



Susie Rivera, Vice President of Youth Voice and Executive Director of Santa Clara County

Susie earned her B.S. in Criminal Justice Administration and Sociology from San Jose State University where she maintained a 4.0 average, was a member of the National Dean's List, President Scholar list, National Criminal Justice Honor Society, and Golden Key Honor Society. She was one of two Outstanding Student Award recipients among her entire San Jose State University graduating class. Also, Susie received her Master in Justice Studies where her thesis focused on the effects of incarceration on Latino families where she continues to do research when the opportunity arises. In addition, Susie obtained her Juris Doctorate and her Certification as a Professional Coactive Coach (CPCC) and Victim Offender Mediator. Susie also attended The Fund Raising School of Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and received her certificates in Principles & Techniques of Fundraising and Developing Major Gifts.



Susie, a first generation multi-cultural Hispanic female, was born and raised in East San Jose where she witnessed and experienced first-hand many of the issues confronting our youth. She spent much of her teenage years on the streets where she had a personal experience with juvenile probation and witnessed many family members and friends lose their lives to drugs, violence, or life prison sentences. Susie has a keen understanding of not only a variety of ethnic cultures, drug, gang, and criminal cultures, but also the challenges and barriers for teen moms. At the age of 16, Ms. Rivera had her first child. Despite all these challenges, Susie put herself through school and was the first in her family to attend college. In college, she received an award for Diversity Enhancement on the college campus and in the community, as well as the Dean's Ambassador Award. Susie can not only relate to our clients, but is an example that despite obstacles and hurdles you can make healthy choices and become self-sufficient.

Susie currently serves as FLY's Vice President for Youth Voice and Executive Director of Santa Clara County. At FLY, she previously has served as the Director of Events and Corporate Engagement, Santa Clara County Director of Programs, the Director of High Touch Programs, the Peer Leader Program Director, a Peer Leader Case Manager, and worked in FLY's Mentor Program.

Additionally, Susie is a Lecturer at San Jose State University for classes titled Drugs and Society, Juvenile Delinquency & Justice, Justice Management and Ethics, Media and Justice, Corrections and Society, Penal Policy, and JS100W/HPRF writing



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workshops. Susie is passionate about youth development and helping them see their full potential in this world. She is a life-long learner and believes heavily in professional and personal growth. She is fluent in Spanish and conversational in three other languages.

Susie says about FLY, “FLY is unique and special as we are about coactively building the future with our young people and not allowing barriers or past mistakes to block the access to opportunities, All the while, we are playing a part in unlocking the sacred power and greatness in each young person.” Susie joined FLY in 2001.