



# Your Journey Begins Here

## Distinguished faculty bring experience and leadership to ADP programs

### Concordia-Chicago welcomes new ADP chair with background in diversity, academic success

Dr. Neida Hernandez-Santamaria was recently appointed as the ADP department chair. Dr. Hernandez-Santamaria has 20+ years teaching experience in academic and career and technical education programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. She is dedicated to serving adult students, as well as highly motivated, academically and economically disadvantaged, underserved populations.



A first-generation American and first-generation university student, she earned a BA in Spanish and MA in Higher Education Leadership from Northeastern Illinois University. She also possesses an EdD in Adult Education from National-Louis University,

where she conducted research on the underrepresentation of Latino faculty in higher education.

Hernandez-Santamaria first joined Concordia-Chicago's ADP in 2009, serving as an adjunct instructor for two years. She returned to Concordia-Chicago in 2014 as a full-time associate professor, and was elevated to the position of ADP program leader in 2015.

Dr. Hernandez-Santamaria is currently conducting research to learn about the characteristics, qualities, and life stories of first-generation Americans who are "successful" in an effort to identify markers that can serve as guide posts for others in their pursuit of achieving the American dream.

### New ADP faculty brings law enforcement and business management expertise to classroom

ADP welcomes a new faculty member, Dr. Antonio Johnson. Johnson comes to us after serving in the Chicago Police Department for 17 years, where he served most recently as a trainer and analyst in the Terrorism Awareness Response Academy.



Johnson earned a Doctorate in Business Administration from Argosy University; his dissertation research focused on ethics training related to bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community.

Johnson also holds an MBA from Saint Xavier University, an MS in Criminology from Chicago State University, and a BA in Business Administration from the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Throughout his 20-year professional career, he has served in roles that have developed his skills and knowledge of business, law enforcement, training and teaching. Having held positions as diverse as adjunct faculty, core faculty, police officer, probation officer, chief financial officer, and financial area manager, Johnson brings a wealth of practical experience to the classroom.

Dr. Johnson has been married 15 years and is the proud father of seven children. In his spare time he likes to exercise and travel.