

My name is Michelle Pelayo and I am the Migrant Education Program Coordinator for Ashe County. I am bilingual. I read, speak and write in Spanish. I Ashe County schools with issues that arise with Migrant or Hispanic families. I was born and raised in Miami, Florida. Both of my parents are Cuban. My mother came to the United States when she was seven years old and my father came to the United States when he was eleven years old. I have two daughters. My oldest daughter will be graduating from Watauga County High school this year (Class of 2011) and my youngest daughter is in 2nd grade. I have a degree in Psychology and my family and I moved to the High Country June 2007.

Before moving to North Carolina I was a Social Worker for ten years. As a social worker I worked with severely abused children ages 12-18 in Miami's foster care system. In 2007 my family and I decided to move to North Carolina, to get away from the crazy day to day living of Miami. The major deciding factor for moving to the high country was my oldest daughter was about to start high school and the schools in North Carolina were much better than the schools in Miami.

I have been working with the Ashe County School since 2008. I help the schools with parent/teacher meetings, IEP meetings, testing, and other areas that the schools need an interpreter or translator. I also recruit local migrant families in the area into the Migrant Education Program. Once a family has been approved to be part of the Migrant Education Program I can assist the children and the family to meet any needs that they might have. An example would be helping secure tutoring services to the child assistance academically. I also, help families apply for assistance such as food stamps and Medicaid.

I am happy to be part of the Ashe County community and hope to continue to help those families in need in our community.