

Aaliyah Gonzales-Zepeda

My name is Mrs. Aaliyah Gonzales-Zepeda. I earned both my master's degree in communication and bachelor's degree in English with a concentration in creative writing here at UTRGV. Class of 2021, woot woot! Currently, I have two roles at the university. I am a Program Manager within the office of Student Success, and I oversee retention initiatives such as, First-Year Experience (FYE), Second Year Experience (SYE), and SPARKS.

In addition to this, I am a part-time lecturer for our Living and Working by Design course.

Each of these roles are heavily influenced by my background, how I was brought up, and how I was able to use those experiences as a student. This philosophy is founded on the belief that you must own your story, no matter its contents, in order to truly pour your soul into writing it. Ultimately, that is what will drive one's journey as a student and onward. My goal with every student is to teach them how to embrace the pieces of themselves that society deems unacceptable, harness it, and use it to empower them as they proceed in their academic journey.

