

Maria Milagros Kneusel Rivera

DNP, MSHCE, MSN Ed, RN, CMGT-BC

Health Equity Expert & Consultant



Bio

Health Equity Expert and Consultant, Maria Milagros Kneusel Rivera (She/Her/Hers), is a Registered Nurse with a passion for ensuring the dignified care of underrepresented populations.

Maria helps organizations who value diversity implement thoughtful equity strategies to become more compassionate and just, meet regulatory demands, and reduce financial liabilities.

Maria also has expertise in leveraging nurses to advance health equity and periodically coaches nurses seeking to do health equity work.

Maria is also an expert in Promotora (community health worker) care models. Her doctoral work involved using Promotoras to help monolingual Latino patients with heart failure manage their condition more effectively.

Maria is the founder of [Health Equity Nurses. PLC](#), a DEI consulting firm. She also works as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program Director at Centura Health, a large healthcare system with hospitals and clinics across Colorado, Western Kansas, and Utah.

Maria chairs the Colorado Action Coalition's Future of Nursing Strategic Advisory Committee to Advance Health Equity. Maria also co-chairs the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Council for the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence and belongs to various other diversity and inclusion advisory groups.

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Credentials

- Doctorate in Nursing Practice *Duquesne University*
- Masters in Health Care Ethics *Creighton University*
- Masters in Nursing Education *Gonzaga University*
- Bachelors in Nursing *Marquette University*



Focus Areas

- Health Equity/Disparities
- Nursing Workforce Diversity
- Leveraging Nurses in Health Equity Work
- Nursing Education in Health Equity
- Promotora Care Models



Most Requested Topics

- The Importance of Health Equity
- How Nurses can advance Health Equity
- Promotora Education
- Cultural Competence
- Spanish Presentations on DEI Topics



Awards

- Nightingale Luminary
- Sigma Theta Tau Excellence In Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Award
- National Hispanic Nurse of the Year
- Hispanic Star Outstanding Community Leader Award