



# MONARCH SCHOOL

*restoring hope...unleashing dreams*

## **Sarita Fuentes, Principal and CEO, Monarch School**

Sarita Fuentes, a San Diego native, didn't choose the easy path in life. She was a high school drop out, then a single mother of two children before returning to school to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher. Fuentes persevered and within six years she earned her high school diploma, Associates degree from Southwestern College, Bachelor of Arts and teaching credential from San Diego State University and Master's degree from Point Loma Nazarene College.

For the past 16 years, Fuentes has built a commendable career in education, focused on giving back to the San Diego community. She began her career as a dedicated teacher for the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program and progressed to Master Teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal and finally the Director of Instructional Support for the district office.

Her educational experiences are built upon a foundation of challenges and successes, providing her with a broad view of the obstacles educators face today. She brings this experience to benefit the students at her current position as Principal and CEO of Monarch School, a unique school for homeless children. At Monarch School, Fuentes has raised the bar for academic excellence while creating a warm and nurturing environment for homeless and at risk children. She is a firm believer that all students are capable of achieving success if provided with rigorous curriculum, a safe environment and a strong support system.

Throughout her career Sarita has received numerous honors for her hard work and dedication, including: San Diego Magazine's 50 People to Watch 2005, Latina of the Year at the Adelante Mujer Conference 2004, California School Leadership Academy, SDSU Social Science Department Scholarship, SDSU Harcourt Scholarship, SDSU Alba 80 Scholarship, San Diego Continuing Education Edith Dabbs Scholarship and the Association of Mexican-American Educators Scholarship.