

## Sofia Maria Vergara M.A., Ed.D.

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### CURRENT POSITIONS

- **Modern Language Department Chair and Instructor of Spanish:** New Roads School, Santa Monica, CA
- **Co-Founder:** Bridges to Inclusion, LLC

### EDUCATION

<b>Loyola Marymount University (LMU)</b> .....	May 2017
<i>Leadership for Social Justice Doctor (Ed.D.)</i>	
<b>Loyola Marymount University (LMU)</b> .....	May 2009
<i>Master of Arts, Bilingual Secondary Education</i> <i>BCLAD Preliminary Credentials</i>	
<b>University of California, Berkeley (UCB)</b> .....	May 2005
<i>Bachelor of Arts</i>	

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Modern Language Department Chair:** New Roads School 2023 - present  
Create and supervise implementation of a modern language curriculum for New Roads Upper School.
- **Curriculum Coordinator Spanish Division** New Roads School 2016 - 2023  
Created, and supervise implementation, of a curriculum map for levels 1- 7 for Upper School Spanish division.
- **Instructor of Spanish** New Roads School, 2006 - present  
Teach Spanish classes in Middle and Upper School ranging from level 1 to Advanced History and Literature.
- **Co-Founder:** Bridges to Inclusion, LLC (<http://www.bridgestoinclusion.org>) 2020 - present  
The mission of Bridges to Inclusion is two-fold: i) creating pathways of empowerment for individuals with disabilities through education and dialogue; and ii) the development of effective tools aimed to educate, raise awareness, and promote inclusive practices within educational institutions and businesses. In addition, co-directed employment program Bridges to Employment grant funded by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
- **Lecturer in School of Education,** Loyola Marymount University (LMU) 2017 – 2019  
Developed curriculum and instructed the following undergraduate and graduate courses:
  - *EDSS 453 -- Disability and Special Education ....* 2017
  - *EDSS 440 & EDSP 440 -- Introduction to the Culturally/Linguistically Diverse Student with Exceptional Needs ....* 2017 -2018

- EDSP 427 -- *Creating Effective Classrooms in Diverse Settings* .... 2018
- EDES 6609 -- *Advanced Inclusionary Practices for Students with High Incidence Disabilities* ... 2019
- EDSP 475 -- *Teaching and Assessing Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities* ... 2019
- **Co-Founder and Facilitator of Inclusion Initiative**, University of California, Berkely 2001 -2004  
Developed curriculum for weekly, two-hour class to raise awareness of issues relevant to the disability community, which was approved by the University of California for credit. Taught weekly classes, coordinated with guest speakers, and assessed student participants.

### PRESENTATIONS

- **Vergara, S.** & Austin, K. (2023). *Disability and Accessibility*. Staff training for Art Center College of Design. Pasadena, CA.
- **Vergara, S.** & Austin, K. (2023). *Disability Policy Forum*, Leadership, and staff presentation, *Chrysalis organization*. Online.
- **Vergara, S.** & Austin, K. (2023). *Disability Pride*. Presentation for staff event, RTX Corporation. Online.
- **Vergara, S.** & Austin, K. (2022). *Moving Forward: Bringing Inclusion to the Forefront*. Keynote Address at Fall 2022 Professional Development FLEX Day, West Los Angeles College. Culver City, CA.
- **Vergara, S.** & Austin, K. (2021). *Moving Forward: Bringing Inclusive Teaching Practices to the Forefront*. Presentation at Fall 2021 Professional Development Week, Ventura College. Online
- **Vergara, S.** & Austin, K. (2021). *Moving Forward: Bringing Inclusion to the Forefront*, California Communications Access Foundation (CCAF). Online.
- **Vergara, S.** & Austin, K. (2020). *Supporting Students with Disabilities in Remote Learning*. Webinar.
- **Vergara, S.** (2019) Lecture: *The Medical and Social Models of Disability: What Still Remains*, University of Southern California (USC) Rossier School of Education, Los Angeles, CA
- **Vergara, S.** (2018) Lecture: *Attitudinal and Structural Barriers for People with Disabilities*, University of Southern California (USC) Rossier School of Education, Los Angeles, CA
- **Vergara, S.** (2017) Lecture: *The Medical and Social Models of Disability, and the Disability Rights Movement*, University of Southern California (USC) Rossier School of Education, Los Angeles, CA

### PUBLICATIONS

- **Vergara, S.** (2023) *Rolling my Way into Leadership: Perspectives from an Educator with Cerebral Palsy In: Who Decides? Power, Disability, and Educational Administration: Narratives on Disability at Home, in School, and in the Workplace*. Danzig, A, Black, W.R., and O'Brian, C., Eds. *Research and Theory in Educational Administration*, IAP BOOK SERIES, Information Age Publishing
- **Vergara, S.** (2017). *Lived History of a Transformative Leader with Disability: An Evocative Autoethnography for Social Justice* (Doctoral dissertation, Loyola Marymount University). <http://search.proquest.com/openview/1caed4efd4209c467ce5be7f5fd89d90/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y>

### GRANTS & AWARDS

- **Bridges to Employment Program**, Department of Developmental Services .... 2023-2024  
Employment Grant Award (No. 2022-WSSEG-0007)
- **LMU Latinx Faculty Association Student Award** ..... 2017

**BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOUNDATION (CCAF)**

Member of the Board of Directors 2021 - current (Vice-chair since 2023)  
Governance Committee (Chair)

**DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCATES (DRA)**

Member of the Board of Directors 2022 – current  
Governance Committee (co-Chair)

**LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY, Los Angeles, CA**

*Member of the Alumni Board of Directors for Doctoral Program* 2021-2023  
*Co-Chair of Communications Committee*

**WESTSIDE REGIONAL CENTER, Culver City, CA**

President of the Board of Directors 2019-2020  
Member of the Strategic Planning Committee 2020-2022  
Member of the Employment First Business Advisory Committee 2019-2022  
Member of the Executive Committee 2019-2021  
Member of the Finance Committee 2019-2021  
Member of the Board of Directors 2018-2021

**NEW ROADS SCHOOL, Santa Monica, CA**

*Board of Trustees Alumni Member* 2003–2005