

# Laura L. Pretty

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## Summary

Experienced, bilingual educational leader with formal Montessori training for ages 6-12 and 12-18; extensive background in managing diverse student populations and multi-lingual communities. Proven track record in strategic planning, instructional leadership, and financial management. Successful in implementing innovative educational programs, improving school culture, and growing school enrollment. Deeply committed to Monarch Montessori's mission and vision, with a renewed passion to lead through the next chapter of growth and challenge.

**Languages:** Bilingual and bi-literate in English/Spanish

## Educational Leadership Experience

### Monarch Montessori of Denver

*Executive Director of First Steps at Monarch Montessori and Monarch Montessori of Denver Charter*

*7/2017-present (Previously served as Executive Director before reapplying)*

- Led and supported a team of 60 staff across two schools: Monarch Montessori Charter (K-5) and First Steps (infant-preschool), collectively serving 350 children.
- Managed a combined \$6 million budget across both schools and reported to the Board of Directors to ensure strong fiscal health, achieving \$2M+ in reserves across both schools.
- Set vision, mission, and led the strategic plan, resulting in:
  - **Dual Language Pathway:** Developed a successful Spanish/English bilingual program, driving significant academic gains for multilingual learners, especially during COVID years.
  - **Outdoor Learning Program:** Spearheaded the creation of the largest urban outdoor learning program in Denver, including gardens, chickens, natural pathways, and 4-H programming.
  - **Enrollment Growth:** Increased enrollment in both schools during a time of district-wide enrollment decline.
  - **Family Satisfaction:** Achieved high levels of family satisfaction, as reflected in DPS surveys, with Monarch consistently ranking among the highest in family satisfaction within FNE Denver.

### Denver Public Schools

*Director of Pilot to Scale Innovation*

*9/2015-6/2017*

- Developed systems for piloting and scaling innovations within the district, focusing on blended learning, personalized learning, and professional development for school leaders.

- Led district-wide projects for integrating short-cycle assessments, personalized learning, and peer-to-peer professional learning among district and charter schools.
- Guided middle school students through the process of designing a new school, culminating in a presentation at the Alternative Education Resource Organization (AERO) conference in New York and a student-led summer program.

#### *Director of Principal Effectiveness*

*9/2012-6/2015*

- Developed innovative, differentiated professional development programs for school leaders, increasing satisfaction from 60% to over 80% within one year.

#### **TNTP**

*Director of Communications and Operations, Texas Teaching Fellows*

*7/07-9/2012*

- Managed statewide communications and operations for multiple sites across Texas, overseeing fundraising, program development, and PR initiatives.
- Led data management, analysis, and reporting efforts to ensure success in recruiting, developing, and retaining high-quality teachers for high-need schools.

#### **Teaching Experience**

*8 years of teaching experience in St. Vrain Valley School District, Colorado; Tecnológico de Monterrey Campus Chihuahua, Mexico, and Clint ISD in El Paso, Texas*

- Taught a variety of subjects including English Language Arts, Social Studies, Religious Studies, International Relations, ESL/EFL, and Remedial Reading, with a focus on English Language Learners (ELLs) and secondary students reading below grade level, grades 7-12 as well as some remedial college courses
- Developed district-wide curriculum and scope for high school Reading courses in Clint ISD, while serving on a committee to support ELL students.
- With a team of teachers, developed district-wide curriculum and scope for high school Social Studies courses in Tecnológico de Monterrey Campus Chihuahua
- Served as a staff development instructor with the Tecnológico de Monterrey network in Chihuahua, teaching the SIOP model and classroom management techniques to teachers across the country in Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon, Querétaro and Sonora.
  - Led classroom observations and provided professional development to peers on effective instructional strategies.
- Utilized blended learning approaches and Sheltered Instruction techniques to support diverse student needs.

#### **Education**

*Master's, Bilingual/Multicultural Education*

University of Colorado | GPA: 4.0

*Bachelor's, History and English Literature*  
University of Colorado | GPA: 3.8