



Dr. Carmen García was born in Tepatitlán, Jalisco, México and grew up in Escondido where she took advantage of its K-12 schools. Subsequently, she attended the University of San Diego where she graduated *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Spanish. Dr. García noted that her interest in teaching was sparked by wonderful professors and teachers who believed in her to succeed. With motivation to teach, she received a Master's Degree in Education and a teaching credential.

Dr. García began her career as a teacher in the Long Beach Unified School District. Teaching was one of the most gratifying experiences of her career. She began to immerse herself in academic literature and found the motivation to pursue graduate study and received her Doctorate from the University of Southern California.

Dr. García's twenty-three-year career has allowed her to observe the educational sphere from the perspective of a Teacher, Researcher, Assistant to Superintendent Dr. Carl Cohn, Principal of Roosevelt International Baccalaureate Middle, Lead Principal of San Diego High School (Business and Leadership, International Studies, and Science and Technology), and Superintendent.

She remains steadfast in her belief that a quality education is the world's greatest equalizer that opens doors of opportunity. Her moral compass guides her to ensure that school systems provide access and equity for all students in order to prepare them to be successful members of society. Her leadership style facilitates all stakeholders (school leaders, teachers, parents, students, and community members) to work together as a team in order to ensure students remain at the forefront, are well served, and that their needs are met.

She is indebted to her public school education and aims to continue to pay it forward in order to make a difference in the lives of ALL students so, they too, can reach their highest potential.

She lives in Escondido with her husband, School Psychologist and San Diego State University Adjunct Professor, Dr. Gabriel Gutiérrez, and three children, Sophía (8), Emma (5), and Sebastián (4).

