

# LAZARO J. LOPEZ

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## 2013 Illinois High School Principal of the Year

### EDUCATION

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#### DOCTOR IN EDUCATION: LEADERSHIP IN CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

May 2010

*Aurora University, GPA 4.0/4.0*

*Dissertation Topic: Impact of Supplemental Reading Instruction*

*Type 75: Superintendent's Endorsement*

#### MASTER OF ARTS, EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

May 2004

*Roosevelt University, GPA 4.0/4.0; Type 75 General Administrative Certification*

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, SPEECH COMMUNICATION & ENGLISH EDUCATION

December 1998

*Illinois State University, Summa Cum Laude, GPA 4.0/4.0*

### ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

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#### ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT

*Twp High School District 214*

July 2013-Present

*Arlington Heights, IL*

#### PRINCIPAL

*Wheeling High School*

July 2007-June 2013

*Wheeling, IL*

Wheeling High School is a culturally diverse community of 2,000 students and staff. Cited by the Washington Post (2011), Newsweek (2012) and U.S. News and World Report (2012) as one of America's Best High Schools, named by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation (2011) as a national model site, and recognized as a Kennedy Center School of Distinction in Arts Education (2009). As Principal, led the transition to a STEM school and created academic career pathways with increased dual credit opportunities, expanded industry certifications and business partnerships.

- Attained \$250,000 grant funding to develop nation's first high school Advanced R&D Nano Lab
- Attained \$250,000 grant funding to develop a health care pathway with CNA certification
- Expanded available coursework and participation in engineering and manufacturing program
- Leveraged business partnerships and grants to build and maintain million dollar manufacturing lab
- Increased capacity for STEM through K-8 enrichment programming at the high school
- Founded testing and peer tutoring center with over 3,000 tutoring sessions logged
- Increased access to Advanced Placement by 80% while maintaining an 83% success rate
- Increased academic capacity and college access in the middle through implementation of AVID
- Established an active Latino Parent Advisory Committee engaged in outreach programming
- Implemented annual Data Retreat to develop interventions to address district/school goals
- Initiated a curriculum restructuring that teaches and reinforces foundational skills in all courses
- Implemented a focused staff development model for professional development
- Implemented professional learning teams to meet school goals
- Improved relationships with community partners and government agencies
- Achieved the highest EPAS growth and ACT scores in the history of the school

#### PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEES

- Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation Board (2012-Present)
- Illinois Principal's Association North Cook Region Executive Board (2012-Present)
- Chair: 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Education Advisory Board (2010-2012)
- Chair: Illinois ACT State Organization Executive Council (2004-2009)
- Midwest Principal's Center Executive Board (2010-Present)

## AWARDS

- 2010 Dr. Elizabeth Ennis Innovative Educator Award
- 2012 Illinois Principal's Association North Cook Region: High School Principal of the Year
- 2013 Illinois Principal's Association: High School Principal of the Year

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR CURRICULUM

*Harry D. Jacobs High School, CUSD 300*

**July 2004-June 2007**

*Algonquin, IL*

As Assistant Principal for Curriculum & Instruction, my areas of responsibility include setting policy and procedures for the school's counseling department, facilitating the school's curriculum improvement efforts, implementing technology initiatives and coordinating an effective staff development program.

- Directly supervise and evaluate a staff of 16 counselors, social workers, school psychologists, support staff and interns
- Provide leadership for transition to a developmental counseling and guidance model
- Participate in the hiring and evaluation of tenured and non-tenured teaching staff
- Founded testing and peer tutoring center with over 5,000 tutoring sessions logged
- Coordinated and administered EPAS assessments to all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors
- Developed and implemented a targeted ACT remediation program in part responsible for meeting AYP and performance growth in all subgroups
- Implemented a direct reading instruction program for incoming freshman
- Increased communication with parents through new list serve and improved web site
- Initiated a curriculum restructuring that teaches and reinforces foundational skills in all courses
- Implemented a focused staff development model for professional development
- Formed a staff development committee to coordinate all professional development activities
- Implemented interdisciplinary professional learning teams to examine student work
- Responsible for preparation of the school's master schedule
- Created a staff recognition program: The Golden Eagle Award for Educational Excellence
- Doubled the number of advance placement course offerings
- Investigated and disciplined students for a variety of referred infractions

## TEACHER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

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### ACADEMIC SUPPORT COORDINATOR

*John Hersey High School*

**August 1999-June 2004**

*Arlington Heights, IL*

While at John Hersey High School there were many opportunities to assume a leadership role in the school. In these capacities, my previous experience in business and the military allowed me to be a successful innovator and change agent.

