Cristy Garcia-Thomas
Chief External Affairs Officer
Advocate Aurora Health

Cristy is responsible for shaping the overall experience for patients, team members and community partners. She oversees patient experience, diversity and inclusion, community relations, foundation, community health and customer service as well as community programs at Advocate Aurora Health, the 10th largest health system in the United States.

A leader at Aurora Health Care since 2011, she has more than 25 years of industry experience including leadership roles as the president and CEO of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF). Before joining UPAF, she was publisher and vice president of the Specialty Media Division of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and worked for The Wichita (Kan.) Eagle.

Cristy currently serves on the board of directors for Delta Dental, Chicago United, Greater Milwaukee Committee, the United Community Center and the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha. She served as campaign co-chair for the 2018 United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha. She is a member of the National Forum for Latino Healthcare Executives and TEMPO Milwaukee. Cristy has served on the boards of Aurora Health Care and Girl Scouts and is a past board chair of TEMPO Milwaukee.

She has received numerous awards and recognition, including The Business Journal's 40 under 40 Award, Women of Influence, 2004 Hispanic Professional of the Year by HPGM and TEMPO Milwaukee's Mentor Award in 2017.

Cristy holds a bachelor’s degree from Kansas State University and has completed executive-level programs at Northwestern University and Harvard Business School.