



Hi Everyone! My name is Kristina Martinez and I am very excited to meet everyone and participate in the Great Deans journey with all of you!

A little about me: I was born and raised in San Pedro, CA, where I still live with my husband Ryan, two children, Rylee and Ryder, and our two rescue dogs, Rubble and Chase. On the weekends I am very busy being a dance mom and a baseball mom. My daughter Rylee is starting high school in the fall where she will be on the drill team. My son just started playing travel ball and his little league team won the championship this past season.

I am a huge sports fan and love cheering on the Los Angeles Rams and Dodgers. My family and I are also starting the "Chasing 30" challenge where we plan to visit all 30 MLB stadiums before my son graduates high school (we have about 9 years to do it).

I am passionate about working in the community college sector. As a child, I watched both of my parents graduate from community college and I also decided to enroll in community college after high school. I attended Los Angeles Harbor College, Long Beach City College, Cypress College and Santa Monica College. After finishing my general education requirements, I transferred to USC as a Political Science major. FIGHT ON!

After graduating from USC, I worked for nearly a decade in for-profit higher education where I provided leadership over various student services departments, giving me the opportunity to serve in management roles in student recruitment, admissions and registration, and financial aid.





In 2013, while I was pregnant with my son, my daughter was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. At a time where I felt so helpless, I found it empowering to help others. I was no longer content working in the for-profit sector and I wanted to dedicate my career to giving back to the community. I knew pursuing a career at a community college would give me that chance.



Just around the time my daughter was finishing her last round of chemotherapy in June 2015, El Camino College gave me the opportunity to serve as the Assistant Director of Financial Aid. Shortly after, I decided to return to school to complete my Master's Degree in Public Administration, Urban Affairs at Cal State Long Beach.



I am currently the Associate Dean of Counseling and Student Success at El Camino College and I am also temporarily serving as the Interim Dean of Student Support Services. I am in the final stretch of finishing my Doctorate in Educational Leadership for Social Justice at Loyola Marymount University. I plan to defend in October 2023. I am looking forward to working with and learning from all of you!

