



## Board of Directors Welcomes New Members

### *Monarch Services Board Recruits Local Leaders*

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Overview:** The Monarch Services Board of Directors is pleased to welcome two new members, Theresa M. Cariño, M. Ed. and Celeste Gutierrez.

#### **Theresa M. Cariño, M. Ed**

Theresa M. Cariño, M. Ed., is the co-founder and Executive Director of *Salud y Cariño*, a local nonprofit with programs that inspire girls to be confident, resilient and healthy in all ways. This includes their social emotional well-being, physical development, power over their own bodies and the resources to make healthy and informed decisions in middle school and beyond.

Cariño is involved in various community organizations including the *Santa Cruz Women's Commission*, the *Justice and Gender Commission* and *United Way's Women in Philanthropy* and *Positive Discipline Community Resources*. She has a Master's degree in Multicultural Education and is a former high school administrator, teacher and public health educator.

Before moving back to Santa Cruz in 2013, Cariño worked as a public health consultant serving tribes and tribal organizations throughout the country. Previously, she was the principal of a charter high school for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Cariño's 20 years of work in educational leadership and public health serve as a foundation for her ongoing work in this community. When she is not doing the work she loves, Cariño enjoys working out, reading, learning new skills and spending time with her family. She believes women are the corazón (heart) of thriving communities and she is honored to be a part of the Monarch familia.



#### **Celeste Gutierrez**

Celeste Gutierrez is the Student Leadership and Engagement Coordinator at the *Santa Cruz County Office of Education*. In this role, Gutierrez oversees various student programs including the Civic Summit and the Santa Cruz County Environmental Action summit. These programs demonstrate to students the value in being of service to others, and being responsible and thoughtful decision makers. Gutierrez joined the organization in 2009 and has over 10 years of experience working with youth across a variety of fields including education, employment and the criminal justice system.

Gutierrez studied philosophy at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Formerly, she also served on the *California Association of Youth Courts* Board of Directors.



The principle of nonviolence is very near and dear to Gutierrez' heart. She uses this principle to motivate and align herself in her work. In Gutierrez's free time, she is playing momma to her dog Ceres and enjoys hiking with friends and family. Gutierrez is a first-generation Mexican-American woman who is actively educating and nurturing youth with the hope that her message will continue to spread and be shared with the youth's family and community.

#### **About Monarch Services:**

*Monarch Services has a 44-year history in Santa Cruz County of providing advocacy and resources to community members affected by violence. Services include court accompaniments, restraining order assistance, counseling, emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis line, outreach, education and support groups. Monarch Services is the only rape crisis and human trafficking center in Santa Cruz County and includes an emergency response team. All services are available in Spanish and English and are free or low cost.*