

Professional Biography-Mayra Romo, M.A.

Mayra Romo started her career in the field of victim/survivor advocacy and prevention education as a state certified sexual assault counselor at the Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center (SBRCC) in 2007. In 2008, Mayra became the Training Coordinator for SBRCC where she recruited, trained and certified over 100 volunteer sexual assault counselors. In that role, Mayra also supervised the crisis hotline, advocated for survivors of sexual assault, provided long-term counseling for Spanish speaking clients and facilitated in-service trainings for health and counseling agencies in the community.

Ms. Romo transitioned her career into higher education in 2010 as Assistant Coordinator of the Violence Prevention and Women's Resource Center (VPWRC) at Cal Poly Pomona. In this capacity, Ms. Romo was responsible for campus-wide prevention education. In 2011, Ms. Romo became the Coordinator of the VPWRC. In this role Mayra was the primary campus survivor advocate, project director for the U.S. Department of Justice Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Campus grant, coordinator for campus-wide prevention education and maintained the women's resource center space and programming for student engagement. Mayra was presented the Violence Prevention Champion Award at the California State University Alcohol and Other Drugs Educational Conference in 2012. The following year, she was profiled in the Women for Change Edition of the Inland Empire Magazine highlighting her advocacy and prevention work at Cal Poly Pomona. Under Ms. Romo's leadership, Cal Poly Pomona and the VPWRC were recognized by Ms. Catherine E. Lhamon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education and Ms. Susan Williams, Associate Director, Office of Violence Against Women, as a model program for campus victim advocacy and violence prevention. In 2015, the VPWRC was granted a Commendation from the Los Angeles County District Attorney for all its work and commitment for supporting survivors.

After Cal Poly Pomona, Mayra joined the Campus Assault Resource and Education (CARE) office at UC Irvine as the Violence Prevention Educator. In this role, she was responsible for the implementation of campus wide primary prevention strategies.

In October 2017, Mayra became the Victim Advocate and Prevention Educator at Cal State Dominguez Hills. Under this capacity, she provides confidential support and advocacy for students, faculty and staff impacted by sexual abuse, family and relationship abuse, stalking and sexual harassment. In April 2018, Ms. Romo provided expert witness testimony in support of California State Congressperson Cervantes bill AB 1896, which strengthened protections for students seeking support services from campus-based sexual assault counselors (this bill was passed and became law on January 2019).

Mayra is currently working on a strategic plan and launch of the Center for Advocacy, Prevention and Empowerment (CAPE), which serves as a stand-alone department on campus to address issues of interpersonal abuse.

Ms. Romo holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from UC Santa Barbara and a Master of Arts degree in Psychology from Antioch University, Los Angeles. She also completed Domestic Violence Counselor certificate training in 2011.