



# The Association of Theological Schools The Commission on Accrediting

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## THE ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS NAMES ELSIE MIRANDA AS DIRECTOR, ACCREDITATION AND INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION



PITTSBURGH— The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) is pleased to announce that Dr. Elsie M. Miranda has been named as Director, Accreditation and Institutional Evaluation, serving the Commission on Accrediting of ATS.

Miranda was selected after a comprehensive national search and will assume her new position on July 1, 2018. She will join an accrediting staff of four outside accreditors and two office-based professionals and will be responsible for coordinating evaluation committees, visits, and reports for approximately 20 percent of the nearly 270 member schools accredited by the Commission.

Miranda comes to ATS after 22 years at Barry University. For the past 17 years, she has served in the Department of Theology and Philosophy, most recently as Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Director of Ministerial Formation. Prior to that, she was Associate Director of Mission and Ministry. As a Cuban

American and practical theologian, she has focused her research interests on the intersection of faith and how socio-culture and socio-political realities impact both human formation and efforts toward peace and justice at local and global levels.

Miranda has been active in a number of initiatives to promote programs for Latino/a students, faculty, and ministry. She is the past president of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians in the United States (AHTUS), for which she coordinated the first bilingual colloquium in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 2016. Currently, she serves on the Formation and Religious Education Committee for the V Encuentro—a national conference on Hispanic Ministry in the United States coordinated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). She is also an active member of the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA) and the Association of Practical Theology (APT).

Bringing her considerable experience to bear on the work of ATS, she served on the committee for the Revision of Standards from 2012 to 2014, has served on many evaluation teams, and, more recently, she served as a member of a peer group examining Programs for Latino/a Students as part of the ATS Educational Models and Practices project.

Miranda's scholarship includes contributions to the edited volumes *Hispanic Ministry in the 21st Century: Urgent Matters* (Convivium Press, 2016) and *Hispanic Ministry in the 21st Century: Present and Future* (Convivium Press, 2010) and as coeditor and contributor to *Calling for Justice Throughout the World, Catholic Women*

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*Theologians on the HIV AIDS Pandemic* (Continuum Press, 2009). In her research and teaching, Miranda continues to explore contemporary theological issues in the church and the world.

A graduate of the University of Florida, Miranda earned an MA in pastoral ministry from Boston College and a DMin in practical theology from Barry University.

“Dr. Miranda brings a wealth of wisdom and expertise through her teaching and administrative leadership at Barry University, her dedicated work and service to the church and theological education, and her experience on several ATS accreditation evaluation teams,” said Frank Yamada, executive director of ATS. “We are delighted that she will be joining the ATS staff to share those gifts and perspectives in service to the broader community of member schools.”

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*The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada is a membership organization of more than 270 graduate schools across North America. The Association provides a host of programs, services, research, and other resources to support the work of administrators and faculty at member schools. The Commission on Accrediting of ATS accredits institutions and approves degree programs offered by accredited schools.*