

**MONTGOMERY COLLEGE RISING PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION  
MONTHLY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



**AMI DIAZ**  
**Work and Motherhood**

**NOVEMBER 2023**



Ami Diaz is the Administrative Aide II in the Biology Department at Rockville Campus. She joined the College in July 2023. She has over seven years of experience in Human Resources and Administrative Support and works with a range of small to large companies in local and global spaces. Most recently, she worked fully remote for nearly three years. Ami was hesitant to start a fully in-person position, and was very nervous for the first few days.

“Day one was fantastic,” Ami says. “Day two was even better. Each day has been nothing but positivity, welcoming, learning, and a push for innovation.”

She joined a fantastic department full of dedicated educators who are making a wonderful effort to set many, if not, all students up for success. She has been helping them smooth out processes, coordinate events, and communicate to students all of the learning and support opportunities they provide.

Ami adds: “Faculty in our department are offering Biology review sessions, in Amharic, English, French, and Spanish! How amazing is that?!”

Realizing how much work there is to do coming back from COVID is really motivating and exciting for Ami. She is getting the chance to streamline a lot of departmental processes with the tech skills she



gained, and continuing to grow is really exciting for her. Currently, she is working to finish setting up and fully organizing the departmental Teams sites to be used for department administration. The Teams sites will have resources available for faculty and staff to easily find and use. In tandem, she is following the LinkedIn Learning Path to Master Microsoft Teams.

Personally, Ami is making plans and taking actions to rejoin the College as a student and obtain an associate degree in Business.

“When I was a student, some time ago, I didn’t know what resources were available to me, or have the guides to point me in the right direction,” she says. “Seeing all that the College is doing to help students succeed makes me really excited to try again with the best footing possible.”

So far, she has met with a wonderful counselor and program advisor who have both made her feel confident in her plans and ability to graduate. She wants to be an example for Latiné students that it is worth going to school, finding/using all resources, keep trying and getting back up even if you stayed down a little longer than you hoped for.

“Everything I do now is also ultimately for my family, Jorge and Liliana,” Ami explains. “My daughter is 18 months (or 1.5 years without the mommy math), so it has been quite the challenge tearing myself away from her for 9+ hours a day.”

She adds that she could do without the one hour of traffic, but the eight hours with her colleagues is so fulfilling, the time just flies by on

most days.

She recently joined MCRPA and the MC Pride & Allies Group, and has also joined the Antiracism Badge Fall 2023 Cohort, which starts soon. Furthermore, she plans to take the Safe Zone Training in late October.

“I feel so lucky coming to an organization where there is such a conscious effort to increase the sense of belonging,” Ami says. “Working remotely can get a little lonely, and there were not a lot of spaces or opportunities to collaborate.”

Now, she is meeting and working with so many new people to help global cultures feel wholly welcomed into one community.

She learned about MCRPA during the New Employee orientation and was excited to join a group of individuals looking to work and learn together while driving forward the College’s mission. She is a bit nerdy by nature, and MCRPA felt like a place she could be herself and find others like her. The first MCRPA event she attended was MCRPA’s 4C’s: Community, Collaboration, Compassion, Celebration.

“We had such a warm and welcoming conversation, celebrated each other’s wins and truly felt connected,” Ami says. “I’m so looking forward to joining many more meeting and events with MCRPA.”





Outside of work, her life revolves around family. She tries to soak up every minute with them because there is never enough time. They go on walks (Liliana cracks up crunching the fallen leaves), read books (English and Spanish), make grocery store adventures (it's always an adventure stepping out the front door), and try to finish one movie on the weekend (even if it's one of the same bunch they've seen 100+ times).

This is Ami in an eggshell, and she is so happy to be in the MC Raptors' Nest. More importantly, she hopes to see everyone around the campuses.