

#### **Evidence 4.1.4: Case Studies Completer Profiles**

Another measure implemented to gather information about the impact of the completers on their students was through case studies. This information was obtained in 2020 after the closure of public and private schools due to the Covid-19 emergency. Evaluation processes were postponed as a result, so this data collection technique was carried out to obtain direct information about the impactful activities that the completers undertake with their students.

##### ***Zorimar Siaca***

BA Degree in Preschool Education, Certification in Autism from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. Certifications: STEAM Curriculum and Positive Behavioral Support Interventions. During the pandemic, she has offered several webinars on the distance education topic. She is the creator of the *Preescolares Creativos* (Creative Preschoolers) space on Facebook and Instagram.

Peer quote: *“The classes carried out by Zorimar are unforgettable. The teacher not only dresses up the theme that will be worked on that day, but she also creates different activities so that her preschool students can be creative as well. She uses Developmentally Appropriate Practices, as NAEYC indicates.”*

Peer quote: *“In the teaching process, I observed that the teacher used various technological resources to vary the pace of the class and enhance students' attention. Some of the resources included videos, music, and visual presentations, which captured their attention. During the class, the teacher praised students for asking questions and for answering them. She gave all the children the opportunity to participate in the class.”*

##### ***Reynaldo Marrero***

BA in Education School Drama from the UPR; every year he has special production projects with students according to their interests; students all participate in different roles (makeup, costumes, scenes, performing); each production impacts the entire school community and families. He wrote a proposal and received a financial donation to repair the old Sabana Llana School Theater.

Peer quote: *“I loved the patience and vocation that Mr. Marrero has with each of his students. He asks “póngale entusiasmo” from them; he resembles Jaime Escalante’s slogan. It is important and valuable to have these role models like Mr. Marrero.”*

Peer quote: *“One of the discussion topics in the Theater class was how to make a puppet. The teacher employed the instructional strategy with a constructivist approach. In this approach, the teacher encouraged students to explore their world, discover knowledge, reflect, and think, with careful guidance and meaningful guidance from the teacher. Each student chose the puppet they wanted to create, and each made it in their own way, following the basic instructions from the teacher and adding their creative and personal touch.”*

Peer quote: *“The teaching and learning process in the virtual modality requires adjustments. Teacher Marrero, with the permission of the school principal, made the decision not to give exams and instead focused on daily assignments and tasks that he himself would send. This method aimed to provide material to work on in stages, which achieved a high level of success.”*

**Chavely M. Santiago**

Bachelor of Elementary Education-4th to 6th grade with a specialty in Social Studies. She made the photographic exhibition titled “Mujeres Grandes de la historia”, with the support of the entire school community and students from preschool to 8th grade, and at the Quimera bookstore in Old San Juan. In March 2020, she organized an activity honoring the International Working Women's Day, entitled, Women and Letters.

Peer quote: *"The children in teacher's Chavely Santiago class are not afraid to make a mistake when asked a question and often create a chaotic symphony of children answering."*

Peer quote: *"Prof. Chavely is someone that I wish every student should have in the elementary school years. She is a very pro-student teacher and she is always trying to make the class interactive and entertaining for them."*

Peer quote: *"Rather than focusing on the problem, Teacher Chavely concentrates on the solution and views conflicts (such as online classes) as opportunities to improvise and expand her teaching skills. In my opinion, Teacher Chavely does an incomparable job, and the only way to maintain such performance is by being passionate about her profession. The passion and satisfaction she feels while teaching, and seeing that students truly understand and are engaged, inspire her to do more, to create more in a class that is usually challenging for the kids."*

**Patricia R. Mattei**

Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education in Mathematics and a second concentration in Physics from the Río Piedras Campus of the University of Puerto Rico. She is enrolled in the Curriculum and Teaching Graduate program with a subspecialty in Mathematics Education.

