

## **Yolanda Lara**

### **Assistant Director of Inmate Programs**

Joined the Sheriffs Dept 2006

Recidivism, repeat offender, productive citizen of society, these are all terms that are the backbone of Yolanda's duties as Assistant Director of Inmate Programs. Ms. Lara is tasked with recruiting programs that teach inmates life skills for when they re-enter back in to the community.

These programs include classes such as college computer classes, communication, G.E.D. English as a second language, social skills building, welding and by the summer of 2010 print media.

Ms. Lara partners with non-profit community agencies to service the Dallas County Sheriffs Departments inmates. These programs are at no cost to the taxpayers of Dallas County.

Yolanda Lara earned an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from El Centro College in 1989 before earning a bachelor's degree in Sociology at the University of Texas At Dallas. She is completing her Masters degree in Professional Development. She has served as a Dallas County felony probation officer: a DISD liaison working with students and parents from other countries: an immigration information officer for Immigration and Naturalization Services: and as a forensics case worker for Mental Health and Retardation, as an investigator for Child Protective Services and the city of Dallas in the Mayor and City Council Office.

Yolanda believes in serving her community and has a special passion for education. She serves on the community advisory board for KERA, has served as President of the Price Elementary School PTA, served on the Vanston Middle School PTA board as Secretary and currently serves on the Board of Directors of Hispanic Forum of Mesquite. As Assistant Director to Inmate Programs, Dallas County Sheriff's Department, She oversees the county educational programs for inmates on-site Yolanda is also the first woman and the first Latina to serve in the position of Assistant Director.

Yolanda's mentors and heroes are her parents and is forever grateful to her family for their continued support and encouragement.

