Antonio Sandoval, MA, is a San Luis Valley (SLV) native who is truly giving back to the community where he grew up. He is an active member of multiple community-based organizations in the San Luis Valley. He is a member of Community Advisory Board of the Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center (RMPRC) as well as a Chair of the Community Advisory Board of the Center for Rural School Health and Education (CRSHE).

**CCTSI ENGAGEMENT**
Community-based PACT Council Member
Membership: 2019–Current
- Education and Training Committee
- Pilot Grants Coach

**PROJECT INVOLVEMENT**
He works with school-aged children, where he is addressing issues such as obesity and mental health. Currently, he works with a program addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) at the preschool level. Through working with these two organizations, he found his place in the PACT Council. Antonio finds value through PACT by acting as the “community arm” in Participatory Based Research, which allows the San Luis Valley community to have a great deal of influence in the way research is conducted there. Antonio finds value through PACT by acting as the “community arm” in Participatory Based Research, which allows the San Luis Valley community to have a great deal of influence in the way research is conducted there.

**OUTLOOK**
He feels lucky to work with the people from the San Luis Valley, as it is a unique population full of history, culture, and diversity. Due to the widespread geographical area he works with, he often finds it difficult to reach everyone, but he has made it a point, and has been able to integrate the ACEs program into all 14 school districts in the SLV. He advocates for using an “upstream” approach in his projects, where the issues are addressed before they become major problems. George believes this method will make an impact on the prevalent issues of his community, such as opioids, alcohol, and mental health. As a retired teacher and administrator, Antonio knows that students are the future and influencing them is how you can make a lasting change over generations.

“The community feels as though they can trust us. Trust is the most important aspect.”