



Norma Hernandez—Trustee

Norma Hernandez was elected to the Triton College Board of Trustee in April 2021. She is a Community Development Planner at the University of Illinois at Chicago Great Cities Institute. At UIC, she engages in the intersection of academic research and community engagement through an initiative called Participatory Budgeting Chicago which focuses on building a more participatory democracy within local government. She is also part of the Latino Research Initiative, where she works with academic scholars on how to improve the lives of Latinos in the Chicago Metro Area.

Ms. Hernandez was born and raised in Melrose Park and is a proud graduate of Proviso East High School and Triton College. Although she endured hardships, she went on to receive her Bachelor's in Social Work and then a Master's in Urban Planning & Policy from UIC in 2019. As a graduate student, Ms. Hernandez was president of the UIC Latino Planning Organization for Development, Education, and Regeneration (LPODER), where she organized a series of panel discussions focused on urban planning related issues affecting Latino communities in Chicago.

Ms. Hernandez has dedicated her career to addressing the disparities in her community by developing meaningful civic engagement within local government and empowering people, especially youth to take control of the issues that affect them and their future. Her interests are community-based economic development, public policy, and the intersections of race and class as it relates to the development of cities.