

Topic: Economic Development Strategies for Latino Communities

Evelyn Torres, Program Operations Manager, CAMEO

Evelyn Torres joined the California Association for Microenterprise Opportunity (CAMEO) in 2007 as the Program Operations Manager. She is responsible for directing the operations of the organization as well as managing several programs including CAMEO's !Viva! Las Microempresas and the California Self-Employment Tax Initiative, 2 programs that have been designed to help our member organizations increase outreach into the Latino community.

Before joining CAMEO Evelyn worked with the microfinance institution ACCION San Diego where she completed an outcomes assessment of their clients through the Citigroup Researchers Program and the Aspen Institute. Evelyn has an extensive background in international development having worked on several projects abroad. Her role as a development consultant in Puebla, Mexico for the *3 por 1* project analyzing the impact of migrant remittances preceded her junior consultant position with Development Alternatives, Inc. in Mexico City where she worked alongside microfinance specialists offering technical assistance to 13 microfinance institutions in Mexico.

Evelyn holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations with a double major in Hispanic Literature from Brown University and a master's degree in International Economic Development and Nonprofit Management from UC San Diego's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies.

Because of her strong commitment in supporting Latinos into higher education Evelyn currently serves as a mentor for Latinas from her hometown Los Angeles, who are currently enrolled at Brown University. Her future plans include starting a scholarship fund for 1st generation Mexican American students graduating from her high school with plans to enroll in a 4 year university.