

Natalia Torres

Assistant Principal,

Johnson College Prep, Noble Network of Charter Schools

2018 Surge Fellow

As an immigrant who is now a leader in the education field, Natalia Torres deeply understands the importance of education and opportunity, devoting her time to serving students and communities that have been denied fair and equal access.

Natalia's career started as a Teach for America corps member in Chicago. Matched with Johnson College Prep during its first year in existence, Natalia was the founding special education teacher and her passion for supporting students and dedication to continuously improving the school led her to eventually serve as Special Education Coordinator—and currently as Assistant Principal—for the past three years.

Under Natalia's direction as a Special Education coordinator, the Johnson special education team has expanded to three different tiers of support, the most diverse in its network of 17 high schools, and it proudly serves a student population that is 20 percent students with special needs. As an assistant principal, Natalia relentlessly seeks ways to connect students to resources and opportunities, as well as ways to connect Johnson College Prep to the Englewood community for mutual collaboration to create generational change.

Born and raised in Colombia, Natalia felt the need to give back to one of her many communities and while completing her undergrad at the University of Florida, she spent her summers doing service trips back to her homeland through the non-profit Children Beyond Our Borders. She now sits on the board of CBOB, using her education expertise to support the organization as it continues to grow and expand to new cities every summer.

Natalia holds a Bachelor's from the University of Florida and a Master's from National Louis University. She currently resides in Chicago, where she spends her weekends eating her way around the city.

