

Amelia Garza, MA, CFRE

Amelia Garza serves as Associate Director of Major Gifts at Rush University Medical Center where she partners with the Neurological Sciences, Pediatrics, and ENT teams to secure philanthropic support for research, treatments, and technology towards a \$630 million campaign goal. Amelia created and spearheaded Rush's philanthropy team's Be The Change initiative which provides racial justice education with the goal of promoting an equitable and inclusive work environment. She also founded the team's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee whose efforts create equitable and an inclusive work culture where development professionals can thrive.

Prior to her role at Rush University Medical Center, Amelia held multiple positions within development at the University of Chicago during their \$5 billion campaign. As an assistant director for the Global Engagement team she explored international practices for building relationships across communities and identified opportunities to bring communities together. She has navigated large scale databases and established reporting mechanisms that help drive fundraising efforts.

In addition to her past roles, Amelia has served as Co-Chair of the Women's Global Education Project, a Girls Opportunity Alliance organization that strives to break down barriers for girls' education in Kenya and Senegal. She is also the Association of Fundraising Professionals Co-Chair for the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Committee and the LatinX Affinity Group. She also takes a week off from work each year to be a camp counselor with Camp Periwinkle, a camp for children with cancer and their siblings.

Amelia graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois where she studied psychology, women and gender studies, and occupational therapy. She then received her master's in multicultural women and gender studies at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. Amelia is currently a Baumhart Scholars MBA candidate at Loyola University Chicago's Quinlan School of Business. The Baumhart Scholars program focuses on social enterprise, values-based leadership, and social impact within business. Amelia also received her CFRE in 2021. As a first-generation college student and the daughter of an immigrant, she holds what she learned from her parents in highest regard.

"Change is not solely measured by the milestones of impact, but by the inches in moving the dial forward. If every day I spend my efforts driving change forward an inch, I know that my lifetime will be made into a marathon of impact. In my work, I plan to learn how to make every inch matter for driving organizations toward equity and inclusion, for aligning a company's values with their business practices, and for creating opportunities where people find purpose in their work."