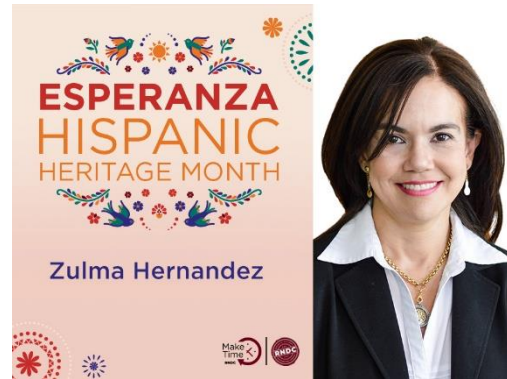


Name: Zulma Hernandez

Role: Vice President, Talent & Organizational Development

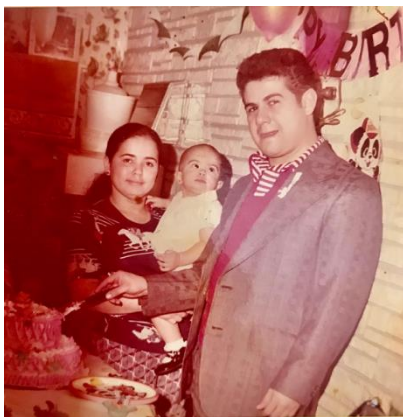
RNDC Work Location: Grand Prairie, Texas

Date of Hire: June 2021



Why is Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) important to you?

Hispanic Heritage Month offers us the opportunity to share more about our heritage with our community, what has influence our culture, and how we view the world. I think it is great to help friends and colleagues better understand our culture. As we all learn more about each other, we enhance our capabilities to relate and work even more effectively. Our culture is passionate and vibrant, with a history filled with celebration. We are big on togetherness family traditions; we make a point to preserve these by sharing with others and by what we make a point to preserve these by sharing with others and by passing what we value from generation to generation. In working with others, this is some of what we bring.



What would you like our RNDC family to know about you? Briefly tell us your story – personal and/or professional?

I was born in New York to immigrant parents from different countries: The Beautiful Enchanted Island (Puerto Rico - US Territory) and Colombia (South America). I lost my mother at the age of five which led to me relocating to Puerto Rico to be raised by my maternal grandmother. A life-changing experience on dealing with adversity and remaining positive and adaptable. Although my grandmother lived a life of limited financial means, she raised me with so much

love and support. I was inspired by the great role models in my family like my *mama-abuela*, community and surroundings. I saw education as a window of opportunity for a brighter path forward. All of which shaped my cultural identity and my drive to pay it forward. I now have been blessed with a beautiful family and continue working hard on the professional front. I am thrilled to recently join RNDC, and I am humbled by our commitment to reduce inequality and to elevate inclusion.

Personally, I am determined to do my part through the many intersectional experiences I get to live as a mother, a female, an RNDC leader, a Hispanic-Latina in my community. I owe it to those who believed in me and I am keen to pay it forward to other Latinas who like me have a dream for a better future and a desire to offer what they bring.



Why is having the VIDA Associate Resource Group important?

I think having VIDA and all other RNDC's Associate Resource Groups is great. One of the biggest lessons I've learned on my journey is that the true magic comes when you unlock your authentic self. This is when barriers are removed, differences are celebrated and capitalized on, relationships are elevated and humanity flows.

