

# Elizabeth Alvarez Mercado

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## Professional Experience

### CareerFoundry

*Web Developer Program, 2020- 2021*

- Learned fundamentals of front-end and back-end development (full-stack)
- Developed applications utilizing core concepts and tools: React, jQuery (JavaScript libraries), Github, Heroku, Netlify (Cloud services), MongoDB (database), HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Bootstrap (Frontend development)

### Leadership for Educational Equity (LEE)

*Director of Program and Organizing, Oakland, July 2019- December 2020*

- Build upon and continue developing a strong team of member organizers in Oakland by coaching and training members in the region through LEE's organizing cycle
- Identify, support, develop and train member and community leaders in the region to lead the collective action work through one-one-one coaching and trainings
- Strategically set vision to achieve goals which included developing members as turnout leaders and leadership team members (8)
- Support cultivation of LEE membership in region through trainings (Organizing 101, Community Conversation Series, Hosting a House Meeting) to promote civic engagement
- Design and facilitation of regional programming known as the NOW (National Organizing Workshop) ● Support additional projects to ensure regional success of programming and member cultivation (Policy and Advocacy and Elected Leadership)

### Family Voices of California

*Family Engagement Manager, San Francisco, January 2019- May 2019*

- Develop strategy for family engagement to increase family advocacy
- Researched opportunities for families to weigh in on local and state policy decision making, apply for committee/stakeholder group membership, and participate through workshop/webinar information sessions. ● Build relationships with local and state organizations targeted to support families with children with special healthcare needs.
- Disseminate monthly Family Voices Digest and Opportunity Update emails highlighting opportunities for families to share their stories and promote engagement and participation on local, state, and federal levels. ● Work with Project Leadership Manager to coordinate family leadership development trainings. ● Developed and executed strategy for annual Health Summit legislative visits. Organized schedules for families to meet with their state legislators to share their stories about the California health care system and the impact it has on their children.

### California Charter Schools Association

*Director, Parent Organizing, Bay Area, January 2017 – October 2018*

- Develop and execute organizing campaigns with internal CCSA cross team partners around the protection and expansion of charter schools such as campaigns for Measure G Oakland, new school petition approvals in Oakland and Richmond, and the CA Governor's race, aligning with family and CCSA priorities.
- Lead cross-functional teams in goal setting, decision-making, planning, progress-monitoring,
- Set direction for a team of 4 organizers (3 in Oakland and 1 in Richmond) to lead their parent teams across their school turfs and develop strong parent leaders among 12 schools.
- Coach and develop organizers, providing modeling through shadowing, conducted observations in the field, and provided constant feedback.
- Develop external partnerships with leaders in the education reform community in Oakland and Richmond, including charter CMO's and program funders.
- Planned and executed large family turnout event of 100 families in Oakland to speak with local elected officials.
- Lead team to develop strong parent leaders to demand meetings with elected officials from local school and county boards and state legislators to demand that they support them as parent leaders and decision makers of their children's education. ● Win campaigns including the approval of AB 2635, SB 808, and approval of a new school in Richmond.
- Provided professional development to the parent organizing team to topics including work-life balance, social/emotional health, and setting boundaries in the work pace.

- Develop and facilitate presentations on organizing strategies and tactics at the National Conference of Charter Schools and the California Charter Schools Association Conference.

### **California Charter Schools Association**

*Parent Organizer, Richmond, July 2015 –December 2016*

- Identified, trained and developed parents and other community members as leaders in the principles and practices of community organizing in order to build powerful parent-driven teams connected to CCSA Families.
- Developed 5 parent teams comprised of schools in Richmond and El Cerrito that drove local issues and win campaign including new school approvals, the Richmond Promise, and the WCCUSD 2016 elections.
- Planned and executed a district-wide Education Fair that offered information on quality school options in WCC, with 7 charter schools represented, along with WCCUSD schools with over 100 families in attendance.
- Conducted 12 one-to-one meetings and one house meeting with parents and community members weekly.
- Developed and lead a series called Family Leadership Development Trainings in collaboration with staff to grow parents in their advocacy, organizing, and leadership skills
- Trained and guided parent leaders and teams in relationship building, research, and policy development to building political power in Richmond.
- Prepared leaders to hold demand meetings, press events, public actions between parents and public officials, including state legislators and local school board members.
- Executed electoral campaign operations, including coordinating and turning out volunteers for phone banking and canvassing in conjunction with CCSA Advocates during the WCCUSD 2016 elections.
- Managed and maintained a timely and comprehensive database of current and potential parents for political action and advocacy using Salesforce.

### **Maker Education Initiative, Oakland, CA**

*AmeriCorps VISTA-Maker Education Community Outreach Specialist, July 2014 – July 2015*

- Assisted in coordination and communications to the statewide initiative Power of Discovery: STEM<sup>2</sup> through the OC STEM Initiative's Regional Innovation Support Provider Network's learning communities.
- Assisted in the planning and implementation of county-wide in-person and web-based professional development events or formal, informal and after-school teachers and educators focused on STEM teaching and learning.
- Researched and developed key resources and tools to introduce and integrate design thinking principles into STEM and other afterschool and informal programs.
- Curated STEM focused resources for after-school and informal programs, including potential funding sources, potential partnerships, materials and supplies for STEM programs.

### **Redondo Beach Unified School District, Redondo Beach, CA**

*School Social Worker, September 2013 - May 2014*

- Maintained strong relationships with students, families, teachers and administration to ensure that all students were reaching their highest potential academically, socially, and emotionally.
- Maintained a caseload of 15-20 students throughout the year and conducted appropriate psycho-social assessments.
- Assisted in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of school-based programs such as the 6-Year Plan, an academicbased intervention to guide students through their academic planning beginning in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Assisted in the creation and implementation of a social issues-based intervention named the Diversity Retreat, which allowed 60 students to explore issues surrounding race, gender, sex, and bullying.

## **Education**

**University of Southern California, Graduate Certificate in Public Policy, December 2016**

**University of Southern California, Master of Social Work (MSW), June 2014**

**California State University, Long Beach, Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, May 2012**

**Camino Community College, Associate of Arts in Sociology, May 2010**

## **Skills**

**Languages:** Fluent in Spanish and English (Speaking, Reading and Writing)

***Training:*** Trained in Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), and LGBTQ Cultural Competency, Strength-Based Coaching, and STEM Technical Assistance Training (STAT)

***Technology and Communications:*** Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, Google, Tableau, Salesforce, Slack, and Smartsheets