

Amanda L. Bonilla

“You cannot ask for people’s hand without caring about people’s heart” is a lesson Amanda was taught at a young age by her father. As a first generation college student of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage, this value of caring about community led Amanda to lead a life of service as an educator, activist, coach and mentor. Amanda is an equity minded professional who works tirelessly to create and advocate for more inclusive learning environments. Professionally, Amanda served at Clemson University as the Association Director for Multicultural Programs and Services where she led cultural awareness programs and retention initiatives for students of Color. During her time in South Carolina she helped establish several Latino student organizations and served as the South Carolina State Representative for the NASPA Latino Knowledge Community. Once she returned to her home state of Indiana she spent seven years at her Alma Mater Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) as the Assistant Director for Social Justice Education where she created the nationally recognized Social Justice Scholars program, which awarded over \$400,000 in student scholarships. Her work in creating inclusive learning opportunities through programming led her to receive many accolades including the ACUI Joseph H. Benedict Social Change Award for Racial Justice and the IUPUI Women’s Leadership award. Amanda is also a featured author in the book *Creating Space for Democracy: A primer on dialogue and deliberation in higher education*. In 2016 she co-founded the Inclusion Consultant Network and in 2020 became the sole owner and CEO. ICN is a minority-women owned business focused on providing clients with cultural competency training and services to answer industry specific equity issues. She has provided countless hours of training, workshops and keynotes over the years and worked with everyone from Division II student athletes to Fortune 500 executives. Amanda is also actively engaged in the community and serves on the board of directors for United Way of Central Indiana, Project Stepping Stone, and Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority Inc. She also is an alumni of the Social Justice Training Institute and a 2020 cohort member of the esteemed Indiana Latino Institute Leadership Circle. Amanda is a proud life-long Hoosier and a graduate of both IUPUI and Indiana University Bloomington. Currently she works at Ivy Tech Community College as the Exec. Director for Student Diversity, Equity, and Belonging.