

**GREETCHEN DÍAZ-MUÑOZ, PhD**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CIENCIA PUERTO RICO**  
**AAAS IF/THEN AMBASSADOR**  
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*Dr. Gretchen Díaz-Muñoz is a scientist, educator, communicator and advocate of the careers of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM). Throughout her professional career, Gretchen has participated in countless initiatives in Puerto Rico, the United States and beyond, including the creation of projects and collaborations in science education, communication, outreach and public policy. Gretchen is currently the Executive Director of the non-profit Ciencia Puerto Rico (CienciaPR). At CienciaPR, Gretchen founded the “Borinqueña” blog, focused on empowering Hispanic women and girls in STEM, and the first Girl’s in STEM Ambassadors Program in Puerto Rico, Seeds of Success. Gretchen’s role in elevating underrepresented groups in STEM also include her contributions at the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust, the Puerto Rico Society of Microbiologists, the American Society for Microbiology, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as one of their IF/THEN Ambassadors. Her work and projects have received numerous awards and honors from various organizations and has been featured on a diversity of local and international media outlet such as Telemundo, WAPA TV, Teleonce, Teleoro, WIPR, WKAQ 580, WAPA radio, La Mega, El Nuevo Día, Primera Hora, el Vocero, Noticel, Metro, Caribbean Business, News in my Business, Diálogo, Voces del Sur, Periódico La Perla, Microbe Magazine, Marie Claire, and Scientific American, among others.*

### Skills

Project design Writing Project management Communication

Events coordination TV production Storytelling Teaching Innovation Proposal writing

Strategic planning Time management Research Curriculum design

Negotiation Creative initiatives Team management Proposal review

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **2024 to present**

Executive Director- Ciencia Puerto Rico (CienciaPR)

#### **2017 to 2024**

Director of Science Education Program and Community Partnerships- CienciaPR

#### **2014 to 2017**

Grants Program Director- Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust (PRSTRT)

Science Outreach and Education Initiatives Coordinator- PRSTRT

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

#### **2012-2014**

Postdoctoral Researcher. Nebraska Center for Virology, University of Nebraska (Lincoln, NE) Advisor: Peter Angeletti.

**2006-2012**

Doctor in Philosophy. Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology Program. Molecular Genetics Department, The Ohio State University (Columbus, OH). Advisor: Anita K. Hopper.

**2003-2006**

Master in science majoring in Microbiology. Biology Department at University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Advisor: Dr. Rafael Montalvo.

**1997-2002**

Bachelor in science majoring in Biology. University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez. *Magna Cum Laude*

**SCIENCE TEACHING, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION****2024**

Project manager for CienciaPR team- Zero Barriers in STEM Education reconvening meeting by the Smithsonian Science Education Center at Washington, DC

**2022**

Project manager for CienciaPR team- Zero Barriers in STEM Education Summit by the Smithsonian Science Education Center at Washington, DC

Producer, writer and co-host- “La Fórmula STEAM Robótica” and “La Fórmula STEAM Computación” reality TV shows at WIPR

**2021**

Producer, writer and co-host- La Fórmula STEAM TV show at WIPR

**2020**

Project manager for PR team, Smithsonian STEM Education Summit: Building a coalition for Attracting and Retaining a Diverse STEM Teaching Workforce, New Orleans

**2019**

Project manager for PR team- Smithsonian Science Leadership Development and Strategic Planning Institute by the Smithsonian Science Education Center at Washington, DC

IF/THEN Initiative by Lida Hill Philantropies- Science communication and outreach to serve as role model in STEM. Part of the world’s biggest exhibition of statues of contemporary women in STEM.

**2017 to 2019**

Co-PI, National Science Foundation-RAPID: Evaluation of disaster-related science lesson plans to promote learning continuity after Hurricane Maria

**2014**

Resident teacher and curriculum developer for High School Students at “Bosque Escuela la Olimpia” Ariel Massol Deyá (Forest School), Adjuntas, P.R.

**October 2013 to January 2014**

American Society for Microbiology Science Teaching Fellows Program

The program aims to prepare doctoral-trained students for science teaching positions

**September 2011 to December 2011**

Teaching Assistant

Molecular Genetics Department, The Ohio State University

Course: General Genetics

### **January 2003 to May 2006**

Teaching Assistant

Biology Department, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez

Courses: Cell Physiology Laboratory, Immunology Laboratory and Eukaryotic Molecular Genetics Laboratory

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (Advanced)**

#### **Postdoctoral Fellow**

#### **December 2012 to June 2014**

“Yeast Genetic Screen to Determine Host Cellular Factors Required in HPV Replication and Maintenance” under the supervision of Dr. Peter Angeletti. Nebraska Center for Virology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

#### **Graduate Research Assistant (PhD)**

#### **January 2009 to August 2012**

“A Possible Link between the Spindle Pole Body and the Endoplasmic Reticulum” under the supervision of Dr. Anita K. Hopper. Department of Molecular Genetics, The Ohio State University.

