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Cassandra Canela is currently the Assistant Technical Leader at the Texas DPS Crime Laboratory in Garland, TX. She started her career in the Garland laboratory on October 1, 2014 and was a DNA casework analyst until October 1, 2023. She has served as backup (alternate) CODIS administrator since December 2020. In her 9 years as a casework analyst, she is trained in all processes performed at the Garland laboratory, she has performed multiple validations, assisted with training new analysts, and testified in court multiple times. Cassandra has a master's degree in Forensic Science from Sam Houston State University and a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry with minors in biology and mathematics from the University of North Texas.