

# JULIANA ZAVALA JOINS ACERO SCHOOLS AS DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



Acero Schools is pleased to announce the addition of our new athletics director, Ms. Juliana Zavala. Juliana returns to Acero Schools after serving student athletes, families and the City of Chicago as a CPS regional athletic director. This is a homecoming for Ms. Zavala who was previously Acero's assistant athletic director.

## ***About Juliana***

Zavala grew up in Chicago's historic Little Village neighborhood to wonderful immigrant parents. Her parents emigrated from Mexico, like so many of our Acero Schools' families, in search of a better life. Juliana's family imparted a deep value for hard work and dedication – character traits that Zavala continues to demonstrate.

Juliana has a deep passion for athletics. "During my youth, I always had a passion for sports. I played many different sports growing up such as cross country, basketball, track and my favorite sport, soccer" said Zavala. This passion guided her professional path. Juliana played soccer in college at Northwestern State University in Louisiana. She also earned a masters degree in Sports Administration. "I truly believe that participation in sports helps build character and foster positive relationships," shared Zavala.

Acero Schools is positioned to demonstrate to students, parents and families how Zavala's passion will translate into a newly reinvigorated athletics department. Director Zavala will focus on building relationships with student-athletes, coaching staff and communities. When asked about her goals for her first year back at Acero, Zavala explained that she will first spend a significant amount of time observing and listening to coaches and students and learning more about community needs to build a strong and successful elementary and high school sports program at the network. More specifically, Zavala is focused on coordinating sports activities that create opportunities for student



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success beyond the classroom. “Our goal is to improve lives, communication with our community, bring families together and improve the health of our students.”

Students and families will see a renewed focus on sports providing an opportunity for student-athletes to fully develop their academic and athletic potential. “At Acero Schools, athletics is a tool to help students excel in the classroom by teaching them about integrity, sportsmanship, leadership development and perseverance in losing and winning situations.”

Zavala rejoins Acero Schools on October 18. In addition to being at the top of her professional game, Juliana is an avid Chicago sports fan rooting for the Fire, Red Stars, Bears, Hawk, Bulls, Chicago Sky and the White Sox! She welcomes a robust chat with Cubs fans, too!



## **MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**

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### **JULIANA ZAVALA**

**From:** Little Village

**Bachelor of Science:** Northwestern State University [LA]

**Major:** Health and Exercise Science

**Masters of Science:** Arkansas State University

**Major:** Sports Administration

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- Best in class
  - Credentialed by the Positive Coaching Alliance
  - Fluent in English and Spanish
  - Was a women’s soccer coach at a university
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**Fun facts:**

- Recently completed her first Iron Man
- Avid swimmer and soccer player
- Lifelong athlete

