

# MARÍA I. RIJOS APONTE

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM  
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

## **AEEE** President 1991-1993

María is currently the sitting Treasurer of the Association for Equality and Excellence in Education, Inc. In that capacity, she has been instrumental in standardizing procedures and practices. María was the architect of the most recent reorganization of the Association fiscal affairs. María has more than two decades of consistent and meaningful service to the purpose and goals of the Upward Bound Program and has furthered the understanding and cause of quality education for disadvantaged youth in the Bronx. During the last twenty-seven years, María has had the opportunity and the privilege to work with high school students by facilitating, motivating, mentoring and challenging them to continue in their academic pursuits. María values the fact that the Upward Bound Program provides educational resources to many children, which in turn builds opportunities for them to thrive in life. Graduates of the Program work as doctors, lawyers, teachers, and police officers, to name a few professions.

She served as President of the Association for Equality and Excellence in Education, Inc. from 1991-1993. She also served on the Board of Directors of the Council for Opportunity in Education (formerly known as the National Council for Educational Opportunity Associations - NCEOA) during the same period. She has served as Adjunct Instructor at the College of New Rochelle, School of New Resources. She served as Faculty Member with the Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Training for Federal TRIO Programs Personnel. For the last 20+ years, Maria has consulted with the Caribbean Association of TRIO Programs. She is the proud mother of Jacob Jaime who courses his undergraduate studies at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania. She is married to Hector Luis Aponte.