#### **SPRING 2023**











# Carlos Rosario School Community Connections









### IN THIS EDITION

- CR School By the Numbers
- In the Media
- DC Policy Center Report Launch
- New Employees
- Donor Spotlight
- And More!

## A Note From Allison

Dear Carlos Rosario School Community,

Allow me to bring you into our School community for a moment. There are 2,000 adult learners from 80 different countries enrolled and the School is buzzing with activity within our classrooms and in the larger community.

- ESL students recently visited the Maya Lin exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery, visited the Vietnam Veterans memorial that she designed, and created their own sculptures.
- Small Business program students and their varied small businesses (Brazilian popcorn! Colombian jewelry! Peruvian catering!) were featured at the DC Convention Center through the Greater Washington HIspanic Chamber of Commerce's annual Business Expo.
- A team of staff thoughtfully reviewed the essays and SMART plans of Carlos Rosario School soon-to-be graduates applying for a higher



- education scholarship from the Carlos Rosario Scholarship Fund.
- Planning for the coming School year is underway with Principals collaborating with student government to identify how to address the core needs of our learners, such as our student, Any Villafranca.

Born and raised in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Any Villafranca moved to the United States in 2015. She enrolled as a student at the Carlos Rosario School and took ESL classes, the Math for Life and Work class, and the Bilingual Teaching Assistant Program. Since graduation, Any has worked at the Mundo Verde Public Charter School as a Teaching Fellow. Any is currently continuing her studies at University of the District of Columbia (UDC) thanks to a Carlos Rosario School Achieving the Dream Scholarship. She has returned to the Carlos Rosario School to prepare for her U.S. Citizenship test. Watch her story HERE.

There is much to celebrate at our school, when I look at the progress we've made together as a team:

- **Enrollment**: After a strong Fall semester, we further increased our enrollment in the Spring semester to 2,026 which opens up the Carlos Rosario School experience to more students.
- Strategic Planning: We created the Strategic Plan 2025, a roadmap for our shared work together for the next three years. This plan was created through engagement sessions and feedback from staff across all departments, leaders, and stakeholders. Click <a href="here">here</a> to see our Strategic Roadmap through 2025.
- **Digital Equity and Technology Access for Students** We improved the student laptop onboarding process and deployed laptops with internet access to every Carlos Rosario School student.
- Advocating for adult learners: We rallied together, mobilized our community, and amplified the needs of our students to changemakers and community leaders.
- And many other wins, which illustrate the hard work, collaboration, and innovation members of our team have put into the work of our mission.

Please join us in celebrating our progress as a school, and to honor the achievements of our exceptional students on June 20th, 2023 for our annual Graduation Celebration, at DAR Constitution Hall (1776 D Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20006). For more information, and to RSVP, please visit our graduation RSVP page.

In Service,

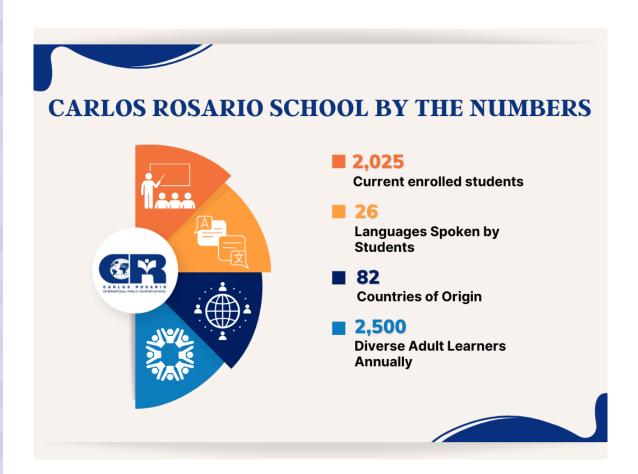
Allison R. Kokkoros Chief Executive Officer

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Questions? Call (202) 797-4700

## Did You Know...



# **Highlights**

### In the Media

The Carlos Rosario

School has been featured in the media for our life-changing programs and the impact it has had on immigrant learners in the District. Take a moment to read some of the features, below.



#### Our most recent

feature was in The Washington Post, highlighting the growth of adult education in the District. Thank you, The Washington Post, for shedding light on this important trend and for sharing the important work our School does to serve DC's adult learners and immigrants.

