

Womens Empowerment Luncheon

Presented by **M&T Bank**

Benefiting



Friday, March 3, 2023 | 11am - 2pm | Westwood Country Club - Vienna, VA



2023 Keynote Speaker
Irma Becerra, Ph.D.
President, Marymount University

Dr. Irma Becerra took office as the seventh President of Marymount University in Arlington, Va in 2018. In her first six months in the role, she launched the University's new Strategic Plan, "Momentum," which is guiding the University from 2019 to 2026. The plan calls for Marymount to achieve national and international recognition for innovation and commitment to student success, alumni achievement and faculty and staff excellence. A Cuban-born American, Dr. Becerra immigrated to the United States with her parents when she was an infant, living in Puerto Rico through high school. Those formative experiences ignited her mind, imbuing her with a passion for knowledge along with a deep-seated belief that "no one can take away your education." She earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Miami and went on to become the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Florida International University.

In her four-plus years as President, Dr. Becerra has introduced several initiatives with long-lasting effects in support of Marymount's mission and vision for the future including national recognition in the U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges Rankings, added market-driven academic programs, overseen the transition to a new

academic structure, improved the University's IT infrastructure, navigated the school community through the COVID-19 pandemic and led efforts at the state and federal levels to advocate for legislative solutions to the DACA program that will protect Dreamer students. Dr. Becerra is known for expanding educational access for students and keenly targeting programming to meet societal needs and changing demographics. Her academic career, both as student and professional, has blended mathematics, engineering and systems thinking and processes in her studies, teaching and administrative leadership. Dr. Becerra has authored four books and numerous journal articles in the areas of knowledge management and business intelligence. Prior to Marymount, she served as Provost and Chief Academic Officer at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens, Fla., and also spent three decades at FIU in a variety of positions that include Vice President, Vice Provost, Entrepreneurship Center Director and tenured professor in Management Information Systems. She founded FIU's Knowledge Management Lab and led major projects as principal investigator at the National Science Foundation, NASA (Headquarters, Kennedy, Ames and Goddard Space Flight Centers) and the Air Force Research Lab. She was also a Sloan Scholar at MIT's Center for Information Systems Research.