

CREW PROFILE



RITA GARCIA

**UNIVERSITY
PREPATORY
ACADEMY
-MARK MURRAY
CAMPUS**

**HIRE DATE:
OCTOBER 2005**

Please share a little about the career experience that prepared you for your current position of School Operations Manager.

Before my tenure at U Prep Schools, I worked in the non-profit community programs Ozone House as a Independent Living Practitioner, Alternatives for Girls as the Young Women's Leadership Coordinator, and Mercy Education Project both in Southwest Detroit. In 2005, a friend of mine reached out to me to ask me to come and check out U Prep. When I walked on campus, I knew we were doing something different that was going to change the landscape of education in Detroit, and I wanted to be a part of it. I am proud of what U Prep has become, an education driving force in Detroit.

What do you love most about working at U Prep Schools?

I love the way that U Prep approaches education. I feel that the focus is not just on education, but the whole student. Social-emotional learning, culturally responsive education, and restorative practices make this organization stand out amongst other schools. We have people that believe educating the whole child is what will make the biggest difference in our world.

What advice would you give a new student who enrolled in a U Prep School?

To trust the experience and knowledge and you will go places.

What advice would you give a prospective teacher who is considering joining the U Prep crew?

U Prep Schools is a place where you can teach by connecting with students and families in a way that creates community and fellowship.

What mantra or belief do you live by?

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

University Prep Schools provides a culturally responsive educational experience for our scholars that builds that academic competence, habits of work and scholarship, and self-actualization empowering them to successfully accomplish their post-secondary plans, as well as socially and civically engaged as change agents for themselves and their community.