

Jennice Fuentes
Chief of Staff, Representative Luis Gutiérrez of Illinois

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

“I Could Be Just Like Her”

Jennice Fuentes hopes her time as chief of staff inspires young women of color.
Interview recorded December 20, 2018

You know, I think it's important for women of color to be chief of staff because of the others that are watching, mostly other women of color, especially young women of color, who I think sometimes feel that perhaps they're not included, or maybe should not be included, or maybe will not be included. And I think it's important that when people see others who look like you up there running the show, that you say, "Ah, I can do it too and maybe she can open the door for me," which I think it's, it's super important. In my case it was a man and it was men who opened the door, right? But, but I think it's important that more women get to the seat of power and get to that, to the peak so that others—they can open the way. Even if it's not directly, indirectly by people looking up and saying, "Well, I could be just like her." I think that that's important.