Lydia Nesbitt-Arronte   **Borderplex Economic Alliance**

Lydia Nesbitt-Arronte has over 20 years of experience in the bi-national arena in diverse industry sectors. After attaining a BBA degree with a double major in economic and finance, her work in the financial industry gave her a sound perspective in understanding financial flows and administrative efficiencies. She worked in the banking industry for several years and was later employed in the manufacturing sector where she capitalized on her bi-national, bicultural and bilingual skills by heading the administrative, human resources and financial departments of three different companies, one which was a start-up operation. Understanding the importance of higher education, she attained a MBA and initiated her quest in the academic arena where she has also published several articles. She coordinated a bi-national study centered on transportation flows in the southern border along with several PhDs in the United States and Mexico at the University of Texas at El Paso. She also was involved in the development of a Small Business Center assisting minorities throughout the southwest. She was later hired by Universidad Aut6noma de Ciudad Juarez (UACJ) as the director of Industry relations where she established collaborative efforts between academia and industry in the areas of research, internships, and continuing education and alumni relations. The development of entrepreneurial skills and an incubator where created as an extension of these efforts with New Mexico State University and Universidad Aut6noma de Ciudad Juarez interacting with graduate students. During 2010, she collaborated as the UACJ's author for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) regional study and participated in its presentation in Paris. The OECD study became the center piece to projects currently being developed at a regional level aligning Education and Workforce for the region. She was hired by the Borderplex Economic Alliance in 2011 and currently heads the Education and Workforce development initiatives given her expertise. Her main focus is centered on cultivating, aligning and assuring regional alignment for all Education and Workforce initiatives to assure a globally competitive labor force by potentializing each of the sub-region's assets.