligned to school priorities and student needs.
- Led 1 out of 2 middle schools in the district achieving Adequate Yearly Progress on the state assessment.
- Supervised the instructional programs of the school, evaluating lesson plans and observing classes on a regular basis to monitor use of a variety of instructional strategies and materials consistent with research on learning.
- Implemented and supported Professional Learning Communities to increase teacher collaboration and efficacy.
- Effectively used data from short-cycle assessments to drive instruction resulting in increased student attendance and student achievement to become the top performing middle school in the district.
- Decreased student suspensions by over 20%.
- Implemented a collaborative school instructional council.
- Increased access to Fine Arts electives resulting in state award winning music programs.

Curriculum Assistant Principal, Eldorado High School

Assist in the overall academic and operational functions of 175 staff members and 2100 students.

- Developed and implemented a master schedule with teachers focused on equity and student needs.
- Implemented and supported Professional Learning Communities.
- Served as a member of the district curriculum board to align standards across all grade levels and content areas.
- Expanded implementation of Standards Based Lesson Planning.
- Monitored and implemented Perkins Grant for Career and Technical Education Programs.
- Served as mentor for UNM and NMHU interns in educational leadership.

Assistant Principal, Roosevelt Middle School

Assist in the overall management of school operations.

- Implemented and supported Professional Learning Communities
- Facilitated differentiated instruction and data-driven decision training for staff.
- Organized and implemented a new school-based health center in a rural school community.
- Implemented Positive Behavior Support program for students resulting in decrease in student suspensions and increased attendance.
- Created a new transition program for 6th graders to be modeled throughout the district.

1997 - PRESENT

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, New Mexico

- Adjunct Professor

AmeriCorps National Service Program

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Albuquerque Evening School

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Highland High School

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Everett High School

Everett, Washingt

EDUCATION

Doctor of Education

University of New Mexico

Dissertation: "The Relationships Between the Acculturation of Teachers and Beliefs About Student Learning"

Master of Arts in Educational Leadership

University of New Mexico

- Graduated with project distinction
- Recipient of the Educational Leadership Program Distinction Award
- 4.0 GPA

Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education

New Mexico State University

Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) Superintendent Academy (2014-2015)

CERTIFICATIONS

NM Level III-B PreK-12 Administrative License

NM Level III-A Instructional Leader 7-12 Secondary License with endorsement in Social Studies and TESOL

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Member, Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS)
- Member, Council of Great City Schools
- Member, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
- Participant, Forum for Educational Leadership (The Forum Cohort 3)
- Participant, Women Leading Ed
- Participant, AASA Principal Supervisor Academy
- Participant, AASA Women's Leadership Academy
- Fellow, L.E.A.D. New Mexico
- Past Member, District Administrator
- Past Member, New Mexico Alliance on School Based Health Care
- Past Executive Board Member, Albuquerque Public Schools Principal Association
- Past Legislative Liaison, Albuquerque Public Schools Principal Association
- Past Co-Chair, APS Conference for Educators Steering Committee
- Past Principal Representative, Middle School Redesign
- Past Principal Representative, Middle School Athletics Advisory Board
- Past Pilot school, Common Core Content Standards

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

- New Mexico Immunization Coalition – Immunization Champion of the Year 2022
- National Board of Accomplished Teaching New Mexico Advocate of the Year 2018
- New Mexico PTA Principal of the Year 2010-2011
- Eldorado High School DECA Award for Outstanding Support, 2007-2008
- University of New Mexico Educational Leadership Program Distinction Award, May 2006

COMMUNITY AND CIVIC MEMBERSHIPS

- Board Member – Explora Children's Science Museum
- Board Member – United Way of Central New Mexico
- Board Member - Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program
- Musician - Symphony Orchestra of Albuquerque