

Mary Jo Gonzales, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, University of Rhode Island

As the assistant vice president of Student Affairs and dean of students, Dr. Gonzales guides a portfolio of student success efforts in community standards, outreach and intervention, substance abuse prevention and education, commuter affairs, Greek affairs, and disability services at Rhode Island's land grant and flagship university. During her time at the University of Rhode Island, Dr. Gonzales also served as interim vice president of Student Affairs where she supervised a comprehensive student services portfolio including housing, dining, campus stores, health, counseling, recreation services, student leadership/involvement, and special programs. Prior to those roles, Dr. Gonzales was the associate dean of students and director of the Academic Success Center at Iowa State University, director of the Academic Success Center and director of TRiO Student Success Program at Dickinson State University (ND).

Dr. Gonzales is recognized for developing innovative programs, leading organizational change, and collaborating across institutional boundaries to achieve divisional, institutional, system, and state goals. She deploys a strengths-based pathways model for student engagement having successfully led institutional student success efforts at various universities. Dr. Gonzales' expertise and experience is also recognized by the organizations in which she is involved. From 2013–2016, she chaired the NASPA National Excellence Awards leading national efforts to recognize model programs and effective practices in student affairs. In addition, Dr. Gonzales co-chaired College Board's *Prepárate: Educating Latinos for the Future of America* national conference where she facilitated Latino k-20 educational administrators from across the country as they implemented one of the largest conferences on Latino educational pipelines, opportunity, access, and success from 2012–2015.

As a low-income, first generation college student, woman of color, and single mother, Dr. Gonzales has dedicated her life to leading efforts which help individuals achieve their academic, personal, and professional goals, particularly in the communities in which she works and lives. She was honored as a 2013 Women Impacting ISU for her role in mentoring and "cultivating a community focused on student success." She also received a Martin Luther King Distinguished Graduate Student Service Award from Washington State University for her efforts to advance diversity, inclusion, and equity.

Dr. Gonzales received her bachelor's degree in Communication from San Jose State University, and has a master's degree in Communication and doctorate degree in Education from Washington State University.