

SPRING 2026



Carlos Rosario School Connections



IN THIS EDITION

- A Note from the CEO
- CR School By the Numbers
- CR School In the News
- New Employees – Alexis Ortiz, Udean Mars Williams, and John Marchese
- Alumni Success Story – Elbetel
- And More!

A Note From Allison

Dear Carlos Rosario School Community,

Spring is a wonderful time in the District and at the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School! The beauty, creativity, and diversity of our School community has been on full display at several recent events:

- A panel of alumni now studying at UDC shared their experiences and encouragement with current learners, illustrating through their own stories that achieving dreams IS possible.
- At our Spring Semester Multicultural Celebrations, students at both campuses united in sharing the music, dance, and art of their cultures.
- Our 10th annual Pitch Competition highlighted the hard work of Small Business Program entrepreneurs. Congratulations to our winner, Diana of [Almendo Station](#), and to all the participants!

As ever, the demand for programs at Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School continues to reflect the deep need for adult education in our community. Each year, we aim to serve more than 2,000 students, and we are proud to continue meeting and exceeding that goal. This year's student performance data shows outstanding persistence and academic growth—a

testament to our learners' dedication as well as the effectiveness of our holistic school model. Learn more from a recent study conducted by the [American Institutes of Research®](#).

Our career training programs also remain strong as we lean into the School's decades of experience in job skills training. With support from DC Health, we have doubled the number of learners in the Nursing Aide Training program. These graduates quickly join the workforce at Washington Hospital Center and other health institutions.

Community support remains vital to our work. The annual Achieving the Dream fundraising event continues to bring new supporters into our community—and fuels our Higher Ed Scholarship and Student Emergency Funds. Our Community Culinary Events this school year have welcomed more than 50 partners, friends, and donors who had the opportunity to connect with our culinary students and faculty. With the support of our donors, partners, faculty, and staff, we remain focused on creating opportunities that help our students and our community thrive.

The Carlos Rosario School is very much a school for this moment, and we know we must continue to adapt to remain the School of the future. We appreciate your role in this mission and invite you to deepen it by reading on and reaching out.

The Carlos Rosario School is very much a school for this moment, and we know we must continue to adapt to remain the School of the future. We appreciate your role in this mission and invite you to deepen it by reading on and reaching out.

Sincerely yours,



Allison R. Kokkoros
Chief Executive Officer

Did You Know...



CARLOS ROSARIO SCHOOL BY THE NUMBERS



Highlights

In Case You Missed It: Read about us in the Washington Hispanic

The Carlos Rosario School was featured in the Washington Hispanic newspaper. At Carlos Rosario School, we are connecting education to opportunity across the DMV, helping adult learners build skills, earn certifications, and launch meaningful careers. Under the leadership of Allison Kokkoros, CEO, our model goes beyond the classroom. With a 92% certification rate in our career training programs and strong partnerships with local employers, our students are not only graduating, they are also getting hired and advancing in their careers.

From healthcare to culinary arts, IT, and education, our graduates are making an impact across industries. Many even return to work at the school, continuing a powerful cycle of community and opportunity. This is what workforce development looks like when it is done with purpose.

Read more and learn how we are transforming lives through education [here](#).

Carlos Rosario School conecta educación y empleo en el DMV

Formando a los profesionales del futuro



Allison Kokkoros, directora ejecutiva de Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School. FOTOG: JOHNINY YATACO



Erick Quinteros, egresado del programa de paraeducadores bilingües, quien durante la pandemia se convirtió en un apoyo esencial para estudiantes de preschool que no hablaban inglés. FOTOG: JOHNINY YATACO

**JOHNNY YATACO/
WASHINGTON
HISPANIC**

En una ciudad donde el crecimiento económico convive con profundas desigualdades, el desarrollo de la fuerza laboral se ha convertido en una prioridad urgente. En ese contexto, la labor de Allison Kokkoros, directora ejecutiva de Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School, destaca no solo por sus re-

sultados, sino por el modelo humano que impulsa. Desde el inicio, Kokkoros dejó claro que el impacto de la escuela no se mide únicamente en cifras, sino en historias. Así, algunos números hablan por sí solos: al menos un 10% del personal está compuesto por exalumnos. Más de 20 personas trabajan hoy como maestros, asistentes o personal de apoyo, reflejando un ciclo que da vida a la misión de la institución. “Son personas que vivieron la misión en carne propia”, explica. “Y ahora tienen ese deseo de devol-

ver lo que recibieron”. Esa conexión, afirma, es lo que hace única a la escuela. Más allá de beneficios o compensación, muchos permanecen porque sienten que están marcando una diferencia. Esa cultura, casi familiar, no es casualidad. La propia Kokkoros llegó a la institución recién graduada, trabajando en varios empleos simultáneamente. Sin embargo, fue en Carlos Rosario donde encontró algo distinto. “No había nada igual”, recuerda. “Ese sentido de comunidad y de celebrar el aprendizaje era

