

Melaney Sanchez, a National Board Certified Teacher, researched minority achievement for her Ph.D. from Notre Dame of Maryland University (2012). Her Master's and Bachelor's degrees were received from McDaniel College (1999) and the University of Michigan (1992). She serves on the Collaborative Leadership Team, sponsors Girls Who Code, and coordinates American History Night and Literacy Night. She has participated in Leadership Maryland, and institutes hosted by Ford's Theatre, Mt. Vernon, Williamsburg, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute. She was a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar and Teacher of the Year for Calvert County, SMECO Math, and the Washington Post.

Melaney Michael Sánchez
Educator | Teacher Librarian | Professor

Dedicated educator with 26 years of experience in international, private, and public schools. Knowledge and expertise in elementary, undergraduate, and graduate academia. Areas of study include equity, STEM, curriculum design, leadership, social studies, literacy, and technology.

Education

Ph. D. Notre Dame of Maryland University | Instructional Leadership in Changing Populations, Dissertation title: *Perspectives of African Americans in Rural Maryland: Are Public Elementary Schools Meeting African American Students' Needs*

M.S. McDaniel College | Curriculum and Instruction, Administrative Endorsement

B.S. University of Michigan | Major: Social Science; Minors: Language Arts, Early Childhood

Certifications

Advanced Professional Certificate with endorsements in the following areas |

National Board, Elementary Education, Early Childhood, ESOL, Library Media Specialist, Administrator 1, ELA 4-9

Professional Experience

Calvert County Public Schools | Prince Frederick, MD

School Librarian, Mt. Harmony Elementary School (2016-present)

Collaborate with school staff to administer a library school program that provides professional resources, multimedia applications, instruction, STEM and Makerspace experiences, and books for research and literacy

- Collaboration with staff regarding integration of approved curriculum aligned to standards
- Collection management and daily instruction for grades K-5
- Multimedia lessons and cyber safety practices
- Club Sponsor for the National Parks Club, the American Revolution Club, and Girls Who Code
- Coordinator for cultural arts, Hamilton Night, Many Faces of Washington, and Literacy Night
- Mentor teacher for Teacher Academy of Maryland

College of Notre Dame of Maryland | Baltimore, MD

Associate Professor (2004-present)

Design curriculum, course work, and assessments for undergraduate and graduate teachers and collaborate with faculty to align courses to standards

- EDU303: Materials for Teaching Reading, EDU309/542: Instruction in Reading, EDU509: Processes and Acquisitions of Reading, EDU460/511: Assessment for Reading Instruction

Calvert County Public Schools | Prince Frederick, MD

Classroom Teacher, Sunderland Elementary School (2005-2016)

Collaborated with fourth and fifth grade teams to create a multi-disciplinary curriculum with specific focus in the areas of English language arts, math, and social studies

- Planned with special education teachers to teach students with 504 plans and IEPs
- Utilized literature circles, interventions, and assessments to ensure student growth
- Cooperating teacher for students from Notre Dame of Maryland University and Bowie State University

Calvert County Public Schools | Prince Frederick, MD

Vice Principal, Appeal Elementary School (2004-2005)

Conducted staff development for curriculum and assessment, facilitated staff and P.T.A. meetings, sponsored community events, and coordinated community resources in support of student needs

- Chair for student services team, 504 plans, and IEP teams
- Testing coordinator for grades 3, 4, and 5; administered national and state assessments
- Provided support for teachers and staff according to the school improvement plan

McDaniel College | Westminster, MD

Associate Professor (2001-2004)

Performance Learning Systems instructor for graduate students in the education program

- Curricular Reform for the 21st Century, STAR: Successful Teaching for the Acceptance of Responsibility, IDEAS: Brain Based Ways We Think and Learn, Coaching Skills

Calvert County Public Schools | Prince Frederick, MD

Classroom Teacher, Plum Point Elementary School (1997-2004)

Collaborated with first, second and fifth grade teams to align curriculum and differentiate instruction according to student needs in all subject areas.

