



Viola E. Florez
Professor & PNM Endowed Chair
Educational Leadership & Teacher Education

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Dr. Viola E. Florez is a Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Teacher Education in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. She holds the PNM P-20 Endowed Chair in education in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Florez received her doctorate from Texas A&M University-Kingsville in Curriculum & Instruction; her M.A. in Education from the University of Colorado; and her B.A. in Liberal Arts & Humanities from Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. In 1994, she was awarded the American Council Fellowship to study leadership nationally and internationally.

Her collegiate leadership experiences include serving as Cabinet Secretary for Higher Education in New Mexico; UNM Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dean for the College of Education at the University of New Mexico; Acting Vice President & CEO at Texas A&M Galveston; Executive Assistant to the President, College of Education Interim Dean, Department Chair, and Full Professor at Texas A&M University, College Station.

Dr. Florez is an educator who is interested in addressing P-20 education and training at all levels from pre-school through graduate studies in schools, workplaces, and other community settings. Her scholarship centers on higher education areas that focus on critical P-16 student transitions; undergraduate and graduate student success, teacher preparation, school leadership, and educational reform efforts that create a seamless educational journey for students P-20.

Her research interests and publications focus on educational issues facing students in the P-20 pipeline from K-12 to college. She had dedicated her career to academic student success, access and equity for all students, especially students pursuing postsecondary education. She has published numerous articles, book chapters, monographs, and other scholarly accomplishments in the field of teacher education, leadership, multicultural education, politics, and educational policy.