#### **June 2007 to July 2012**

“A Genomic Screen for Essential Genes Involved in INM Protein Targeting” under the supervision of Dr. Anita K. Hopper. Department of Molecular Genetics, The Ohio State University.

#### **March 2007 to July 2012**

“Possible Role of the Spindle Pole Body Components in the Localization of Nuclear Membrane Proteins” under the supervision of Dr. Anita K. Hopper. Department of Molecular Genetics, The Ohio State University.

#### **Graduate Research Assistant (Master)**

#### **January 2003 to June 2006**

“Fungal Diversity Present at a Hypersaline Environment in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico Determined by Characterization of Isolates and Analysis of Environmental rRNA Genes Clones Libraries”. M.S. Thesis under the supervision of Dr. Rafael Montalvo. University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez.

### **EXPERTISE**

Science communication, Formal and non-formal education, STEM education, Molecular biology, Microbiology, Yeast biology, Fungi as model systems, Cell biology and Physiology, Mycology, Fungal Physiology, Biology of extremophiles, Biotechnology, Gene regulation, Microscopy.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Hernández-Matías, Liz, **Díaz-Muñoz, G**, and Guerrero-Medina, G. 2023. “Seeds of Success: Empowering Latina STEM Girl Ambassadors Through Role Models, Leadership, and STEM-Related Experiences.” *Journal of STEM Outreach* 6 (2): 1–14.

González-Espada, W; **Díaz-Muñoz, G**; Feliú-Mójer, Flores-Otero, J; Fortis-Santiago, Y; Guerrero-Medina, G.; Lopez, M; Colón-Ramos, DA; Fernández-Repollet, E. (2015) Assessing a Graduate School Science Recruitment Symposium. *Cuaderno de Investigación en la Educación.* 30:55-70. PMID: PMC4708887

**Díaz-Muñoz, G.**, Harchar, T., Lai, TP., Shen, KF, and A. K. Hopper. Requirement of the Spindle Pole Body for Targeting/Tethering proteins to the Inner Nuclear Membrane. *Nucleus* 2014 Jul 3; 5(4)

Guerrero-Medina G, Feliú-Mójer M, González-Espada W, **Díaz-Muñoz G**, López M, et al. (2013) Supporting Diversity in Science through Social Networking. *PLoS Biol* 11(12): e1001740

**Díaz-Muñoz, G.**, and R. Montalvo-Rodríguez. 2005. Halophilic Black Yeast *Hortaea werneckii* in the Cabo Rojo Solar Salterns: Its First Record for this Extreme Environment in Puerto Rico. *Caribb. J. Sci.* 41: 360-365.

## **AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS (Recent)**

### **2024**

Women of the year- Reivented Magazine, Inc.

### **2021**

Sor Isolina Ferré Award for Excellence in Service to Others - Education

### **2020**

Honorable mention: Sor Isolina Ferré Award for Excellence in Service to Others

### **2019**

AAAS IF/THEN Ambassadorship

### **2017**

Motion of congratulation- Government of Puerto Rico Senate

### **2014**

ASM General Meeting Minority Travel Grant

2014 Distinguished Alumni- CROEM (high school)

## **PROFESIONAL AFFILIATIONS (Main)**

### **2019 to present**

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

### **2014 to present**

Puerto Rico Society of Microbiologists

### **2003 to present**

American Society for Microbiology (ASM)

## **LEADERSHIP, VOLUNTEER WORK AND COMMITTEE INVOLMENT (Main)**

### **Universidad del Sagrado Corazón**

#### **2020 to present**

Member, Board of Directors

Committees: Governance, Academics affairs and honors

### **ASM**

#### **2021 to present**

Chair- Inclusive, Diversity, Equity, Access and Accountability (IDEAA) Committee of the Board

#### **2017 to 2021**

At large member, Board of Directors

Committees: ASM Anti-Harassment Task Force, Appointments committee, Governance committee

### **Puerto Rico Society of Microbiologists (ASM local branch)**

#### **2014 to 2018**

Secretary elected, ASM counselor, President elect and President

Committees: Communications, Property and Archives, Annual Program Committee

### **Ciencia Puerto Rico**

#### **2008 to 2017**

- Volunteers' coordinator
- Social media management

- Science education (articles, blogs)
- Informal education and public engagement in science
- Founder: Seeds of Success: Girls in STEM Ambassador's Program

#### ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Co-founder of "Planeta B", the first second-hand and eco-friendly focused pet store in Puerto Rico.
- Coauthor of "Agenda Perra", a timeless planner and guide for dog guardians that includes a collection of photos of rescued dogs from Puerto Rico, part of the store's adoption campaign "Amor Diferente". "Agenda Perra" was featured at Primera Hora newspaper and Telemundo.