- Mentor teacher, conducted monthly meetings on topics such as assessment, classroom management, observation, and multiple intelligences

Cedar Crest Academy & Early Child Care Center | Clarkston, MI

Co-Director, Junior Kindergarten Teacher, Preschool Teacher (1994-1997)

Led staff development using National Association for the Education of Young Children guidelines.

- Planned early literacy and math activities and lessons using interactive centers and field trips

Colegio Nautilus | Acapulco, Mexico

English Teacher, (1993)

Taught English as a second language in a third grade classroom and a fifth and sixth grade multi-age classroom with a focus on language arts instruction.

- Integrated a literature-based approach to current curriculum strategies and practices

Leadership

Maryland State Department of Education, Leadership Maryland, 2019

Maryland Association for School Librarians Black Eyed Susan Picture Book Committee Member, 2019-present

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar: The Adirondacks in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, 2019

George Washington Teacher Institute, First in Business: George Washington, Mt. Vernon, and the Nation, 2019

Ford's Theatre Civil War Washington Teacher Fellow, 2019

American Library Association Conference, Washington, D.C., 2019

Common Ground, Presenter, 2019

Club Leader, American Revolution Club, National Parks Club, Girls Who Code

Maryland Association of School Librarians, 2017-present

Gilder Lehrman Teacher Seminar, Colonial America Through the Civil War, George Washington University, 2018

Chesapeake's Best Crab Cakes Educator Workshop, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, 2018

School Library Journal Leadership Summit, 2018, 2019

Calvert County Public Schools Science and Engineering Expo, 2017-2019

Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Southern Maryland Chesapeake Classrooms, 2017

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Teacher Institute, 2017

Calvert County Public Schools Digital Learning Expo, 2017

Gilder Lehrman Teacher Seminar, The American Revolution, Columbia University, 2016

Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Boosting Success for 21st Century Learners, 2016

Calvert County Public Schools District Equity Leadership Team (DELT) 2013-2016

SoMirac, State of Maryland Reading Council Conference, 2015

Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Boosting Success for 21st Century Learners: Equitable Practices, 2015

Maryland State Department of Education Career and College Readiness Conference, 2014

Beyond Diversity Pacific Educational Group Online Seminar 2013

SoMirac, State of Maryland International Reading Council Conference Presenter, 2013

Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Culturally Relevant Literacy: Celebrating African American Stakeholders, 2013

Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Success for 21st Century Learners: Equitable Practices for High Achievement, 2011

Learning Theory and Practice, Language Institute, Cuernavaca, Mexico, 2006

Awards/Recognitions

Leadership Maryland Grant | 2019

Specialty Equipment Market Association Educator Grant | 2019

Constellation's Sacks for Science Baltimore Ravens Grant | 2019

Teacher of the Year | Calvert County Public Schools 2018

National Board of Professional Teaching Standards | Middle Generalist 2008-2028

Teacher of the Year | Mt. Harmony 2018, Sunderland 2008, Plum Point 1999

Educational Systems Credit Union's "Reminisce, Recognize, and Reward" Recognition | 2016

Dorothy Ordwein Service Award for Camping Ministries in Christian Education | 2015

Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher | Calvert County 2009

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative Outstanding Mathematics Teacher | 2009

Education is the passport to the future and every moment we have to inspire our students must count. The school day is not the limit, I believe in sharing responsibility with all stakeholders to provide exceptional opportunities for our children. Families, community members, and educators share the common goal of embracing MSDE's vision for equitable access and educational excellence in a world where scholars must be globally competitive.

This past year I visited various school districts and worked with educators from each Maryland county including Baltimore City. I was in awe of what I learned. Maryland educators know that our daily walk has an exponential impact. Therefore, we face each day using our courageous voices to be effective, inclusive, innovative, accountable, and to keep our children safe. Teaching is not hard work. It is heart work.

My greatest joy materializes when I serve others. My single mother taught me to see obstacles as opportunities. She taught me to persevere when I was told I would never be college material. That perseverance resulted in me obtaining my Doctorate. As a teacher and professor I do my best to support others by setting high expectations, writing grants, hosting after school clubs, volunteering at summer camp, attending teacher institutes, and by offering hope, help, and resources. Teaching in public and private schools, and also abroad in Mexico, provided varied experience and the opportunity to attain multiple certifications because I know I must go beyond the limits of my understanding. I am eager and well prepared to take on challenges for those who matter most, our students. I am dedicated to educational initiatives such as the Teacher Academy of Maryland, because every school deserves top-notch teachers in a state where we need to grow our own.