Se trata de abrir puertas reales”, concluye. “De dar a las personas no solo un empleo, sino una carrera con futuro”.

ALLISON KOKKOROS
Directora ejecutiva de Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School

Elliot & Chatain PLLC

Buscas ayuda en Español
¡Llama ahora!

Abogados serios que te ofrecen
guía y orientación legal
en tus problemas de Inmigración

La primera consulta es gratis
Se habla español.

Email: FChatain@elliottchatain.com

202 431 0092



único”. El corazón del modelo es una estrategia integral que combina formación académica, capacitación profesional y apoyo constante al estudiante. Los resultados son contundentes: el 92% de los participantes en programas de capacitación obtiene certificaciones en sus respectivos campos. Y el acompañamiento no termina ahí. “No nos lavamos las manos cuando alguien se gradúa”, afirma. La escuela continúa apoyando a sus estudiantes en el siguiente paso, muchas veces a través de alianzas con empleadores. Restaurantes, hospitales y otras organizaciones del área contratan regularmente a sus graduados. En el sector salud, por ejemplo, centros como MedStar Washington Hospital Center han incorporado a numerosos egresados que comienzan como asistentes de enfermería y avanzan en sus carreras. Las historias de éxito son numerosas. Kokkoros recuerda el caso de Daniella Moraira, inmigrante argentina que pasó por el programa culinario, continuó sus estudios en el Culinary Institute of America y hoy es cofundadora de Call Your Mother y creadora de Jember Pizza. “Persistió, aprendió, y ahora es un ejemplo de lo que es posible”, señala. El éxito del modelo reside también en su capacidad de adaptación. Cada programa responde a un análisis del mercado laboral, identificando sectores con alta demanda y oportunidades reales de crecimiento. Actualmente, la escuela ofrece formación en artes culinarias, tecnología de la información, asistencia

de enfermería, paraeducadores bilingües y pequeños negocios. Un ejemplo de esta adaptación es el programa culinario, que hoy incluye tanto habilidades de cocina como experiencia en servicio al cliente. Los estudiantes incluso operan un bistró dentro del campus, preparándose para las exigencias reales del mercado. Este enfoque se complementa con un modelo educativo holístico basado en tres pilares: habilidades fundamentales —como inglés y alfabetización digital—, capacitación profesional y servicios de apoyo integral que ayudan a superar barreras como transporte o cuidado infantil. La tecnología también juega un papel clave. Tras la pandemia, la escuela adoptó un modelo híbrido que combina clases presenciales y virtuales, brindando mayor flexibilidad. Además, cada estudiante recibe una computadora portátil, y próximamente los graduados podrán conservarla. Las historias humanas siguen siendo el motor del cambio. Kokkoros recuerda a Erick Quinteros, egresado del programa de paraeducadores bilingües, quien durante la pandemia se convirtió en un apoyo esencial para estudiantes que no hablaban inglés. Hoy es maestro de tercer grado y continúa avanzando en su formación. El impacto del modelo ha sido reconocido a nivel gubernamental. Ante la escasez de profesionales de la salud, el Departamento de Salud de Washington, D.C., ha invertido en programas acelerados, seleccionando a la escuela como socio clave. Esto ha permitido duplicar la capacidad del programa de asistencia de enfermería. Los resultados son inmediatos: aproximadamente el 75% de los graduados de estos programas ya se encuentran empleados en el sector. Para Kokkoros, el mensaje es claro: el desarrollo de la fuerza laboral es también una oportunidad para transformar vidas. “Se trata de abrir puertas reales”, concluye. “De dar a las personas no solo un empleo, sino una carrera con futuro”.

