

## BIO: Gloria Aquino Sosa, PhD, LPC (MI)

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Gloria Aquino Sosa, Ph.D, LPC (MI), is an Associate Professor in the Counseling Department, also directing the Higher Education & Student Affairs and Career Counseling specializations at Saint Mary's College of California. Dr. Sosa served as the College's Chief Diversity Officer from 2017-2019 and has over 20 years' experience working/conducting research in higher education, business, and mental health settings as an administrator, instructor, counselor, supervisor, trainer, and consultant. Her focus is action-oriented equity and social justice, co-authoring 7 fully funded federal and state grants securing over \$6.2M to support student achievement. Sosa has published extensively and presents internationally about strengths based personal, professional, and institutional change, educational equity, and counselor education. Sosa provides strategic consultation and training for universities/businesses regarding self-efficacy as foundational for self-directed personal and professional success, cultural proficiency and humility to shape critical thinking; how intergenerational trauma positively affects professional success; and on ensuring equity and inclusion are vital parts of the growth equation for any person, business, or academic entity, particularly in the name of adhering to mission and vision. From 1995-2005, Sosa co-created/directed a nationally recognized, award-winning student retention/peer mentoring program at a Research I institution in the Midwest, replicating the program at Saint Mary's as a first generation strengths-based leadership program.

Dr. Sosa's parents emigrated from Cuba in 1952, and Gloria and her siblings were the first to attend college in the United States. She holds a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision from Oakland University in Rochester, MI.



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