

Rocío Benedicto

College of Education, Director of CORE

Researcher and grant writer at NMSU since 2002



With heavy hearts we share that our beloved family, friend, mentor, collaborator, partner, leader, and colleague ~Rocío Benedicto~ has transitioned from this life. The legacy of service to the children of New Mexico and the Borderlands is renowned, and her work in bilingual mathematics education is known and esteemed locally and throughout the state, nation, and internationally.

Rocio's vision and approach to her work was shaped by an extraordinary life. Born in Tamazunchale, a small rural town in Mexico, immigrating with her mother to the U.S. at the age of three, her humble childhood experiences set a foundation for her life's mission. Her relentless commitment to work toward social justice and equitable education for all, was inherent to her personal integrity and professional scholarship. She was objective in considering other perspectives through genuine conversation, reflective of her own perspectives and praxis, and transparent because she built the capacity for real relationships with people, which made her an authentic and ethical leader, and an amazing human being.

While Rocio's work was a large part of her life, her greatest commitment was to her children, Andria, Patrick, Alyssa and Sarah. Her sister Erica and daughter Andria followed in her footsteps as alumni of NMSU and, as children, Patrick, Alyssa and Sarah were oftentimes seen roaming O'Donnell Hall. "We would often comment on her boundless energy; she would come home after a long day of work and still have all the energy in the world to be the best mom ever. Her love empowered us to be ourselves and to grow into independent and resilient people. We always knew mom would be there to support us. If there ever was a perfect mother, Rocio would be it. In her memory, we can only strive to love the way she did."

In lieu of flowers, her family is asking for letters or cards sharing a memory or story so that her children and grandchildren can know her through other people's eyes. If preferred, you may also donate in her name to any non-profit social justice organization. Memories, cards, and pictures can be sent to 152 New Orleans Drive, El Paso, TX 79912, or to rociosmemory@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Her Loved Ones