

Maria A. Valentin has more than 25 years of experience in community relations, management, diversity and inclusion, and volunteerism. She has served in many boards at the local, state and national levels. She created and implemented strategic programs by collaborating with local and national community leaders, organizations, corporations and government agencies. She has been a lifetime advocate for community development and empowerment across the state of Nebraska and Iowa.

Her community relations goals has always been to develop alliances, partnerships, innovative initiatives and strategic programs with local, state and national non-profit organizations (including foundation organizations), federal government, business companies (including Fortune 500 Companies), health care organizations, educational institutions and local government agencies. She has been a board, advisory and / or executive training member of the following leadership groups: Women on a Mission for Change, Midland Latino Community Development Corporation, NAF- Multicultural Human Development Corporation, One World Community Health Center, Nebraska Commission of Women, Nebraska Latino Commission, Board of Counselors of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Heartland Latino Leadership Conference, National Hispanic Corporate Council, Nebraska Urban League, National Council of La Raza, 2008 Class – National Hispana Leadership Institute and Heartland Workforce Solutions.

In her free time, Maria enjoys volunteering in the community by visiting the elderly, taking communion to the sick, volunteer with the St Vincent De Paul Society, playing her musical percussion instruments, gardening, cooking and spending time with her family (spouse, adult children and grandchild), and friends.

### **Accomplishments**

- 2001- Admiral – The Great Navy of the State of Nebraska (Appointed by Governor Mike Johannes)
- 2002- Salt Lake Winter Olympics Torchbearer in Omaha (ConAgra Foods Corporation Ambassador)
- 2004 -Nebraska Hispanic Women of the Year (Mexican–American Commission of Nebraska)
- 2007- Women of Color Community Award (University of Nebraska Omaha)
- 2010- Visionario Award (National Hispanic Corporate Council)
- 2016- Women’s Legacy Award (Women on a Mission for Change)
- 2024- 50 OVER 50 Nebraska Award