

TONYA JACKSON-LOPEZ

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dynamic and results-driven academic leader with extensive experience in higher education administration, curriculum design, and instructional innovation. Proven ability to lead interdisciplinary teams, implement strategic initiatives, and inspire academic excellence. Adept at fostering inclusive and engaged learning environments to prepare students for success in a rapidly evolving global society.

## EDUCATION

- **Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction** | Capella University | 2021  
Dissertation: *Mindfulness Meditation and Student Stress and Anxiety*
- **Master of Science in Biology** | University of Nebraska at Kearney | 2014  
Focus: Cellular Biology  
Thesis: *Efficacy of Organic Versus Commercial Fertilizers*
- **Bachelor of Science in Biology** | Truman State University | 2009  
Research: Studied plastron respiration mechanisms in Lone Star and Dog ticks to explore survival under flood conditions with implications for metabolism control and astrobiological studies.

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- **Associate Dean of Instruction, Area of Interest Coordinator – STEM**  
Mohave Community College | 2020–Present
  - Lead a diverse team of over 80 full-time and part-time faculty across eight disciplines serving thousands of students through various teaching modalities.
  - Develop and implement strategic plans to drive academic excellence, equity, and engagement in STEM education.
  - Navigate complex organizational changes with effective time management, communication, and customer service skills.
  - Management of dual enrollment programs
  - Coordinator of Student Success Center
- **Lead Faculty, Life and Physical Sciences**  
Mohave Community College | 2016–2020
  - Directed curriculum design and assessment for a multidisciplinary department, ensuring alignment with institutional goals and accreditation standards.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Faculty, Life and Physical Sciences**  
Mohave Community College | 2014–Present
  - Deliver engaging, hands-on instruction in introductory and advanced biology courses, including Anatomy and Physiology.
  - Innovate teaching modalities to enhance student learning through ground, online, hybrid, and synchronous methods.
  - Foster a discovery-based learning environment, emphasizing critical thinking and real-world applications.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- **Online Learning Consortium Digital Learning Innovation Award** | 2018  
Awarded \$10,000 grant for the project *Increasing Engagement and Access with BioBeyond*.
- **Association for Innovation and Transformation Conference** | 2023  
Team Spirit Award Winner.
- **Strengthening Degree Attainment Pathways** | 2026  
CO-PI NSF Funded grant opportunity for EGR Students

## **SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- Arizona Women in Higher Education 2022: Bridging Divides Faculty Administration: Excelling Over Hurdles
- Open Texas 2022: Open Resources Backed by Open Pedagogy: Buy-In in Lab Science Courses
- Regional Leaders in Open Education 2022: Mohave Community College Successes and Strategic Plan Update
- 2023 AZ Regional OER Conference: Conference Planning Team and Session Coordinator
- Open Wisconsin 2022: Take the Selfish Route: Empowering Faculty to Use and Create OER
- 2023 Arizona Women in Higher Education: A Year in the Life of New Leader
- Accepted into KickStarter 2.0 with ASU: NSF funded STEM HSI development program
- Yavapai College Summer Institute: Guest speaker, Faculty and OER
- Human Anatomy and Physiology Society Conference 2023: Keep your EYE on at-home Labs with Carolina Distance Learning
- Association for Innovation and Transformation Conference 2023: Team Spirit Award Winner
- Arizona Women in Higher Education 23-24 Events Lead
- Yavapai College PD Summit: Harnessing OER for Student Success 2023
- AZ Regional OER Conference Presentation: Going Below the Cost 2024
- Arizona Women in Higher Education Annual Conference Presentation: Seeking Leadership 2024
- Arizona Transfer Conference Presentation: Choose Your Own Adventure 2024

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Arizona Women in Higher Education | 2019–2026
- Guest Speaker, Faculty and OER | Yavapai College Summer Institute
- Planning Team Member, AZ Regional OER Conference | 2023
- Participant, KickStarter 2.0 – NSF Funded STEM HSI Development Program | ASU
- Mental Health First Aid Certification from National Council for Mental Wellbeing | 2025
- Uncommon Sense Teaching by DeepTeaching Solutions Teaching Certification | 2024
- Guest Speaker Arizona Community Colleges Leadership Academy | 2026

## **SERVICE AND OUTREACH**

- Champion for Open Educational Resources (OER), promoting accessible and equitable learning.
  - Communication Chair OERizona 26-28
- Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children, Mohave County Superior Court
- Mentor for Arizona Women in Higher Education 2023, 2024