



NOCE
NORTH ORANGE
CONTINUING EDUCATION

BUILDING 100

ANAHEIM CAMPUS

Tenured
Faculty
2025

Anacany Torres, Ed.D.

Counselor for Transition, Counseling and Student Services Department,
Anaheim Campus



Dr. Anacany Torres is a passionate and dedicated educator whose work in noncredit counseling is grounded in a personal mission to address educational inequities in marginalized communities. Since joining NOCE in 2021, Dr. Torres has exemplified her commitment to educational justice through counseling, program development, and community advocacy. In 2025, she will reach a significant professional milestone—achieving tenure.

A proud daughter of migrant parents from Aguascalientes, Mexico, Dr. Torres' educational journey has been deeply shaped by her upbringing and the systemic challenges she observed in her community. "Seeing the inequities that existed within my community in regard to postsecondary information and access inspired me to become the kind of counselor I wish I had growing up," she shared. This vision continues to drive her work at NOCE, especially in her role supporting adult learners and returning citizens.

Dr. Torres holds a B.A. in Psychology and Social Behavior and a B.A. in Chicano/Latino Studies from the University of California, Irvine, an M.Ed. in Educational Counseling from the University of Southern California, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from California State University, Long Beach.

Before joining NOCE, Dr. Torres served in various impactful roles, including Adjunct Counselor and Co-Founder of the Rising Scholars Program at Santiago Canyon College, Regional Coordinator for the California College Guidance Initiative, and Counselor/Coordinator at USC. These roles shaped her philosophy of meeting students where they are, listening with empathy, and using her position to speak up against inequities.

At NOCE, Dr. Torres played a key role in establishing the Rising Scholars Program, which provides vital support to formerly incarcerated students. She was instrumental in securing grant funding from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, laying the foundation for a program that has since served as a critical lifeline for students navigating reentry and education. "It is not easy to return to school after the circumstances many of our students have faced. I am inspired by our students' grit, resilience, and wisdom every day," she said.

Among her proudest moments are working with NOCE's resilient students, particularly migrant and undocumented learners who continue to show up and pursue their goals despite facing daily uncertainty. She also finds deep fulfillment in seeing students like Regina Alcalá—an NOCE graduate and former student commencement speaker—succeed and return to serve others through the Rising Scholars Program.

Looking ahead, Dr. Torres hopes to continue expanding the Rising Scholars Program, deepen her advocacy for systemic change, and take on more teaching opportunities. "I want to continue learning and growing, so I can always bring something new to my counseling practice," she said.

For adult learners, her message is one of unwavering encouragement: "You are not alone. Everyone at NOCE is here to help you succeed. Schedule counseling appointments, join programs, ask questions—this is your journey, and we're with you."

When she's not empowering students, Dr. Torres enjoys traveling the world, jogging trails with her 8-year-old pug mix Chewy, and planning her next adventure—hiking Machu Picchu in Peru. Her life and work are driven by heart, justice, and a relentless belief in the transformative power of education.

Corinna Lopez

Professor, ESL and Citizenship | EL Civics Lead, Anaheim Campus and Online



Corinna Lopez's journey to tenure at North Orange Continuing Education (NOCE) is a full-circle story of passion, purpose, and persistence. A first-generation college graduate, Corinna began her academic path at Pasadena City College, earning an associate in Humanities, then continued to California State University, Los Angeles for a bachelor's degree in English, and California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) for a master's in education with a concentration in TESOL, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. She is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in Human Resources at CSUF. Her first introduction to NOCE came during graduate school, when she volunteered through the CSUF SHINE Program. That immersive hands-on experience in the English as a Second Language (ESL) classroom was transformative—it confirmed her dedication to teaching and to the adult English learner population. "It felt nostalgic to come back," Corinna says of returning to NOCE years later as faculty.

Since joining NOCE as full-time faculty in 2020, after serving as an adjunct since 2014, Corinna has made a lasting impact in and out of the classroom. She teaches both ESL and Citizenship courses and leads the EL Civics program for the Anaheim and Online ESL programs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she taught Citizenship courses online for seven semesters, helping beginner and advanced students not only improve their English and civics knowledge but also build confidence and understand their rights in the U.S. Over 30 of her students have returned to share their naturalization success stories—one of her proudest achievements. Among those students are Mr. Ba and Thi Thong Nguyen, an older adult couple who were a constant presence in her classes. Their dedication, positivity, and support for their peers stood out. Thi Thong achieved her citizenship in Fall 2024, and Mr. Ba followed in Spring 2025. "It was an honor to support them on their pathway to citizenship," she shares.

As the EL Civics Lead, Corinna has played a significant role in transforming the program to meet the needs of a digital-first world. She has led efforts to transition teaching, testing, and data collection to fully online platforms, increasing the program's grant-earning potential fourfold since 2020. She also chairs the Distance Education Committee, where she has spearheaded major initiatives including revisions to the NOCE DE Plan and Faculty Handbook, reimplementation of the OTC Equivalency Process, creation of a new recertification process, and the launch of the first DE Student Survey in collaboration with the Office of Institutional Research and Planning. With tenure now achieved—her goal since 2020—Corinna is focusing on developing new digital literacy curriculum to better serve NOCE's diverse student population. She's excited to continue growing and innovating to meet students' evolving needs.

Corinna's teaching philosophy is rooted in action and empowerment: "I believe we learn by doing. I encourage my students to take risks and use language as a vehicle for connection and exploration." Her advice to adult learners reflects this approach: "Just start! Even the smallest step is progress. You CAN do it—there are no limits to what you can achieve."

Outside of the classroom, Corinna enjoys life with her husband of eight years and their two sons, Lio (5) and Teo (turning 2 in June). As a family, they love spending time outdoors, biking, visiting Disneyland, and traveling. Grounded in strong values and driven by the belief that education changes lives, Corinna continues to be a source of inspiration and support for the NOCE community.

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