

My name is Veronica Jaramillo. I was born to immigrant parents from Ecuador and am the youngest of four children. The image below shows my family celebrating my 8th birthday. My early years were spent in New Jersey and then Eastern Pennsylvania. My family has influenced who I am and have always been my supporters although I was a first-generation college student and am the first in my family to get an advanced degree. My parents although not college educated always emphasized education as the path to a better life.



As a child I always loved mathematics and enjoyed solving problems. This served me well in my academic path. I went to a liberal 4-year college, Moravian College (now University), and obtained a bachelors as a double major in Mathematics and Chemistry. What I loved about my undergraduate is that it rounded me as a student and helped me appreciate more than the STEM classes which I always loved. I also gained a high level of confidence in myself by the opportunities afforded me- Undergraduate research, tutoring, Chemistry student lab assistant.

I continued to move west- and went to the University of Arizona to earn my doctorate in Physical Chemistry. During this experience, I learned not all educational systems are equivalent. I also was the first and only female to get a doctorate from my advisor. While in graduate school, I was a teaching assistant and continued tutoring. I loved the teaching and enjoyed my research which studied how fast chemical reactions occurred and what their effect on the stratospheric ozone concentration was affected. While at the University of Arizona I met my husband, Brian.

We continued west to live in Pasadena, so Brian could work at the Jet Propulsion lab, and I would be closer to my sisters who now lived in Southern California. After graduate school, I was a research scientist at a startup company, Calhoun Vision- who were developing interocular lenses that could change shape with irradiation. During these 4 years, I missed the classroom and realized I wanted to get back to education.

My first chemistry faculty position was at East Los Angeles College (ELAC) where I earned tenured and really fell in love with the social justice aspect of community colleges. During my seven years at ELAC, I took on executive role in the academic senate, and acted as the campus learning outcomes coordinator. I also acted as a faculty mentor for the chemistry club and did science outreach with students. I have been dedicated to increasing the number of underrepresented and female students who are STEM majors. During my time at ELAC, I also

gave birth to my son, Adrian. Below is a photo of my family enjoying an Arizona Basketball game.



As I wanted to be an active parent while continuing in my career, when a Chemistry Faculty position opened at Pasadena City College (PCC), I jumped at the opportunity to work closer to my home. I have now been at PCC for 11 years and took on leadership roles- Academic Senate, and Department Chair. I enjoyed teaching and acting as a faculty and student advocate. I had an NSF grant that was devoted to incorporating more early career research experiences for our students. I also have continued doing STEM outreach with the PCC Chemistry Club and with American Chemical Society. The pictures below are of some outreach.



When our last Dean Returned to the classroom, I decided I felt I could do this role and help the Natural Sciences Division flourish. I am very excited to participate in this Great Dean Program and believe it will help me be more effective.