

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2.7.22

Thornton Fractional District 215
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Thornton Fractional School District 215 hires Spanish Language Interpreter and Family Outreach Specialist



Lansing, IL- Karina Hernandez-Cazarez recently began serving as the Thornton Fractional District 215 Spanish Language Interpreter and Family Outreach Specialist. In this newly created position, Hernandez-Cazarez serves as a liaison between the district and families by providing Spanish translations across various settings and supports the district’s family and community engagement goals. Specifically, she will be translating district wide communication and documents as well as holding office hours to support each of the school campuses with their Spanish translation and interpretation needs. The role also focuses on equipping and empowering families with knowledge of services and resources available to them.

A newly launched [family outreach page](#) on the district’s [website](#) gathers essential information and resources in one location for District 215 families.

Hernandez-Cazarez stated, “I have always been a fan of the quote, ‘If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together’ because I strongly believe this philosophy is especially applicable to education. In this role, I look forward to helping the District 215 community to further enhance its sense of unity so that our students and families can ‘go far’ and achieve their goals.”

Hernandez-Cazarez has a bachelor’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and a minor in Psychology. Prior to joining District 215’s team, she worked in various settings in the field of education, most recently as an Academic Advisor and as a Bilingual Recruiting Specialist for Governors State University. In her previous roles she was especially involved in supporting underrepresented student populations through translations, student mentoring, and involvement in equity focused committees.

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services & Equity, Dr. Rena Whitten, stated, “Having a staff person dedicated to translation and family outreach is an important part of the district’s continued efforts to increase equity for our students and families. Karina is already contributing in vital ways and I am so glad she is a part of the team.”

About Thornton Fractional High School District 215: District 215 serves the students of Burnham, Calumet City, Lansing, and Lynwood at Thornton Fractional North High School, Thornton Fractional South High School, Thornton Fractional Center for Academics and Technology, and Thornton Fractional Center for Alternative Learning. The mission of District 215 is to provide diverse learning opportunities that inspire all students to become life-long learners who contribute to their community.

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