The PhD Project Hall of Fame 2021 Honoree

Dr. Margarita Maria Lenk

Associate Professor, Accounting

Colorado State University

-- Margarita Lenk regularly attends PhD Project functions and is a consistent source of inspiration to her students and colleagues. She served as a faculty advisor for the Accounting Doctoral Student Association planning committee, presenter at numerous conferences and information sessions and a member of The PhD Project Committee on Hispanic Excellence. She has impacted thousands of students during her faculty career.

Dr. Margarita Maria Lenk, CMA has served the accounting profession for over 40 years as a professional, consultant, instructor, mentor, coach, presenter, and researcher. She thanks her amazing students and children for their successes, which is how she measures her success. Dr. Lenk earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (*summa cum laude*) from the University of Central Florida, then worked in accounting, software, manufacturing, and restaurant industries before starting her higher education career at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (five years of PhD coursework in accounting, economics, and psychology), Plymouth State University in New Hampshire, and the University of South Carolina at Columbia, where she received her Ph.D. in accounting and management information systems. Dr. Lenk joined Colorado State University in 1990, where she has served for the past 31 years.

With her signature enthusiasm, humility, and caring celebration of others, she credits her parents' role modeling and her Argentine culture's catholic servant leadership values for forming her DEI values and courage for her advocacy and activism. Dr. Lenk leads through her deep convictions for access and excellence in education, and takes the development of critically thinking, problem-solving engaged citizens and professionals very seriously. Dr. Lenk is a national service-learning and community-based research scholar and consultant, and has led programs in Japan, Mexico, and Argentina. She has helped many campuses grow their community partnerships, has written and received many grants for diverse student leadership conferences, coaching and scholarship programs, and designed freshman seminars to improve retention of diverse and first-generation students.

Dr. Lenk's multidisciplinary background in accounting, economics, information systems, psychology, sustainability, and university-community partnerships have informed her development of innovative courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, oftentimes having her students perform research and service to solve real community needs. Dr. Lenk has published dozens of interdisciplinary research articles and monographs, including a chapter on DEI ethics in the accounting profession in the 2020 Routledge Handbook of Accounting Ethics. Dr. Lenk has served and led many diversity and education committees at the national level in the AAA, AICPA, COCPA, NAF, and the IMA. With the PhD Project, she served on the ASDA planning committee and as a PhD Project faculty advisor and mentor since its inception. Several of her KPMG/ALPFA case competition student teams have been national finalists. At CSU, she has served as the faculty representative to the Board of Governors, Faculty Council's executive committee, chair of the Honors Program Advisory board and the Teaching and Learning Committee, as well as serving on over 50 university, college, and department committees and task forces. Dr. Lenk has received over 35 diversity service awards and teaching awards at college, university, state, and national levels. Highlights include the 2021 CSU university-wide Career Impact Award, the 2019 Michael J. and Maryann Cook/Deloitte Foundation/AAA Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Education, the 2009 CSU Board of Governors Excellence in Undergraduate Education award, the 2009 Outstanding Educator award from the AAA's Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies section, the 2009 Outstanding Service Award for Enhancing Minorities in the Accounting Profession, and the 1996 Outstanding Accounting Professor in the state of Colorado.