

Friday, October 17, 2008

20 on the Move

Carol Sanchez

Boston Business Journal

Company: Sanchez & Santiago

Title: Principal

Age: 46

Residence: Framingham

Education: Bachelor's degree, Northeastern University

Motto: "Life is good."

Vacation Spot: Nosara, Costa Rica

Book: "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott

Movie: "Stand and Deliver"

Restaurant: El Rincon Limeño, East Boston

Unusual Talent: Political analysis: local, state and National — I love it all

Personal Goal: To have my children grow up to be happy and confident adults

Carol Sanchez has witnessed the transformation of Greater Boston's Latino community since she arrived from Peru in 1971. Not only has the community grown, but it has become more organized and united. "That's been a big, positive movement," she said.

Sanchez, a principal with Natick-based Sanchez & Santiago, the state's first Latina-owned CPA firm, has been an advocate for the economic, cultural and educational interests of the Latino community throughout her career. She is active in the Latino Professional Network and the Hispanic Chamber of Greater Boston and was a founding member and past president of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting's Boston chapter. Sanchez is also an active member of the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants, serving as vice president of its board.

In 2003, she was tapped to serve on the Governor's Diversity Council and has been involved for the past several years with the Metrowest ESL Fund, which provides free English as a second language classes to immigrant adults.

A graduate of Northeastern University, Sanchez, 46, worked for a variety of large corporations including KPMG, Staples Inc., The Timberland Co., Stride Rite International and Verizon before going into business with partner Maria Santiago in 2005.

Sanchez's commitment to support the Latino community is rooted in her own experience, when guidance from different people helped shape her career. As young adults, children of immigrant families often look for role models, people who've attained success in business, politics or community endeavors, Sanchez said.

Emerging organizations such as ALPFA provide those models of success, as well as professional contacts and personal friendships, she said. "A few contacts can make such an impact."