

Joanna M. Bauza, Founder & President of The Cervantes Group

Joanna graduated from Marquette University in 1997 where she obtained her Business degree in Management Information Systems and Marketing and her M.B.A. from DePaul University in eBusiness and Entrepreneurship. She has worked in technology startups, non-for-profits and multi-billion-dollar corporations throughout her career but in 2004, she started The Cervantes Group. Today, The Cervantes Group is a multi-million-dollar company started in San Juan, Puerto Rico and has grown to offices across the United States in Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Dayton, Jacksonville, Kansas City, and Orlando as well as office internationally in Madrid (Spain), Mexico City and Queretaro (Mexico). The company has been recognized by Inc. Magazine's "Fast 5000 winner" five times, which is the most important awards for the private sector.

Joanna worked hard for her company to receive the prestigious certification of "Hecho en Puerto Rico" and was personally given by Hon. Luis Fortuno and Sr. Raul Gaya, President of the Chamber of Commerce, for the Zenit business award named after Teodoro Moscoso as "Young entrepreneur of the Year" in 2011.

Joanna is from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico and won the PR women's national tournament in 1997, three-time MVP of Marquette University's Women's tennis team and ranked 32nd in the U.S. She led the MU women's tennis team to the first NCAA Tennis Championship in her senior year. She is the former Tennis Champion in both singles and doubles and represented Puerto Rico in the first Federation Cup tennis team in the history of Puerto Rico in 1992 and five more appearances at the "Fed Cup". Recognized as Athlete of the Year by the Olympic Committee in Puerto Rico in 1997. Also, she met her husband, Tim, at Marquette University and has two children, Sofia and Nicolas. The couple won the "Spirit of Marquette Award" in 2015 honoring the National Award for "Young Alumni of the Year". Joanna is also a member of the Marquette University Board of Trustees as well as the President's Society and created a scholarship exclusively for Puerto Rico students to go to Marquette University.

<https://www.marquette.edu/leadership/trustee-bauza.php>