**Margarita Tovar-Tamez**

**Five Year Goals**

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* Obtain a degree and certification on Education Administration
* Obtain an administration position in Houston ISD.
* Become an administrator in Houston ISD.
* Continue becoming a great teacher and mentor.
* Continue influencing my students, fellow co-workers, and community.

These goals are important for me because they define who I am and what I stand for. My goal has always been student achievement and community outreach. In order to obtain that, I know true leadership has to occur everywhere I set foot in. They say leadership is about making others better as a result of your **presence** and making sure that impact lasts in your **absence**. As an administrative assistant, I want to help build a team that is capable to function and succeed to the point where I can say they don't need me there! As a principal, I want to influence parents to keep learning, because we are the best role models for our kids.

**Professional Growth Plan**

As an administrative assistant I want to become a team with my leadership group. I want us to not only be managers but mentors of growth to our teachers. Very often we forget that one of our main goals as administrators is to grow and develop teacher capacity. Too many times administrators are only present in classrooms when it's time to observe and never come back until three months later. I hope that my principal and I can become a duo that will impact teacher growth in order for student achievement to be better.

As a principal, I want to offer professional development opportunities for teachers and parents. I honestly believe that the only way we can change the future generations is engaging our communities. We can't do this alone! Schools and parents should be a team, but we can't do this if they don't feel welcome in our facilities. I also want to build a school that can be independent if I'm not there. I want to empower educators to build learning spaces where creativity and innovation is the norm. How can we expect students to be problem solvers if we are not teaching them to do so?

**Mentors**

Keith Ferrazi has a very strong opinion on the importance of mentors. All the time we hear how we are supposed to have one mentor who guides us and leads us in the right path. Someone whom we admire and almost want to follow their identical steps. However, we shouldn't rely on only **one**person to be your  mentor. We should have multiple mentors for multiple areas in our lives. We are complex individuals, we can't expect one person to fit all of our needs. Therefore, I have three mentors who are my lifelines to grow.

My professional mentor is Sandra Menxueiro. She has been the person who has not only pushed me to become a better educator, but has given me opportunities to grow as a leader. She taught me that position doesn't give you leadership, you create it yourself. She has helped me believe in myself and even helped me with my confidence. She's always honest and gives me her true opinion when I come to her with a professional idea.

My emotional mentor is Jessica Barrientos. It helps that Jessie is a counselor! She often listens to me and gives me her opinion on issues that matter to me. She has helped me with my emotional growth, and I'm forever in grateful for that.

Finally, my life mentor is my husband Jorge Tamez. He's the one that keeps me grounded at the end of the day. He gives me his opinions, and is excellent at reading me if I'm searching for honesty or simply comfort. He has believed in me and has offered me support in all of my professional decisions.

**Professional Readings**

Journals and Newspapers

+ American Education Research Journal
I like to constantly be reading the AER Journal because it's incredibly important to stay updated with the latest research. Best practices are constantly changing and new information is always coming up. I don't believe in doing things "because they've always been done this way". Therefore, if there is something out there that is being more efficient, let's do it!
+ Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
There's no better place to find educational administration readings than the ASCD articles. This database keeps us informed in the latest educational leadership trends, topics and issues.

Newspapers

+ The New York Times
The New York Times offers up to date information on hot topics in education. Although they are a massive media outlet, they are almost always the first to report on national issues.
+Houston Chronicle
We have to keep updated in our city news daily! It's important to know what is going on in the communities where our students live! This information can provide insight for attendance, and even emotional changes in students.

​Writing in Educational Administration

Reading is one of my passions. I enjoy reading books by Todd Whittaker about teaching and leadership. I also love to read books by entrepreneurs and motivational speakers like John Maxwell, John Foley, and Keith Ferrazzi.