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## **Maria Santiago-Valentín**

Maria Santiago-Valentín is a Learning Disabilities Consultant since 2014, Mindfulness Educator, Applied Behavior Analysis Technician, and case manager. One of Maria's graduate degrees is a M.A. in Literary Translation (English/French/Spanish). She worked 23 years ago in a project/thesis on literary translation of one of the co-Founders of la Créolité, Dr. Raphaël Confiant.

Maria also served as one of the plaintiffs in the "Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding" which sought to ensure that adequate funding was being "distributed equitably based on student learning needs, fair measures of town wealth, and fidelity to the tax equalization principles underlying the ECS. She was a Spanish and French teacher since 1992, and became World Language Department Chair in 2011. She was Cooperating Teacher and Mentor for students of education at Seton Hall University. Maria appears listed as Behavior Analysis Therapist in the International Directory BA-eService of ABA French Speaking providers published by the Université de Lille III of Nantes, France.

María has expanded her role in her community as organizer and leader in the conservation and protection of our planet. In April, 2017, she organized the New Jersey's People Climate Rally at Warinanco Park. One result of which was that Ms. Santiago founded the New Jersey Coalition of Climate Justice group on April 29, 2017 that transitioned into a non-profit in 2019. In 2018 she co-lead the New Jersey's People Climate Rally in Morristown, NJ. She served in the 2018 Steering Committee of the NJ March for Science. She serves as the Vice-Chair of the Environmental and Social Justice Committee of the New Jersey Sierra Club since 2018. She served on the Organizing for Action Climate Change Issue Team from 2012 until 2019. She is a Climate Reality Project Leader, Mentor, Trainer and Co-presenter. In her town she is an alternate member of Clark Environmental Commission. She is the founder of the Global Awareness Project for Climate Justice and contributing author of Climate Abandoned, an anthology edited and compiled by the author Jill Cody. Maria wrote the Climate Crisis and Education chapter. She is the Founder/President of the non-profit NJ & NY Awareness Project for Climate Justice, Inc.