

Dr. Dianne Olvera, Ph.D., BCET Author | Professor | Board-Certified Educational Therapist | Former U.S. Diplomat

AURORA, CO, UNITED STATES,
December 31, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/
-- Dr. Dianne Olvera—commonly known
as Dr. O—is an internationally
experienced educator, author, and
communication expert who helps
people transform relationships through
intentional language, self-awareness,
and respect for individual differences.

With over forty years of experience in
the U.S. diplomatic service, higher
education, research, and educational
therapy, Dr. Olvera provides a unique
and impactful perspective on
communication. Her work blends
subtle diplomatic strategies with
doctorates in Bilingual Special
Education and Language, Reading, and
Culture, offering practical tools that
help people feel seen, heard, and empowered.



Before entering academia, Dr. Olvera served as a diplomat for the U.S. government in Argentina and Mexico, including acting as Vice Consul at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico. Immersed in high-stakes intercultural settings, she developed a strong interest in what she calls the “language of power”—the unspoken ways people gather information, build trust, and influence outcomes. This insight continues to guide her respectful and practical communication style today.

As a professor, Dr. Olvera has taught at the University of Arizona, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Florida Atlantic University, Lynn University, University of California, Santa Barbara, Brandman University, and the University of Massachusetts Global. Her research and practice focus on bilingual education, autism spectrum differences, non-verbal learning challenges, social-emotional development, and interpersonal communication.

Dr. Olvera is the author of *The Power of Connection: Understanding Individual Differences to Uplift and Empower* and *Ask, Don't Tell: Six Easy Steps to Improve Communication, Self-Control, and Interpersonal Relationships*. Her work shows how small, intentional changes in language—such as asking instead of directing, maintaining eye contact, and respecting different processing styles—can greatly boost confidence, leadership, and human connection.

Recognized by Influential Women for her advocacy and impact, Dr. Olvera addresses educators, parents, leaders, and organizations seeking practical strategies for navigating today's fast-paced, media-driven world. Her main message is clear and powerful: self-awareness forms the basis of true self-esteem, and connection is fostered through our communication—one interaction at a time.

Suggested Interview Topics

The “Language of Power” and What Diplomacy Teaches Us About Everyday Communication

Why Asking Is More Powerful Than Telling

Using subtle communication strategies impacts confidence, leadership, and behavior.

How to use eye contact to build confidence, self-awareness, and bring about change.

Building self-esteem through self-awareness enhances leadership skills.

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Learn More about Dr. Dianne Olvera:

Through her Influential Women profile, <https://influentialwomen.com/connect/drdivanne-olvera> or through her website, <https://www.drdivanneolvera.com/>

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