

Malta House of Care



Estela Lopez, Ph.D.: University Administrator and “Retiree”

Cuban native and East Hartford resident Dr. Estela Lopez is a classic example of a person who may no longer be a formal employee – but who finds herself “working” full-time in retirement as a volunteer.

Estela holds an undergraduate degree from Queens College and a Master’s and doctorate from Columbia University, both in Spanish literature. She is a longtime educator and administrator in higher education, serving in top-tier leadership positions at Northeastern Illinois University, the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, and the Connecticut State University system.

When she “semi-retired,” Estela became a part-time Senior Associate with [Excelencia in Education](#), a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit that works to improve success for Latinos in higher education. And that’s when her “retirement” really got busy.

In January 2015, she was appointed Interim Provost of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System, a position she held until June 2016. She is still a member of numerous Boards, including the State Board of Education; the [Aurora Foundation for Women and Girls in Greater Hartford](#); Bay Path University; the Open Community Alliance; the Latino Endowment Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and the [United Way of Greater Connecticut](#), which she serves as Chair. Whew!

Estela has also written six books and has won several awards, including the Latina Citizen of the Year Award (in 2006) and the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association Achievement Award (in 2008).

