

The Fellows at The Center



The Fellows at the Center is a group of practicing educators committed to advancing social justice and pursuing an equitable education for each and for all. The purpose of *The Fellows at the Center* is to create a space for alumni of *Center* projects like Project LEAD and the Promise Teacher Equity Internship (formerly JSS Promise Teacher Corps) to network, learn, and collaborate with each other and to support historically underrepresented and marginalized youth, while at the same time continuing to learn about and support issues and initiatives of social justice, and coaching diverse teachers and leaders to be social justice catalysts and effective educators just like you. To become an official member of The Fellows at the Center, please complete the information linked below and give us permission to share your information in *The Fellows At The Center Directory* for all of the members of The Fellows at The

Center. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SMZ8sJqnal74m2Q4nT7uzXH7J5jWd-mMKId4G-eVU-M/edit?usp=drivesdk>

Meet the leadership team of The Fellows at The Center



Karina Alonso has been an educator for 6 years. Currently, she teaches 4th grade at A.O. Marshall Elementary School in Joliet. Karina completed her undergraduate degree at the University of St. Francis, and her graduate degree at Concordia University Chicago. As a teacher of color in a Title I school, Karina advocates for marginalized students and sees the effects of that advocacy every day. Karina wants to be a voice for her students, a voice she did not hear as an immigrant student. Karina's MO is simply, "Everyone deserves an equal opportunity for success regardless of their background."

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Kelsey Chaidez is a veteran third-grade teacher at Naper Elementary School in District 203. While Kelsey was a student at North Central College, she tutored, became a team leader and served as a summer intern for the Junior/ Senior Scholars, a college readiness program for marginalized youth, throughout college. Kelsey's leadership had a significant impact on the lives of many Junior/ Senior Scholars and multiple college students whom she mentored while they prepared to teach.



Irma Sandoval Vizcaíno graduated from the University of St. Francis as a mathematics major with a secondary certification. Irma participated in Project LEAD, Leaders in Education Advocating for Diversity, since her junior year and she is also member of the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois. Irma readily shares how she has really enjoyed her five years ... and counting ... teaching mathematics in Chicago Public Schools.

Roy Aguilar is a primary grades bilingual teacher at a neighborhood school in Chicago's south side. Mr. Aguilar received his undergraduate degrees from North Central College in Naperville and Dominican University in River Forest. He earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from National Louis University. He is also working to complete his ESL/Bilingual endorsement. This is Mr. Aguilar's sixth year teaching in a bilingual setting. His favorite part about teaching is guiding EL students to overcome their struggles to achieve success.