Peer quote: *"The teacher incorporated different methods into the class for reviews, using Kahoot, true or false questions, and individual questions for the students. On one occasion, the teacher sent links to YouTube videos on the topic they were currently working on, which was the construction of double bar graphs. The video served as a model for students to use as a reference."*

Peer quote: *"The teacher created an atmosphere of participation that is hard to see in online classes, all students were actively involved, and it was evident that they were present in the class, despite it being a math class at 7:30 in the morning. There was unity and genuine interest in each session, with students speaking through the microphone or chatting among themselves, answering questions mostly without being called upon."*

Peer quote: *"Teacher Mattei has maintained the organization of his classes on the Google Classroom platform, where he posts the specific agenda for each week so that his students stay connected with the class at all times. Considering that the students are around 12-13 years old, the organization must be as clear as possible, and the teaching style has to be able to capture their attention. Another technique Teacher Mattei uses to keep them entertained is the "Kahoot" platform, a competitive gaming program, exam-style, to get everyone connected and review*

*mathematical topics while competing with each other. I find this entirely useful for engaging students and motivating them to participate in class."*

### ***Miguel A. Hernández***

BA in Secondary Education in Spanish and a Second Major in Hispanic Studies, with an emphasis on Puerto Rican Literature, from the Río Piedras Campus of the University of Puerto Rico. A master's degree in Spanish Curriculum and Teaching from the University of Puerto Rico, and a Specialty in Educational Leadership.

Peer quote: *"I found it excellent to watch his teaching strategies in 9th grade; students manage the material and learn in each reading and dialogue that takes place in class among classmates and with the teacher."*

Peer quote *"I finished watching the Language Week, conducted by Mr. Hernández. These two classes in the week of the language...What classes! I loved them. They were the classes that gave me the opportunity to attend that being an educator is one of the most gratifying feelings that one receives, the students of teacher Hernández elaborated an exhibition of poems, that there is still a lot of creativity even though they are virtual classes, these students were completely thrown out!"*

Peer quote: *"In the case of Teacher Hernandez, he chose to get to know and understand the diverse realities of his students using the strategy of writing original short stories. This allowed him to identify their strengths and areas for improvement in the 9th grade. It helped create a conducive learning environment and develop unique and individualized supports."*

### ***Ilia Ballester***

Bachelor of Arts in Special Education with an emphasis on Specific Problems in Learning 2016. She is a teacher in the resource room and multiple disabilities classroom. Ballester is a Cooperating Teacher (3 years); and Educational Therapist. She has participated in the SIT Project of Priority Schools, UPR Camps, Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). She is a volunteer at the YMCA as a swimming instructor for children with disabilities, and Bomba Dance.

Peer quote: *"I really loved being in the classroom of Ilia and her student-teacher intern, as these children are being helped to build a positive image of themselves. Thus, strengthening expectations of achievement and making it easier for them to feel accepted."*

Peer quote: *"Her virtual classroom is on Microsoft Teams and occasionally Zoom. I could see a pleasant atmosphere between students and teachers. I was surprised by the high level of student participation in class activities. The first time I attended the class, Teacher Illia was re-teaching language arts material with five students and managed to get them to respond, demonstrating their learning. I noticed there was a shy student who didn't answer some questions; however, the teacher showed patience and allowed the student to feel prepared before participating in class."*

### ***Yanelly Sulivan***

Graduated in 2021 from the University of Puerto Rico Río Piedras Campus Special Education Specific Problems in Learning. After her participation in the organization of Special Olympics, she decided to take her path for special education. She was a student-athlete, Captain of the

Swimming Team of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. She created a web page as part of the Teaching Practice to provide support for the students in charge of this virtual modality. See evidence at the following link <https://sites.google.com/upr.edu/maestrapracticante/inicio>.

Peer quote: *"She reminds me of my Special Education teachers in elementary, but none was as young and eager to teach as creatively as she is. It was an unforgettable and different experience."*

Peer quote: *"The blog is very useful; it includes different academic areas and topics of interest in which she provides information that could be of benefit to both the parents and the student."*

Peer quote: *"I could not finish this report without celebrating the great motivation of the teachers that we have been fortunate to observe. Perhaps it would have been wonderful to see it in person, but what I have no doubt about is that if it is this arid and sometimes cold modality (on line), the teachers have gone the extra mile."*