

Leadership Team

Andres Martinez

DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

As Director of Policy and Communications, Andrés helps tell the stories of the work we do, the families we serve, and the community we wish to see. He also serves as a liaison between the organization and policy makers at the national, state, and local levels on issues that affect the Latinx community.

Ariel Safdie

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, TENNESSEE MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

As Associate Director, Ariel leads the Migrant Education Team across the state, ensures compliance with federal and state program guidelines, and develops and implements the program's strategic plan to build a state in which migratory students reach challenging academic standards and complete high school to prepare them for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment.

Cheyenne Peters

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

As Associate Director of Economic Prosperity, Cheyenne oversees our information and referral services, and drives Conexión Américas' Economic Prosperity programs including our entrepreneurship class, home ownership program,

and free tax preparation service. Cheyenne joined us last summer as our Legal Advocate, supporting DACA recipients needing to renew their immigration status.

José González

CO-FOUNDER AND FINANCE DIRECTOR

José co-founded Conexión Américas 18 years ago! Over the years, he's enjoyed seeing the grit of program participants, the entrepreneurial spirit of Negocio Próspero entrepreneurs, and the compassion of his colleagues.

Kara (KB) Holzer

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

As Director of Marketing for the past seven years, KB's job is to make sure that Conexión Américas tells the stories of our work in an effective and consistent way to inspire supporters, engage program participants, and raise funds.

Maria Paula Zapata

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS

As Associate Director of Education Programs, Maria Paula makes sure the Conexión Américas' education team staff feels valued, supported, and is continually developing their abilities to deliver high-quality, culturally-responsive, student-centered programming. Maria Paula considers her work a way of honoring her parents' stories and

likes that her job allows her to live into her two guiding values as a person: empathy and equity.

Martha Silva

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY | INTERIM CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021

Martha joined the team over 11 years ago. In her current role as Senior Director of Economic Prosperity, Martha Silva oversees a number of Conexión Américas programs supporting immigrant families on their way to achieving their version of the American dream. Martha also ensures the smooth running of Mesa Komal, Conexión Américas's fully licensed commercial kitchen at Casa Azafrán, which serves as a culinary incubator for food entrepreneurs in Nashville.

Tara Lentz

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC GROWTH | INTERIM CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021

As Senior Director of Strategic Growth, Tara helps us think about where we've been, where we're going, and what it will take to get there. With 14 years on staff, Tara has seen Conexión Américas grow and change as Nashville changes. She focuses on strategic planning, data, fundraising, and development.