



Alone we are rare. Together we are strong.®

Kelly Esperias, Chief Strategy & Operations Officer

Kelly Esperias, EdD, MBA, CFRE, serves as Chief Strategy & Operations Officer at the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD®), the leading and longest-standing patient advocacy group for the 30 million Americans living with a rare disease.

An accomplished and dynamic executive who has led operations, development, marketing and communications, financial and human resources departments, Esperias' primary responsibility is shaping and executing NORD's strategic plan in addition to overseeing key operational functions.

Esperias, who joined NORD in 2024, was previously Chief Financial & Operating Officer at the Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) in Claremont, Calif., a private, nonprofit health and life sciences university. In this role, she oversaw multiple departments, including finance, facilities, information technology, business services, auxiliary services, and campus safety.

Esperias also held the role of Vice President of Institutional Development & Partnerships at KGI. In that role, she led all marketing, communications, fundraising and corporate partnership activities and consistently exceeded fundraising targets.

In her nearly 10 years at KGI, Esperias gained comprehensive insight into biotechnology and the rare disease community, including her significant contributions to the development and implementation of such new academic programs as Master of Science programs in Genetic Counseling, Genomic Data Analytics, Physician's Associate Studies, Master of Engineering in Biopharmaceutical Processing, and Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. This work helped her build an understanding of genetic medicine and its applications to rare disease diagnostics, and she regularly engaged with NORD in this role, including participating in annual Rare Disease Day awareness events.

Esperias began her career in 2005 with Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG) and was stationed with the Los Angeles Angels Major League Baseball Team, where she managed 300 employees and was responsible for all merchandise operations for the franchise. While with AEG, she also supported operations for the Los Angeles Lakers Los Angeles Clippers and Sacramento Kings National Basketball Association teams, the Los Angeles Avengers Arena Football League Team, the Los Angeles Sparks Women's National Basketball Association Team, and the Los Angeles Galaxy Major League Soccer Club. From 2011-15, she was Director of Marketing and Communications at Servite Catholic High School in

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Anaheim, Calif., increasing enrollment and building the communications and prospect strategy for the school's \$15.2 million capital campaign.

Esperias holds a Doctor of Education degree in Organizational Change and Leadership from the University of Southern California, a Master of Business Administration degree from University of La Verne, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from California State Polytechnic University-Pomona. She is a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) and has earned additional certifications in Nonprofit Leadership and Management from the University of Notre Dame and Advancement Leadership from Harvard University.

In her free time, Kelly enjoys traveling with her husband, Kerwin, her college sweetheart. Both remain active members of the alumni networks of their college sorority and fraternity, Sigma Kappa and Sigma Phi Epsilon.



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