San Francisco native Elba Sanchez has been appointed to coordinate the University-Community Partnerships Council, a 20-member board of advisers to the new UCSF Community Partnerships Program.

The council consists of 10 UCSF representatives and 10 community representatives charged with the important task of enabling faculty, staff and students to further improve the University’s presence and participation in community-based partnerships.

Sanchez brings more than 10 years’ experience in fostering relationships between institutions of higher learning and community-based organizations.

“This position is a perfect fit, since it combines my interests in academia, health and community outreach,” Sanchez said.

Sanchez served as the national Latina coordinator of the Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program at Howard University in Washington, DC, and as a community health consultant to the College of Nursing at East Tennessee State University.

Sanchez has previous work experience at the University of California. She served as an instructor and director of the Spanish for Spanish Speakers program at UC Santa Cruz, and worked as a coordinator of partnerships and contracts for the Puente Project at the University of California’s Office of the President.

Sanchez earned a bachelor of arts degree in Latin American studies and a master of arts degree in literature from UC Santa Cruz. She also served as a Health Partners Program Fellow at the International Center for Health Leadership Development, University of Illinois at Chicago.