

## **Gloria Schoch**

### **Young Professional of the Year Award Finalist**

Philanthropy is not just Gloria Schoch's job, it is her passion.

Growing up one generation away from an immigrant experience guided Gloria's professional and civic goals. Her Colombian mother's entrepreneurial spirit and determination to pursue the American Dream and her father's career in public service taught her that no problem is too great to tackle with hard work, innovative thinking, and collaboration.



As the Community Relations Director for First Data, she plays an integral role in building the First Data Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the corporation, which fosters a corporate culture of giving. In her position at First Data, she is responsible for creating programs around national and international grant making, sponsorships, disaster relief, and employee giving and engagement initiatives to support underserved communities around the world.

Before joining First Data, Gloria was the Community Relations Manager for Western Union where she was in charge of establishing relationships with national and international community-based organizations, governments and policy-makers to enhance the company's reputation. During her time at Western Union, she helped launch the 4+1 Program to support job-creating economic development projects in Mexico to make migration a choice rather than a necessity and the Business Information Clearinghouse, an online resource tool to help minority entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses.

"Gloria possesses the qualities of a committed leader and is a role model for women through her community involvement and professional success," said Ellen Y. Sandberg, Vice President of Community Relations/President of the First Data Foundation. "She has shown exceptional skill and ability growing from a manager of one to a mentor of many."

Prior to working in the philanthropic sector, Gloria was the Director of Public Relations and Marketing and Assistant Curator at the Museo de las Americas, a Latin American art and cultural museum in Denver. Through her leadership, she increased the museum's program attendance by 60 percent and museum attendance by 25 percent. She was also responsible for the planning and organizing of world-class exhibitions including *Siqueiros: Spirit of a Revolutionary*.

"As someone with professional experience in philanthropy and who has studied and worked with government institutions, nonprofits and businesses, Gloria truly understands and is passionate about the power of forging sustainable community partnerships and understanding across all sectors with the shared vision of ameliorating societal problems for the greater good," said Patty Ortiz, Former Executive of the Museo; New Executive director of the Guadalupe Cultural Central.

Gloria serves on the Board of the Denver Coalition for Integration, whose mission is to promote a sense of belonging and opportunity for everyone in the community and sits on the Diversity and Marketing Committee for the 9Health Fair. She is the Corporate Group Leader for the

Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Collaborative, mentors an INROADS intern to develop talented minority youth in business and participates in First Data's Mentoring Program to support and advise colleagues on their personal and professional goals. She is an alum of Leadership Denver, a Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation program.

Gloria earned a bachelor's degree in Anthropology with a minor in Business at the University of Colorado at Boulder and completed her master's degree in Public Administration with a focus on Nonprofit Management and Policy at the University of Colorado at Denver's School of Public Affairs last fall. Her final graduate capstone project, in partnership with the City and County of Denver's Office of Community Outreach, focused on a needs assessment in the area of education for immigrant children and families in the Denver Metro Area.