

Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield

Olivia Garcia



Olivia Garcia has a heart for education and teaching the next generation about serving and giving back. She seeks to bring opportunity and advancement for all. Olivia truly loves being involved in the community and inspiring women and girls to reach their potential.

She is excited to join BC as a full-time assistant professor of history in the fall of 2017. In addition to teaching at the local campuses, for more than 20 years Olivia has been a freelance journalist of our community for Bakersfield Life magazine and The Bakersfield Californian. Journalistic achievements have included serving as editor for MAS and Bakersfield Life magazines and being a news reporter for The Californian.

Olivia expresses her love to see others grow through her abundant community service. Olivia serves as a committee member of the Public History Institute at California State University, Bakersfield, and Bakersfield College Chicano Latino Commencement Celebration. She also serves as a board member of the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Mendiburu Magic Foundation, and the Bakersfield College Foundation. Olivia gives of her time as an outstanding chapter liaison representative for Devil Pups, a youth leadership development and mentoring program for teenage boys and girls. With her husband, Julio, Olivia annually spends two weeks in the summer at a Marine Corps base in Southern California mentoring these youth.

Olivia is passionate about history. She is a volunteer for the BC Women's History and More, which celebrates Women's History Month.

Olivia earned her associate's degree in Spanish and Journalism at BC and her master's degree in History at CSUB. She also received dual bachelor's degrees in Mass Communication/Journalism and Chicano Studies from Fresno State.

The Girls Scouts of Central California South recognized Olivia with the Women Inspiring Girls Award in 2015. She has been honored with the statewide Luminaria of HOPE Award (presented by Hispanas Organized for Political Equality), the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation Aztec Award, the Latina of the Year Award (presented by Latina Leaders of Kern County), Presstime Magazine's 20 under 40 People to Watch national award and several magazine awards from the National Association of Hispanic Publications.

A proud Bakersfield native, Olivia counts her family as among her greatest achievements. She and husband Julio celebrate 21 years of marriage and are proud parents of four sons, Diego, currently serving in the U.S. Marine Corps; Mateo, a high school senior; and Joaquin and Cruz, both attend elementary school. Julio, a deputy sheriff, is also a U.S. Marine Corps reservist. Through her abilities of teaching and volunteering Olivia feels fortunate to not only live in but serve the extraordinary community where she was raised; and, when she has time, she loves to run and hike.

Olivia currently teaches history and journalism classes at Bakersfield College and history and communications classes at California State University, Bakersfield. She is a proud alumna of both campuses. Olivia currently is an adjunct faculty member/lecturer for both colleges.

