

Michelle Alfaro

Superintendent
American Military Academy

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If there is one thing Michelle Alfaro knows, it's that Puerto Rico is full of great professionals in the education field who are committed to developing the island's future: its students. She is most certainly one of those professionals.

Alfaro hasn't been one to shy away from challenges. In fact, she seems to have pursued them throughout her career. Fresh out of college with a Psychology degree, Alfaro had her first professional experience performing psychological monitoring on the inmate community of El Zarzal correctional facility in Río Grande. She later went on to become a grade school teacher at Colegio Mater Salvatoris in San Juan and start her own tutoring business, called Step by Step, which she successfully ran for eight years on referrals alone.

While she was busy running her business and working to maximize the potential of her students, a person who remains anonymous recommended her for the position of Dean of Students, which had opened up at the American Military Academy in Guaynabo. Although she wasn't actively pursuing the move, Alfaro landed the position, which she held for seven years.

Then, last year, the school's long-standing Superintendent, who had been at the post for nearly three decades, decided to retire, and Alfaro's name was once again put on the consideration list. After an arduous process that involved the approval of the institution's Board of Trustees, she became the youngest Superintendent in American Military Academy's history.

Founded in 1963, American Military Academy is a secular, co-ed, nonprofit organization that promotes the integral education of its students and along the way, helps them to develop the values that will positively transform their local communities. "We believe that education can change the world," Alfaro said.

Her continuous pursuit of excellence is something she hopes to transmit to all the students at her school. "I aspire to continue developing academic competency as well as civic and moral values in my students so they may thrive in this globalized world," she said.



Full Name: Michelle Alfaro Martínez

Birthplace & Date: San Juan, July 28, 1975

Education: B.S. Psychology, Boston University; Continuing Education courses at Universidad del Sagrado Corazón; Master's degree, Human Resources, Universidad Interamericana

Marital Status: Married

Spouse & Children: Juan Rivera Ramos;

Diego Antonio (16) and Sergio Antonio (12)

Favorite Food/Restaurant: Ruth's Chris Steak House

Car you drive: Acura MDX

Favorite Beverage: Sangría

Favorite place to shop: BCBG

Dream destination: Santorini, Greece

Nightstand Reading: "In Search of Excellence" by Thomas Peters & Robert Waterman Jr.

Slogan/Motto: "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."—Aristotle

