

CECILIA NAVA & DEIDRE SCOGGINS

TWS-VRS - Program Support Mgr.-
Blind Services (Cecilia) &
VR Teacher (Deidre)

TWS-VRS, formally known as DARS,
supports people with disabilities to
prepare for, obtain, and advance in
meaningful employment by providing of
range of services based on an individual's
employment goals.

DREW LENTZ

Program Manager - CISCO

Drew Lentz has a 30-year career in data
delivery networks with experience
designing transformative solutions for
everyone from Fortune 50 companies to
rural and disconnected communities
across the globe. His work in the Rio
Grande Valley has been recognized for its
pioneering efforts, which has led to a
career with organizations like Comcast,
Meta, and now as part of the wireless
product management team at Cisco
Systems. Drew works remotely, living in
McAllen, where he continues to innovate
locally with projects like the McAllen,
Free Wi-Fi network and other
community initiatives here at home.

WFS IT ISP



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Workforce Solutions + Pharr EDC

IT INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

October 2, 2023
Pharr One Facility

Welcome by Frank Almaraz & Victor Perez
Moderated by Arcelia Sanchez

JOSE J. PENA

IT Director - City of Pharr, TX

Mr. Peña is the IT Director for the City of Pharr. With 20 years of service in public sector, Mr. Peña has a proven track record of driving efficiency in municipal operations, from behind-the-scenes application development of ground-breaking services to the month-to-month activities of department operations. Identifying ways to leverage technology and development to increase operational effectiveness across all departments,

Mr. Peña's hallmark continues to be his forward-looking approach to information technology, while working within strict budgets to complete objectives and identifying innovative approaches to municipal operations.

A few of the other city wide projects his department has been involved in is the implementation of a new toll collection system for the international bridge along with their city wide video surveillance upgrade, PD body cam and in vehicle video recording system upgrades, implementation of New World System for public safety(PD, FD, EMS), Pharr 311 mobile application for citizens, implementation of a regional telecommunication center and a state of the art data center utilizing redundant fiber paths, power, cooling, firewalls and hyper-converged servers. Latest project is becoming an internet service provider and working with their many partners in building the largest municipal owned and operated fiber to the home network in Texas.

ELENA PACHECO

Business Relations Representative
- WFS

Elena Pacheco holds a B.A. in English and Government from the University of Texas at Austin and is a Certified Tax Preparer. She currently serves as a Business Relations Representative with Workforce Solutions, the local Workforce Board which delivers services to the counties of Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy. With Workforce Solutions, Ms. Pacheco will focus on growing the Information Technology sector in the Rio Grande Valley as well as support general economic and workforce development. Ms. Pacheco has experience working as a paralegal in the business immigration industry where she assisted individuals from other countries in obtaining their visas to work in the United States.

DANIEL URIBE

Business Relations & Information
Manager - WFS

Daniel Uribe holds a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Systems from the Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico, and a Master's Degree in Computer Science in Information Technology from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. As part of the Workforce Solutions leadership team, Daniel Uribe, serves as the Business Relations & Information Manager. He has over 18 years of experience in workforce development. The past several years, Daniel has led the business intelligence and business relations efforts, focusing on strengthening partnerships with the local business community providing data and analytics to support data driven decisions that contribute to the further development of the local workforce.

ELIZABETH RAMIREZ

Entrepreneur - The Lifestyle Biz

Elizabeth Ramirez is the Founder of The Lifestyle Biz, a visionary entrepreneur, business coach, and brand & system strategist. She embarked on her entrepreneurial journey after leaving the corporate world where she worked in Sales & Operations.

Her initial foray into entrepreneurship began with photography in 2017, but after the birth of her first daughter, Elizabeth realized she wanted to create a business that aligned with her desired lifestyle - one that was sustainable and enjoyable, and that seamlessly integrated with her personal life. This realization led her to establish The Lifestyle Biz, where she now empowers entrepreneurs and business owners to scale their ventures through powerful mentoring, intentional designs, and systems strategy-building.

Elizabeth's approach is rooted in genuine and honest conversations, which she believes are catalysts for transformation. She thrives on connecting with others over a good cup of coffee and enjoys taking afternoon walks with her husband, daughters, and their lovable dog. As a passionate advocate for aligning business with personal fulfillment, Elizabeth Ramirez continues to inspire individuals to create thriving businesses that not only yield financial success but also enrich their overall lifestyle.