

## About the host: Andrea Rios McMillian

I'm a Mexican descendent, American daughter, Chicago leader, Naperville alum, suburban mom, newbie podcaster, and aim to serve as a beacon of hope & light within my home city of Aurora, IL. Professionally, I'm a workforce strategist and development manager for CompTIA, the voice of the IT Industry. My work revolves around getting people the tools and skills they need to gain jobs in the tech industry so they can earn a living wage in today's workforce. To bring tech training to adults and youth in the public sector, I work heavily with the private sector and in coordination with local and national governments.

### Career highlights:

- Help adults across the country [gain IT training, certification and entry-level employment](#)
- Brought IT-Ready training and [meaningful resources](#) to my hometown
- Featured in the book "[A Parent's Guide to the T in STEM Education](#)"
- Developed IT education pathways for high schools across the country and organized [events](#) to promote
- Led 5 [Early College STEM Schools](#) in Chicago, Illinois
- Helped 200+ High School students [get internships](#) with local employers in Chicago

### My core beliefs:

- **Diversity strengthens us.** We each have unique personalities, backgrounds and perspectives that are useful and beneficial.
- **Humanity unites us.** We're all connected and more similar than different. People come first- always.
- **We're all learners. We're all teachers.** In order to help others, we must be brave enough to be "seen" and "heard" ourselves, and wise enough to know when to shut-up and listen.
- **We have a vital role to play in the world** and the lack of our best hurts everyone.
- **The things we do well matter. Like it really matters.** We have a moral obligation to pursue the things & ideas we find *meaningful*. And then to find a way to do it well.
- **Together, we can rise, love, laugh, and overcome.** When faced with challenges, we are the people that emerge stronger with an even deeper sense of purpose and perseverance.

### Contact

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