



NELIDA VALENTIN, VICE PRESIDENT

Nelida Valentin serves as Vice President of Grants and Programs for the Princeton Area Community Foundation in NJ where she engages in promoting community philanthropy to support the foundations mission of *“promoting philanthropy to advance the well-being of our communities forever”*.

Prior to PACF, she served as Director of Cluster and Business Development, at NJIT’s Innovation Institute, a corporation of NJIT that applies intellectual and technological resources to challenges identified by industry partners. Nelida was also the former Executive Director of the Newark Workforce Investment Board where she led the 501c3 NWIB Corporation, coached central office workforce operations and supported its trustees in their mission to guide the direction and policy development of the Newark Workforce Career Center.

She has a unique perspective in leadership development, grant-making, community service, Hispanic affairs, social and economic development initiatives, and programs connecting students to the workforce.

Ms. Valentin is currently a Trustee for Stockton State University, where she was appointed in 2016. She has served on numerous boards including:

- Greater Trenton Behavior Healthcare,
- I AM Trenton Community Foundation,
- Planned Parenthood of Mercer Area and City Smiles, Inc.,
- She Chaired the Board of Isles, Inc., and
- served as Commissioner for the Trenton Parking Authority Commissioner and,
- served as a delegate to the President’s Summit for the Future of America’s Children.

Born and raised in Newark, NJ, Ms. Valentin began her career in public service in 1987 with the State of New Jersey and served 21 years in various capacities of State service including, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the Department of Human Services, Department of Education, and the NJ Department of Transportation. Ms. Valentin led the Hispanic Leadership Opportunity Program, funded by the Ford Foundation at La Casa de Don Pedro in Newark. In 2001, Ms. Valentin was recruited to develop the Center for Leadership Development at Thomas Edison State College and to launch Leadership Trenton, a civic leadership development program sponsored in collaboration with the Partnership for New Jersey.

Nelida holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Studies from Stockton State College in Pomona, New Jersey, where she now serves as Trustee, and a Master’s Degree from Rutgers University - Eagleton Institute. She is a graduate of Leadership New Jersey and completed certificate series at the John F. Kennedy School of Government and Politics at Harvard University, specializing in the Art and Practice of Leadership Development.