



**CYNDIA MORALES MUÑIZ, ED.D.**

(Pronounced: Seen-dee-ah Mo-rah-les Moon-yeez)

Additional Language: Español (Spanish)

Pronouns: She/Her/Ella

**Dr. Cyndia Morales Muñiz** serves as Senior Director for Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Initiatives at the University of Central Florida (UCF). She has worked at UCF for over a decade, having served in various roles within academic and student affairs to champion greater college access and degree attainment among underserved and minoritized students, which strongly informs her work today.

Dr. Muñiz led efforts that resulted in UCF becoming the third four-year public university in the State University System of Florida to be federally recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education in January 2019. She now works across the university to develop a centralized vision for maximizing this designation in a way that meaningfully serves students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members from diverse backgrounds.

She also stewards national partnerships that help advance UCF's HSI objectives, serving as the university representative for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), *Excelencia* in Education, campus liaison for the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities (HSRU), and past council member of the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE).

In October 2021, her leadership resulted in UCF achieving Seal of *Excelencia* certification, which recognizes institutions who demonstrate positive impact and success in serving Latino students through intentional alignment in data, practice, and leadership.

Currently, Dr. Muñiz also serves as Project Director for UCF's first awarded Title V HSI grants, totaling \$5.7 Million, in support of Project POTENCIAL (Promoting Opportunities that Enhance Navigation, Completion, Inclusion, and Learning) and ENFERMERIA (Educating Nurses for Engagement, Research, Mentoring Excellence & Reinforcing Interpretation Access).

Most recently, Dr. Muñiz was honored with the 2023 Don Quijote Award for Professional of the Year by the Hispanic Chamber and Prospera, the 2023 One World Scouting Diversity & Inclusion Award by the Boy Scouts of America Central Florida Council, and the 2024 Women Who Mean Business Award by the Orlando Business Journal.

Dr. Muñiz is a first-generation college graduate, having earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Binghamton University, a master's degree in Sociology from St. John's University and a Doctoral degree in Educational Leadership – Higher Education from UCF.