

Growing up in a working-class family, I was profoundly influenced by my father's dedication to his demolition business, which he started in his early 20s. His unwavering work ethic, working six days a week for most of my life, instilled in me the value of hard work and perseverance.

After high school, I took the initiative to enroll at my local junior college, where I not only met my husband but also began a career in retail sales. My career quickly progressed, and when I was offered a promotion, I made the difficult decision to leave school to focus on my job. Over the next two decades, I built a successful career in retail and business management.

Despite this success, I always felt a strong desire to pursue an education. With two young children at home, my family made the sacrifice that allowed me to return to school and achieve a lifelong goal. I completed my bachelor's degree and continued to earn my master's degree in 2020. Upon completion of my degrees, I was offered a teaching position at, and soon after that, I moved into the role of Director of Education. I understand the challenges of attending a traditional college or trade school, whether just out of high school or later in life. Those challenges helped to drive my motivation and push myself into a new career.

In 2011, my husband and I moved to Pomona and found a community that we felt at home in. We got involved with the local historical groups and met many of our neighbors. Our family grew in 2012 with the addition of our two children.

I have always valued the importance of serving others and giving back to my community. The first year of the pandemic, we saw many families in our community struggling, especially during the holiday season. Wanting to help, we reached out to friends and partners to find ways to support those in need. We collaborated with community leaders and Pomona Unified School District to coordinate the Adopt-a-Family program, which has since provided assistance to over one thousand families.

As a proud resident of Pomona, I have served on the Historic Preservation Commission for six years and as Chair of Pomona Heritage's annual Home Tour. My family and I are lifetime members of the Historical Society of Pomona Valley. These experiences and more have deepened my commitment to community service and the belief that education is a powerful tool for change.