Adequacy is not good enough for the children of Maryland. Educators who are championing equity for our Maryland districts have an attitude of determination. Baruti Kafele, author of *Closing the Attitude Gap*, challenges educators to change our students' attitudes so that they walk into our classrooms fired up. That fire starts with me. No excuses. I know that words are powerful and have learned to use them to invite, rather than to bargain. Actions are meaningful when a smile sets the tone. Intentions are purposeful. Lessons are instrumentally planned to engage students to be evaluators and architects of knowledge. Constant self-assessment helps me to reflect on my progress as a teacher in my classroom, county, and state. Relevant vision, policy, instruction, accountability, and leadership are all a part of the foundation stakeholders must prioritize so that educators can continue the "heart work" teaching requires. My ability to listen, my strong work ethic, and relentless pursuit of putting students first are evidence that I should be elected to the Maryland State Board of Education. I believe that our Maryland schools can continue to be the exceptional passport to college and career readiness for every student's non-negotiable future success and I am ready to be a part of the solution.

Mt. Harmony Elementary School – A 2019 National Blue Ribbon School



"Striving for Excellence!"

Friday, October 4, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

It is without hesitation that I strongly recommend Dr. Melaney Sanchez to be considered for the Teacher Member position on the Maryland State Board of Education. I am currently Dr. Sanchez's principal, but we have worked together on and off since 2003. Over the years, I have seen Dr. Sanchez's strong work ethic, professionalism, dedication, team building abilities, and relentless pursuit of ideas and resources to benefit her students, schools, and the community. She is held in the highest esteem by her colleagues and is always the first staff member to offer help or support to others. As the school's teacher librarian, her influence is felt throughout the entire school and community. She collaborates with other teachers, parents, and community members to plan family and student events. Dr. Sanchez demonstrates excellent judgment when making decisions and does not hesitate to ask questions, seek others' input, or conduct research when needed. She is fluent in Spanish and has been instrumental in building relationships with our non-English speaking ESOL students. She recently represented Calvert County Public Schools as the 2018 – 2019 Teacher of the Year (TOY). During her tenure as Calvert County Public School's TOY, it was no surprise to hear that Dr. Sanchez had organized and helped to facilitate a Southern Maryland TOY tour. She has a strong desire to recruit and train future educators and is currently working with the county's Teacher Academy of Maryland committee. She teaches college level education classes to many of her colleagues and is always eager to provide input on school and county committees. Dr. Sanchez is a true professional who is passionate, encouraging, creative and trustworthy. There is no other person I can think of who is more qualified to assist every student to reach their potential, develop and support a strong accountability system to increase academic success for all students, promote a safe, healthy, and orderly environment for learning and teaching, ensure educator and administrator effectiveness, promote students' physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being, expand high-quality educational opportunities for student and parents, work with districts to strengthen infrastructure, and increase communication and partnerships with stakeholders statewide. Dr. Sanchez is more than capable, eager, and willing to represent the students, teachers, parents, and the state in its pursuit to ensure all students have an opportunity to learn in a school where they can be successful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Trefth".

Charles Trefth, Principal, Mt. Harmony Elementary School

Mt. Harmony Elementary School
900 W. Mt. Harmony Road
Owings, Maryland 20736
443-550-9620 FAX 410-286-4017

October 1, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

What an honor it is to be writing this letter of recommendation for my co-worker and friend, Dr. Melaney Sanchez. When she asked me to write on her behalf, I was truly humbled because she is someone that I have looked up to and admired for many years. My hope is that I am able to clearly articulate why she is so deserving of receiving the honor of being elected as the Teacher Member of the State Board of Education.

