Katrina Linden was born and raised in Santa Ana, California. As a first-generation college graduate, she was able to reach her college dreams due to the Nicholas Academic Center in Santa Ana, a non-profit organization focused on providing students from her low-resourced high school with college readiness resources, mentorship, and intense support in reaching and succeeding in college. She credits much of her success to the mentors, many of whom from her majority Latinx community, and her parents who always encouraged her to never stop learning and pursuing happiness.

Katrina received her B.A. from the University of Notre Dame, where she double majored in American Studies and Latino Studies. While at Notre Dame she researched issues of immigration, socioeconomic inequity, and education. Katrina worked closely with the Institute for Latino Studies, interned with a local housing and homeless support non-profit in her hometown, and served as an Education Intern with UnidosUS (formerly NCLR).

Katrina resides in Sacramento.