- Washington Post: D.C. school enrollment boom helped by rise in adult learners HERE
- UNIDOUS Blog: SmBiz Pitch Competition Empowers Entrepreneurs HERE
- Latino Magazine: Investing in Immigrants <u>HERE</u>
- El Pregonero: Pequeños negocios exitosos en manos de inmigrantes HERE
- NTN24: De Odesa a Washington DC: un año después de la guerra, así se adapta una joven ucraniana a su nueva vida en EE. UU <u>HERE</u> and <u>HERE</u>
- Univision: Escuela Culinaria Carlos Rosario, cuna de exitosos chefs latinos en Washington <u>HERE</u>

### Celebrating the Richness of Black and Asian American and Pacific Islander Cultures

In February and May, the School celebrated its annual Black History Month and Asian American and Pacific Islander History Festivals. These online celebrations feature music, artwork, dance, culinary demonstrations, and other contributions from Carlos Rosario School students, staff, and community. Be sure to watch the two videos if you missed the celebrations!

- Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month <u>HERE</u>
- Black History Month Video Celebration <u>HERE</u>



# In Case You Missed It: DC Policy Center Report Launch

Our school hosted the D.C. Policy Center's Adult Education Report Launch for the report, *A Landscape of D.C.'s adult public charter schools: Who they serve, how they serve, and what they achieve.* The report focuses on D.C.'s adult public charter schools that serve adults in D.C. by providing opportunities to earn high school equivalency certificates, gain English language skills, and enroll in workforce development programs.

The event at our Harvard Street Campus included a panel discussion with DC adult public charter schools leaders and alumni, including Geovanny Cruz from our Student Services Team. Thank you to our community members who gathered to learn about the challenges of adult learners and celebrate their accomplishments, and to Geovanny for representing our school!

Click **here** to read the full report.



### **New Faces Around the School**

We are pleased to introduce you to some new faces in leadership and senior roles at the Carlos Rosario School! Jorge Garcia joined our School as Director of Student and Information Learning Systems (SILS), Nicole Theus as Director of Human Resources and Talent and Chinedu "Chin" Onwudiwe as Director of Finance. Welcome to our School Community, Nicole, Jorge and Chin!



We also welcomed four new Board Members: Larry Villegas, Robbie Dean, Giovanni Delfino, and Ana Mejia!



# School Partner Spotlight: Amazon

## **Amazon Supports Carlos Rosario School IT Students**

Last year, Amazon generously contributed to the Carlos Rosario School to provide five Achieving the Dream Scholarships and support several IT projects the school planned to implement. We've put the funds to great use by hiring several of our IT alumni to support their peers with small group and 1:1 tech challenges and we plan to continue this work over the summer as we prepare for next semester.

Additionally, we awarded five graduating students with scholarships to pursue IT related degrees. All told, this year, we will be awarding over \$100,000 in scholarships to students continuing their education. Amazon's generosity made both of these projects possible.



# **Call to Action**

**Calling All Carlos Rosario School Alumni!** 



The Carlos Rosario School has been working around an initiative to collect information and map out its Alumni network. We are asking Alumni to share their contact information so that we may invite them to events, engage with our school, and work towards establishing a more formal alumni network.

The Carlos Rosario School Alumni Network will bring students and graduates — past, present, and future — together.

If you are a Carlos Rosario School Graduate, we want to hear from you! We are asking for 3 minutes of your time to fill out **this Google form**, and to help us grow our Alumni Network.

Help us spread the word!

### **Support the Carlos Rosario School!**



This school year, the Carlos Rosario School has empowered thousands of adult learners to:

- obtain high school diplomas
- pass the citizenship exam and become U.S. citizens
- gain the English skills necessary to help their children with homework
- enter into careers and climbed career ladders
- obtain college degrees and workforce certifications in Bilingual Teaching Assistant, Culinary Arts, Nurse Aide Training, and IT Fundamentals
- pursue their unique individual goals and dreams

More than 80,000 men and women have graduated from the School over these years and today are our region's teachers, health professionals, leaders, and small business owners.

Can we count on you to help us transform the lives of adult learners in DC? Your support will help the over 2,000 immigrant learners we support, and the thousands more waiting for our support. Make a donation today.

Donate now!

## Stay Connected

### Follow us on social media and share our posts!

Facebook: CarlosRosarioSchoolInstagram: carlos rosario school

• Twitter: CR\_School

Youtube: CarlosRosarioSchool



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