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The Desert Sun

KMIR6 anchor Gloria Margarita leaving station to head up nonprofit

Local television news reporter and weekend anchor Gloria Margarita is leaving KMIR6 to head up a local nonprofit organization that benefits minority high school students.

Margarita, 28, will serve as the executive director of the Reynaldo J. Carreon M.D. Foundation, she told The Desert Sun today. The organization has given more than \$1 million in scholarships to local college-bound students since 1992, according to its Web site.

A recipient of a Carreon scholarship herself, Margarita said she hopes to raise public awareness of the foundation, strengthen its public outreach and send more students to college.

Margarita joined the local NBC affiliate in January 2006 and has been a weekend anchor for the last couple of years.

"I just kind of felt like my strength at KMIR6 has always been helping with different community events," she said.

Lyle Schulze, vice president and general manager, said Margarita was an asset to the KMIR newsroom and will be missed. The station is looking to hire someone to fill her position on staff.

"Gloria has done a tremendous job reporting and anchoring," he said. "She will be an effective leader for the Carreon Foundation, and we wish her the best."

This is the second anchor to leave the news station since September. Karen Devine, a 16-year veteran, parted ways with the station after her contract could not be renegotiated. She now anchors for KESQ-TV 3.

Margarita said the public should not read too much into her decision to switch careers at this point.

"KMIR6 is still committed to bringing local news to the viewers," she said. "I've had a great experience working here at KMIR 6."