



Meet Jennifer Godinez

I believe that the most important values and priorities I would bring to the EPEL board include: applying a systems thinking lens to the work of EPEL, understanding the importance of more access for the most underserved students in the area, and working collaboratively with others for strong leadership on the EPEL board of directors.

Jennifer Godinez is a **bilingual nonprofit executive, public policy leader, researcher, and trainer** with more than 20 years of experience advancing educational opportunity and equity for children, youth, and families. **A native of Elgin** who recently returned to the community, Jennifer has led impactful nonprofit organizations and **statewide advocacy efforts**, including serving as Executive Director of La Escuelita, an immigrant youth development organization, and Associate Executive Director of the Minnesota Education Equity Partnership.

Most recently, Jennifer served as Senior Director for Education and Training for federal strategies at Race Forward. Throughout her career, she has partnered with educators, families, policymakers, and community leaders to advance systems change, strengthen community engagement, and expand opportunities for underserved children and families. **Jennifer brings extensive nonprofit leadership, board governance, and education policy expertise to EPEL**, along with a collaborative, systems-level perspective and a deep commitment to building strong partnerships that ensure every young child and family has equitable opportunities to thrive.