



CEC Early College
2650 Eliot Street
Denver, CO 80211
• P 720-423-6600 •
• F 720-423-6604 •
• TTY/TTD 720-423-6643 •
www.DoSomethingReal.com

4/18/2020

Greetings CEC Community,

My name is Dr. Thomas Velazquez. I have been in education for 17 years and I am an assistant principal at CEC for the last 3 years. I began school leadership at Hinkley High School, a 90, 90, 90 school. There, I was involved in the implementation of a nationally recognized Restorative Practice program and the Culture of Care. Recently, I completed my doctorate degree in Leadership for Educational Equity in Latin@ Schools. During my studies, I conducted extensive research on Latino student graduation rates, restorative practices and culturally responsive teaching pedagogy. I also completed my principal license at UCD and I have a MBA from CSU-Pueblo. These degrees help me to understand and solve educational issues systemically that I demonstrate through student success.

Because it was so important for me to see all students succeed, my first focus at CEC was on increasing graduation rates and on track to graduate status. Together, CEC has graduated 100% of full time students over the last two years, while ensuring opportunities and choices after graduation. We continue to provide about 25% of all college courses in DPS and this year, we increased guaranteed transfer credits by 128%. In 2019, our students achieved 7 Associates Degrees and 86 certificates. In addition, I recently finished our new Future Center with Denver Scholarship Foundation as a partner to increase access to college scholarships and financial aid for our students.

At CEC, I work with multiple teams to engage CEC staff in professional learning. I developed a system with team specialists to train our staff in data team processes. With my restorative team, we have created and delivered whole school PD to train all stakeholders in RP to implement a comprehensive restorative program. In addition, I founded the first equity team at CEC. I have led it with distributive leadership to develop teacher leaders in educational equity and co-create professional learning for our staff with them. DPS recognized this work when our team presented to all district leaders at the Spring Universal.

I want to work at CEC to continue the mission I began 3 years ago. My desire is to work at a majority Latino school to use my skills, personal learning, and community and cultural understanding to support the success of our students. Because I have collaborated with our teachers, community and college partners and built strong, deep personal relationships with them, I desire to continue the work we have started.

Lastly, for culturally diverse schools to be successful, they must build a vision of a successful future with students. CEC enacts this through our CTE classes and Early College Model. Our school is not what education could be, but what education should be for all students. I want to invite you to join this mission with me where all students succeed by design. I look forward to working with you as the next principal of CEC.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas Velazquez