### THE LEARNING CENTER COORDINATOR

- Expanded current writing support center into a full-service tutorial center for remediation
- Developed basic training for tutors in methodologies and practices
- Prepared over 300 student tutors to date to be certified by the National Tutoring Association upon completion of approximately 14 hours of training
- Logged over 6,800 individualized tutoring sessions and 26,000 facility users from 2002-2004
- Designed and delivered a small-group, tutor-led, ACT remediation program which showed statistically significant growth in student scores on PSAT

### PREPATORY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

- Designed an organizational structure to address issues regarding curriculum and student achievement for students assigned to the remediation program
- Led regularly scheduled cross-disciplinary meetings to facilitate communication between special education, counselors, and teachers
- Developed criteria for movement of students from the remediation program to average track
- Facilitated inclusion efforts of students receiving special education services
- Moved 1/2 of freshman and sophomore remediation students into average level courses
- Facilitated the hiring, training, and scheduling of an educational support person for the program

#### CO-CHAIR FOR NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION

- Coordinated school's efforts in meeting each year's requirements of the NCA process
- Led discussion and efforts in the selection of goals and revision of the school's mission statement
- Facilitated two target teams of teachers representing all disciplines in the research and development of interventions

#### HERSEY SUMMER TRANSITION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

- Developed a curricular program that transitions and prepares incoming at-risk eighth graders
- Hired and trained a staff of teachers and peer tutors to deliver the program
- Remediated students in writing, reading, and study skills
- Recorded statistically significant improvements in the areas of writing as well as anecdotal data that suggests attitudinal shifts in student's perception of themselves and school
- Utilized dean of students, principal, fine-arts coordinator, counselors, and teachers as guest speakers to acclimate students to school policies and activities
- Increased enrollment from 28 students the first year to over 100 in the fourth

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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#### ENGLISH TEACHER

*John Hersey High School*

**January 1999-June 2004**

*Arlington Heights, IL*

Teaching assignments have included students from freshman to senior year in both average and skills based courses. Courses taught have included a yearlong freshman English course, oral communication, introduction to writing, writing about literature, professional communication and writing skills.

- Proposed and acquired a writing skills classroom with 18 computer stations to facilitate individualized instruction in remedial writing courses
- Redesigned the senior practical writing course into an exit project based skills course utilizing community members in real world applications
- Created a censorship web-quest where students met with administrators, school board members, librarians, and community advocates to debate issues regarding currently challenged books
- Supervised student teachers from Illinois State University
- Sponsored the Latin American Student Organization and the International Club
- Participated in the curriculum alignment and staff development committees

#### EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

- Elected as one of the faculties' representatives for two three-year terms
- Served as a member of the Education Association Board of Directors
- Served as the chair of the Membership committee
- Served as a member of the district's Education Committee
- Served as an initial member of the Technology Committee to create a long-term technology plan

#### AWARDS

- 2002 Top High School Tutoring Program: Awarded by the National Tutoring Association
- 2003 Outstanding Contributions to Education: Awarded by John Hersey High School Staff
- 2003 Illinois Speech and Theatre Association Jerry Mathis Teacher Award

## STUDENT DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

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### **ASSISTANT RESIDENCE HALL COORDINATOR**

*Office of Residential Life, Illinois State University*

**January 1997-May 1998**

*Normal, IL*

The Assistant Residence Hall Coordinator is responsible for the management, administration, programming, and student development within a residence hall housing over 1600 students.

- Managed and supervised 22 student employees and service operations at a residence hall computer lab and fitness center
- Provided leadership, counseling, and programming to resident undergraduate students
- Assisted with the International House Program and the needs of foreign exchange students
- Processed, reviewed, and adjudicated student disciplinary and behavioral concerns
- Served as a resource person for campus services available to students
- Facilitated and coordinated programming efforts with an emphasis on student development
- Recruited, selected, and evaluated professional staff members and resident assistants

## ADULT EDUCATION & TRAINING EXPERIENCE

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### **ADJUNCT PROFESSOR**

*Aurora University Doctoral Program*

**August 2012 - Present**

*Aurora, IL*

### **DIRECTOR OF TRAINING**

*Environmental Training & Services*

**January 1994-December 1995**

*Glendale Heights, IL*

### **NEW HIRE INSTRUCTOR & RECRUITER**

*American Airlines*

**August 1990-December 1993**

*Cary, NC*

### **TRAINING NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER**

*United States Army*

**April 1988-May 1989**

*Seoul, Korea*

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 2012 Super Computing- International Conference for High Performance Computing in Salt Lake City, UT: Engaging Students in STEM Through High Performance Computing
- 2011 Midwest Manufacturing Expo in Arlington Heights, IL: Getting Youth Involved with Manufacturing
- 2010 National School Boards Association T& L Conference in Pheonix, AZ: STEM for All
- 2009 National School Boards Association in San Diego, CA: Increasing Student Success and Reducing Failures Through a Collaborative Goal-Setting Process
- 2008 Cooperative Educational Service Agency in Wisconsin: Using EPAS for a Systems Approach to Student Centered Learning
- 2007 National Tutoring Association in Denver, CO: Meeting the Challenge of NCLB: Improving High School Student Achievement
- 2007 Cooperative Educational Service Agency in Wisconsin: Comprehensive High School Reform through Learning Centered Leadership
- 2007 Cooperative Educational Service Agency in Wisconsin: Improving High School Student Achievement: Schools as Competent Systems
- 2006 ACT EPAS Invitational Conference in Arlington Heights, IL: Examining Student Work through Professional Learning Teams
- 2005 ACT State Organization Conference in Springfield, IL: EPAS-Meeting Standards through Targeted Remediation and Acceleration
- 2003 National Tutoring Association Conference in Atlanta, GA: Designing a Tutoring Center as the Core of an Integrated Academic Support Program
- 2003 Illinois Speech and Theatre Association Conference in Peoria, IL: Connecting and Relating to Our Students: Maximizing Inclusion and Adapting Instructional Strategies
- 2003 ACT EPAS Invitational Conference in Arlington Heights, IL: Helping At-Risk Students Prepare for EPAS Testing