# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## JACKELINE OQUENDO

**What is your position with Open Door?**
I serve as a Spanish HSE teacher at Open Door. I teach Reading, Writing, Social studies, and Math. I also work alongside Barbara in the Spanish Community Outreach program.

**How long have you been with Open Door?**
I have been working with Open Door since 2020.

**Give three words that describe Open Door:**
I have so much to say about Open Door, but I'll highlight the most meaningful points. First, Open Door gave me the opportunity to become a teacher and share my knowledge with my students. Second, it is a program that helps people earn their High School Diploma so they can access better opportunities in their daily lives. And finally, Open Door has also allowed me to improve my own English through a lot of effort and dedication. Thank you, Open Door, for everything.

**Reflect on a moment or event with Open Door that is memorable to you:**
The most memorable moments at Open Door were when Barbara asked me if I wanted to work as a teacher, but first I had to pass the reading exam to see if I was qualified to teach these classes. I had always wanted to teach in this program, but I just had to be patient and wait for the right moment. This opportunity filled me with joy and a great sense of responsibility because I would be in the hands of many students who would trust in my teaching to achieve their goals: passing their exams, obtaining their diplomas, and graduating as high school graduates in the United States. My other new experience is working directly with Barbara doing outreach work in the community. Honestly, at first I wondered, "How will I do it?" I feel very grateful because we have been able to accomplish so much working together.

**Why would you recommend someone to be on Open Door staff?**
Working with Open Door allows us to help the community. It's very interesting to help so many students prepare for a better future, and who better than us teachers to make these dreams a reality. I encourage you to be part of this great team.