Dr. Sanchez joined our Mt. Harmony Elementary School family four years ago. From the moment she walked through our doors, she began to make her positive mark on our school. That is what I believe sets Dr. Sanchez apart from so many other educators that have reached her level of success. Yes, she is driven. And yes, she pushes herself to grow as a professional. But, her reasons for this drive come solely from her genuine love of teaching. In my 18 years of teaching, I have had the privilege of working with many amazing educators, but I have never seen an educator completely love what they do like Dr. Sanchez. It is because of this love that she inspires her students, co-workers, and administrators in a way that causes us to believe that any goal we set can be reached. Because of Dr. Sanchez, our students go to the Media Center excited for what is in store for their learning that day. Whether it be engaging in a collaborative book talk or conducting research on a topic of their choosing, the students will be presented with meaningful opportunities that will enhance their independence, confidence, and knowledge base. Think about how powerful that is. The way in which Dr. Sanchez interacts with the students is nothing short of magic. She has a way of making each and every student feel as though they can do or be anything they want, through hard work, support, and determination. Maybe the magic comes from the fact that she genuinely believes in and lives with that mindset every day.

As a colleague and a friend, there aren't enough words I can use to describe how much of a profound impact she has had on me, as well as many others in our school. Her positivity is infectious. She always greets you with a friendly smile and genuine words of encouragement. I have gone to Dr. Sanchez for guidance on how to advocate for my students who were in need of more academic support and intervention. Her ability to listen to my concerns and really hear what I was saying meant so much. She made me feel like I was not alone in my efforts and understood that I needed to be their advocate. She was able to provide me with specific, valuable feedback that I was able to immediately use so I could get my students the instructional supports they needed. I will forever be grateful to her for the way she encouraged me to be the voice that my students needed.

I would like to leave you with one more reason as to why I believe Dr. Sanchez is so deserving of this honor. Simply put, it is her heart. You always hear people say that some are born to be teachers. With Dr. Sanchez, this is absolutely the truth. She is so committed to being a teacher, not because it is her job, but because it is her calling. In my opinion, this is the kind of person you want representing our state. She is a true leader, incredible instructor, inspiring person, and a life-long learner.

Sincerely,



Amy K. Tipton

3rd Grade Teacher

Mt. Harmony Elementary School

September 29, 2019

Meghan Chiu, M.D.

Dear Members of the Maryland State Board of Education,

I am writing in support of Dr. Melaney Sanchez for appointment to the Maryland State Board of Education as its teacher member. Dr. Sanchez, whom I have known for 6 years, is currently in her 4th year as a librarian and media specialist at Mt. Harmony Elementary School and is one of the hardest working and most gifted teachers I know. As a pediatrician, I have the opportunity to speak candidly with many parents. Prior to my own children's fifth grade experience at Sunderland Elementary School, I had already heard from other parents over and over again how wonderful and inspirational it was to have Dr. Sanchez as a teacher. Since assuming her new position as the librarian at Mt. Harmony Elementary, my patients now tell me how fun and engaging library time is with Dr. Sanchez. She is not only admired and appreciated by her students and their parents, but also has a great rapport with her colleagues who often praise her when they bring their children to my office.

As my children's fifth grade ELA teacher, Dr. Sanchez made reading and writing enjoyable for them. My daughter, Sophia, was an avid reader so she looked forward to discussing books that she had read with Dr. Sanchez, who would listen intently and encourage her to read more. Dr. Sanchez challenged her to read 100 books which she surpassed at 139. That year, Sophia blossomed as a writer and now pursues creative writing as a hobby. In contrast, my son, Max, did not enjoy reading as much. However, by the end of fifth grade, with Dr. Sanchez's encouragement, Max had read 90 books. His writing improved significantly and he learned to write with confidence. Dr. Sanchez's students range from those with special needs to the best and brightest; She treats them all equally and has a knack for making each and every student feel special. Dr. Sanchez's passion for her work is exemplified by her arranging to have Priscilla Cummings, author of *Red Kayak*, visit her class; It was an unforgettable day for my son. She is an extraordinary teacher who goes above and beyond for her students.

During her 26 years of experience as an educator, Dr. Melaney Sanchez has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of education in Calvert County as is evident by her many accolades. I highly recommend, without reservation, that Dr. Sanchez be appointed to the position of teacher member on the Maryland State Board of Education.

Sincerely,



Meghan Chiu, M.D.