**Mitzi Yates Lizàrraga Bio**

Mitzi Yates Lizàrraga is the former Executive Director of the Debbie Allen Dance Academy. She is the former Principal of the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA), the former Principal of the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts, the former Principal and CEO of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts (Washington, D.C.), the former General Director of the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts and the Center for Creative Youth, both programs of the Capitol Region Education Council in Central Connecticut.  Mrs. Lizarraga served on The John F. Kennedy Center's Advisory Community Board. She also served in numerous board leadership roles with Arts Schools Network including President and Past President.  Mitzi also served on the boards of the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, the Greater Hartford Arts Council and the Hartford Ballet.  She was awarded the Administrator of the Year by the San Diego Theatre Educators Alliance in 2013. In 2006, she received the Jeffrey Lawrence Award presented by Arts Schools Network for her uncompromising commitment to excellence in arts education and arts training. In 2004, she received a Washington Post & Italian Embassy Fellowship to Italy; and in 2003 she was a recipient of a Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholarship to Japan.  She is a contributing writer of Choosing The Right Educational Path For Your Child published by Rowman & Littlefield, 2008 as well as a contributing writer in Admissions and Governance at the Ellington School, Planning an Arts-Centered School, published by The Dana Foundation, 2002. A former student of Debbie Allen, Mitzi was inspired by Ms. Allen to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts from New York University Tisch School of the Arts (NYC) before earning a Master of Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University (Connecticut). She completed her studies for a California Administrative Credential from the University of San Diego.