

Dr. Nicole M. Rodriguez, M.A.C.
Educator and Community Leader



Nicole M. Rodriguez is an accomplished educator and community leader dedicated to empowering youth and fostering positive change. She currently serves as a District School Counselor in the Hartford Public Schools system, where she leverages her extensive experience to enhance youth development programs, promote social-emotional learning, and advance postsecondary readiness initiatives.

Nicole previously served as Chair of the Board of Education for the Consolidated School District of New Britain from 2013 to 2017. In this leadership role, she worked to strengthen policy, governance, and educational outcomes, demonstrating her steadfast commitment to ensuring equitable opportunities for all students.

Education and Certifications

Nicole earned her Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Lesley University in 2007 and her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, with a minor in Education, from Nichols College in 2002. She holds professional educator licenses as a School Counselor in both Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Professional Experience

Throughout her career, Nicole has held several impactful leadership and counseling roles within educational settings. As a Transition Counselor Specialist and District Coordinator for Advanced Placement at Hartford Public Schools, she developed and evaluated transition programs for middle and high school students, facilitated professional development for staff, and expanded access to college and career readiness opportunities.

At Capital Preparatory Magnet School, Nicole served as a School Counselor for grades 6–12, leading the development and implementation of comprehensive Student Success Plans, providing individualized student support, and coordinating college campus visits to broaden students' postsecondary exposure.

Earlier in her career, she served as Director of Volunteer Resources at West Middle School, where she strengthened community partnerships, managed volunteer programs, and developed staff training initiatives. As a Graduation Specialist at Bulkeley High School, she implemented dropout prevention strategies and personalized learning plans to support at-risk students in achieving graduation milestones.

Community Involvement

Since 2009, Nicole has been part of the administration team for Kingdom International Economic Development Corporation (KIEDC), where she serves as Executive Administrator. In this capacity, she has helped coordinate annual coat, toy, and clothing drives, participated in the "Haircuts for Jobs" initiative, and contributed to business development efforts that brought the International Trade Forum to Bridgeport, New Haven, and Hartford, Connecticut in 2016.

Nicole's dedication to service extends to her work with Open Arms Adoption Agency, where she has supported families through the adoption process and organized relief initiatives for hurricane victims and other communities in need. As a basketball coach and mentor with the YMCA in New Britain, she has developed youth engagement programs that promote teamwork, discipline, and leadership through sports.

Awards and Memberships

Nicole is an active member of the Connecticut School Counselor Association. Her contributions to youth development and community service have earned her numerous recognitions, including the Ron Brooks Youth Development Award from the New Britain/Berlin YMCA, an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Heart Bible Institute in 2018, a Youth Humanitarian Award in 2024, recognition as a 100 Women of Color honoree in October 2025, and designation as a YMCA Ken Griffin Compass Award recipient for 2026.

Nicole's multifaceted leadership in education, community advocacy, and youth mentorship reflects her unwavering commitment to uplifting children, strengthening families, and building thriving communities.

Dr. Heriberto Rodriguez



Dr. Heriberto Rodriguez has been coaching youth sports in New Britain since 2007. He is a Basketball coach in the Alton Brooks Youth Basketball League at the New Britain Berlin YMCA. He also serves as a co-commissioner for the league. He also served as the head coach for the Friday Night Ballers outreach program of the YMCA since 2019. He coached baseball for the Park & Rec Department in the Mangan Baseball League from 2008-2016. He has also coached baseball at the Fagan Baseball League. He served as Vice President of the League in 2019 and 2020. He has also coached football for the New Britain Youth Football and Cheer since the organization started in 2010. He is currently the Defensive

Coordinator for the 11u football team as well as the Head Coach for the 12u girls flag team. He also serves on the board as the Director of Football as well as the treasurer. He is also a certified speed and agility coach. He is also very involved in the New Britain community. He served as one of the coordinators for the Farmers to Family Food program in partnership with KIEDC during the Covid 19 Pandemic. He currently works as a Behavior Specialist at Slade Middle School for the Consolidated School District of New Britain. He is a graduate of Nichols College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. He also holds an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity and Theology. In 2023, Dr. Rodriguez was recognized as a recipient of the 100 Men of Color in 2023. In 2024, Dr. Rodriguez received the 2024 Youth Humanitarian of the year award from KIEDC. Dr. Heriberto Rodriguez believes in giving back to the community and leading the youth in his community.