

Dr. Guadalupe Salazar

Dr. Guadalupe Salazar (Lupe) is a woman who has remained resilient throughout life's obstacles. She is living proof that a woman can have children AND be academically and professionally successful. Her life's work is helping students reach their full potential while learning from her struggles.

Growing up in a family of migrant field workers, school was not the top priority. Her parents worked as much as possible to feed the family, however the children still often had to work. As a young student, her classmates teased her, and her teachers made her feel unworthy because of her Mexican American identity. Despite the lack of support at school, she always put forth her best effort and found that she truly loved to learn.

Struggling to find happiness at home, Lupe married at a young age and began a family. Four beautiful children later, Lupe decided that it was time to go back to school. The challenges of married life and raising children never changed her love of learning, so she decided to pursue her GED in hopes of someday attending college and providing a better life for her family. However, support was again lacking - this time from her husband.

She persevered through a divorce and becoming a single parent of four, all while completing her bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a Business of Arts degree in Spanish from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. But she was not done. Even though she achieved one of her goals, she wanted to continue to grow in her discipline and went on to earn her Master of Science from Colorado State University while working full-time.

After becoming legal guardian of her two grandchildren, her passion for learning and dream of someday being "Dr. Guadalupe Salazar" drew her back to education. In 2011, Lupe received her doctorate in Higher Education Leadership and Human Resources at Colorado State University. What an incredible honor to have her last name "Salazar" prefaced with "Doctor"! Ever humble, Dr. Salazar credits her parents for teaching her determination at an early age. No matter how tiring, unfair, or difficult the endeavor, her parents taught her to be resilient. And through her resiliency, Lupe is now able to share her success with young people in need of inspiration.

Today, Lupe holds the position of Director of El Centro, a position she has had for over 30 years. El Centro is a Student Diversity Programs and Services office focused on the retention and success of Latinx students. Although she intends on retiring next year, she will continue to reach for new dreams and passions. She urges others to...

- believe in yourself and your potential
- fight for your right to learn and complete your education
- never let struggles and challenges prevent you from living a fulfilling life
- dream and set goals because you have the power within you to make things happen
- be the voice for others who are being discriminated against
- know that the journey is not always easy

Written by Dr. Guadalupe Salazar