

IRMA DIAZ-GONZALEZ

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Irma Diaz-Gonzalez is President and CEO of Employment and Training Centers, Inc., (ETC), a company she has led to success since its establishment in 1986. ETC specializes in human resource services including recruitment, assessment, temporary and permanent staffing, as well as employee retention strategies. In the past two years, ETC has further distinguished itself as a bilingual placement agency in the Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese space.

Ms. Diaz-Gonzalez began her career in workforce development as an Employment Counselor while attending college and working for the Illinois Migrant Council, an agency dedicated to helping predominantly Hispanic migrant and seasonal farm workers secure permanent employment. In 1982 she relocated to Houston where she managed the City of Houston's Youth Employment and Training Program, an initiative that placed over 10,000 young people in jobs annually.

Since relocating to Houston, she has been deeply involved in the city's economic and workforce development fabric serving on numerous boards and committees focusing on the future growth and prosperity of Houston. An active leader in the Hispanic community, she has contributed her expertise to various organizations including Community Family Centers, the Mexican Institute of Greater Houston, and recently chaired Mi Familia Vota, a national organization working to build political power within Latino and immigrant communities through increased civic participation. Notably, she is Chair Emeritus of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce where she served for over 20 years.

Mrs. Diaz Gonzalez influence extends beyond the Hispanic community. She, along with the then Director of the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services organized Citizenship Workshops for eligible, legal residents to become U.S. citizens. This five-year volunteer effort that involved several non-profit organizations and numerous volunteers helped thousands of people from different countries become U.S. citizens. She has also participated on other boards including the United Way Board of Trustees, the Center for Houston's Future, Houston First Corp., the 2017 Superbowl Committee, and the Greater Houston COVID-19 Recovery Fund established by United Way and the Greater Houston Community Foundation where thousands of vulnerable Houstonians received needed services to address basic needs. For nearly 20 years she served as Scholarship Chair of the Pan American Round Table of Houston raising funds to support scholarships for low-income Latinas. She is a Lifetime Board Member of Memorial Hermann's Children's Hospital.

Currently she serves on the Board of Baker Ripley, one of the largest non-profit organizations in the Houston region serving children and seniors, veterans and immigrants, individuals and families with a wide range of services and educational opportunities, as well as the Ibn Sina Foundation, a non-profit organization providing medical, dental, diagnostic and mental health and well-being services for low-income communities. Mrs. Diaz-Gonzalez's dedication to community service has earned her wide recognition in both Illinois and Texas.

She pursued her education at Black Hawk College in Moline, IL, the University of Coahuila in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, and completed executive education programs at Harvard's Kennedy School of Business and Stanford's Graduate School of Business' Latino Entrepreneurship Education. She is a graduate of Class XXVII of the American Leadership Forum in Houston, and the Leadership 2008 Class of the Center for Houston's Future.

She resides in Houston and is married to Roberto Gonzalez. She is the proud mother of three adult daughters: Jessica, Sofia, and Elizabeth Gonzalez.