DC Charter School Alliance Expert School Visit at SG Campus

We hosted the DC Charter School Alliance Expert School Visit at our Sonia Gutierrez Campus. More than 30 visitors attended, including staff from K–12 charter schools, peer adult charter school leaders, and team members from OSSE and the Charter Alliance.

This was a great opportunity to showcase our Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs and further establish Carlos Rosario School as a leader in this space. Visitors participated in a campus tour and classroom observations led by our colleagues at the SG Campus and attended a panel discussion moderated by Chelsea Bradford, featuring Ana Pernia, Workforce Program Manager; Elani Lawrence, Chief Academic Officer; Eddy Ceballos, IT

Fundamentals Instructor; and Ali Abdulhakim Kemal, Nurse Aide Training alumnus.



Carlos Rosario School Spotlighted for CTE Month

This February, in recognition of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, the DC Charter Schools Alliance highlighted how Carlos Rosario School's diverse programs, including our CTE pathways, equip adult learners with real-world skills that transform lives across Washington, DC.

As graduate Eric Quinteros shared, *"When you support adult charter schools like Carlos Rosario, you are building DC's workforce, strengthening families, and creating the future leaders of our city."* Read more from CEO Allison R. Kokkoros [here](#).



DCCHARTERS.ORG

From Survival to Thriving: How "Agility by Design" is Powering DC's Workforce — DC Charter School Alliance

New Podcast Feature | Adult Education in Action

Carlos Rosario School was recently featured on a podcast hosted by Ward 5 Councilmember Zachary Parker. In this thoughtful conversation, Carlos Rosario School teacher Kimberly De Jesus Alfonso and student Aida Ba discuss the importance and wide-ranging impact of adult education opportunities, and the ways adult charter schools help not only individual learners but entire communities thrive.

From building English skills and earning diplomas to opening doors to family-sustaining careers, adult education remains a critical pathway for economic mobility in Washington, DC. Listen to the episode [here](#).

**ZACHARY
PARKER**
DC COUNCIL | WARD 5



THE WARD 5 WAVE

Season 3 | Episode 2

Listen at ward5.us/podcast



Facing Budget Challenges, Advancing Adult Education Opportunities, and Remembering Rev. Jesse Jackson

February 20, 2026 with special guests from **REACH**
(the **R**oundtable on **E**ducation
in **A**dult **C**harter Schools)

DOH Visits Nurse Aide Training Program

On February 25, representatives from the Health Systems and Preparedness Administration, Office of the Deputy Director of Operations at the Department of Health (DOH), visited Carlos Rosario School to review the Nurse Aide Training Program, focusing on implementation, outcomes, student progress, and overall impact.

Program Coordinator Nichole Pierre noted the visit was “outstanding” and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet staff and students benefiting from the High Needs Scholarship Grant.

The DOH delegation was joined by Elani Lawrence, Chief Academic Officer, and members of the Sonia Gutierrez Academic team and staff.



Leadership Team Updates: Welcome Alexis, Udean and John!

We are delighted to share exciting updates from our leadership team! Alexis Ortiz has joined the Carlos Rosario School community as General Counsel, Udean Mars Williams as Assistant Principal Sonia Gutierrez Campus and John Marchese, as Vice President of Advancement.

Please join us in welcoming Alexis and John as they begin these important new chapters in their journeys!

Learn more about Alexis, Udean and John [here](#).

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

 <p>ALEXIS ORTIZ General Counsel</p>	 <p>UDEAN MARS WILLIAMS Assistant Principal Sonia Gutierrez Campus</p>	 <p>JOHN MARCHESE Vice President of Advancement</p>
--	--	---

Our Stories

Meet Elbetel: From Uncertainty to a Clear Path

When Elbetel arrived in the United States, she had a nursing degree and experience but no clear path to continue her career. Determined to move forward, she enrolled at Carlos Rosario School, where she strengthened her English, earned her Level 8 certificate, and gained the guidance to take her next steps.

With support from career advisors, Elbetel evaluated her credentials and chose to return to school. Today, she is a second-year nursing student at the University of the District of Columbia, where she completed her pre-nursing coursework with a 4.0 GPA and is preparing for clinical training. Along the way, she also received support from the Carlos Rosario School Scholarship Fund and secured a position at Children's National Hospital.

Read more about her hard work and dedication [here](#).





See what's happening on our social sites:



Carlos Rosario Intl PCS | 1100 Harvard Street NW | Washington, DC 20009 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!