Marcela Nava, PhD, MPP, MSSW

Assistant Professor · Department of Public Administration

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Earlier scholarly work was published and presented under the name Marcela Gutierrez. | Updated November 2026

RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND LANGUAGE

Research: Political determinants of health; health and social policy; structural vulnerability; immigrant health equity; community-engaged research; collaborative governance; policy and program evaluation.

Teaching: Public policy; public administration; public and nonprofit leadership; program evaluation; health policy; grant writing.

Language: Spanish — native fluency (speaking, reading, and writing).

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

09/2026 – Present	Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Department of Public Administration, Tarleton State University
06/2026 – Present	Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington
09/2021 – 05/2026	Assistant Professor (tenure-track), School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington
2020–2021	Associate Professor of Practice (non-tenure-track), School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington
2014–2020	Assistant Professor of Practice (non-tenure-track), School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington

EDUCATION

2021	PhD, Public Policy and Political Economy, University of Texas at Dallas — Concentrations: Social Policy; Law & Courts
2018	MPP, Public Policy, University of Texas at Dallas — Concentration: Social & Health Policy
2009	MSSW, Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington — Concentration: Community & Administrative Practice
2006	BSSW, Social Work, Texas Christian University — Departmental Honors; Minors: Psychology; Criminal Justice

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS AND FACULTY AFFILIATIONS

2023–2025	Faculty Fellow, EDGE Center, The University of Texas at Arlington
2018–2020	Research Associate, Center for Mexican-American Studies, The University of Texas at Arlington
2017–2021	Health Policy Research Scholar, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

PUBLICATIONS AND SCHOLARLY WORK

Superscripts identify collaborators at the time of the work: [1] community partner; [2] doctoral student; [3] master's student; [4] undergraduate student.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

[3]Reyna, L., **Nava, M.**, Praetorius, R. T., & [2]Rubalcava Hernandez, E. (2026). No sabían que éramos semillas: Nepantlera-informed navigation amid structural barriers to immigrant resource access in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work, 1–21. https://doi.org/10.1080/15313204.2026.2760227

Nava, M., [2]Rubalcava Hernandez, E., [1]Mata, S., [1]Capmany, O., & Celeste-Villalvir, A. (2026). Photovoice as health justice infrastructure: Trauma-informed participatory visual methods with undocumented and disabled Latinx immigrants. International Journal of Qualitative Methods, 25, 16094069261493810. https://doi.org/10.1177/16094069261493810

Nava, M., [1]Earl, J., [3]Patel, H., [3]Cañizares, M., [3]Ren, L., [3]Wiggins, K., & [2]Foster, J. (2025). Cancer disparities and the political economy of healthcare access: A county-level analysis in a high-disparity county. Journal of Primary Care & Community Health, 16. https://doi.org/10.1177/21501319251406402

Rubalcava Hernandez, E. J., Bayhi, J. L., [3]Herron, C., [4]Dew, S., [2]Margaritis, W., [3]DeBerry, L. S., & **Nava, M.** (2025). The public health consequences of officer discretion in arrests affecting LGBTQ+ communities in the United States: A scoping review. Health & Justice, 13(1), Article 68. https://doi.org/10.1186/s40352-025-00378-w

LaBrenz, C. A., [2]Adeleke, C., Garcia, M. L., Pandolfi, A., Mattioni, M., Leal, F. X., & **Nava, M.** (2025). "This Is Not Normal": The Global Academy's Resistance to Authoritarianism and Academic Capitalism. Fast Capitalism, 22(1). https://doi.org/10.32855/1930-014X.1022

Nava, M., [3]Cañizares, M., [1]Earl, J., [3]Patel, H., & [3]Ren, L. (2025). Bridging the gap between research and policy: Exploring political determinants of immigrant health in an urban county with high cervical cancer disparities. Community Health Equity Research & Policy, Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1177/2752535X251352995

Nava, M., [3]Crago, C., [3]Cañizares, M., [2]Scott, G., & Vazquez, C. E. (2023). Advancing shared accountability for meaningful community engagement with socially vulnerable communities: Lessons learned from COVID-19 health education and general outreach in an urban region. Transformative Social Work, 1(1), https://doi.org/10.55016/ojs/tsw.v1i1.77548

Nava, M., [1]English, A. S., [1]Fulmer, L., & Sanchez, K. (2023). An action research partnership in an urban Texas county to explore barriers and opportunities for collaborative community health needs assessments. Frontiers in Public Health, 11. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1244143

Book Chapters

Nava, M. & [1]Smith, D. (2023). Promoting learning communities to reduce health disparities for adults in need of long-term services and supports: A case study of an academic-community partnership with an Area Agency on Aging. In B. Srinidhi (Ed.), Why diversity, equity, and inclusion matter: Challenges and solutions. World Scientific. https://doi.org/10.1142/13473

Revise and Resubmit

Celeste-Villalvir, A., [2]Rubalcava Hernandez, E., [1]Mata, S., [1]Capmany, O., & **Nava, M.** "Los inmigrantes también comen": A participatory photovoice study of resilience and mutual aid among Latinx immigrants in urban Texas during the COVID-19 pandemic. Health Promotion Practice. Revise and resubmit invited, October 2026.

Nava, M., [2]Rubalcava Hernandez, E., & [1]Pérez, J. Decolonizing the social work classroom: Dismantling the colonial legacy of Latinidad through pedagogical innovation. Global Social Welfare. Revise and resubmit invited, October 2026.

Manuscripts Submitted

Nava, M., [2]Rubalcava Hernandez, E., [3]Cañizares, M., [4]McDonald, T., [3]Upadhyay, A., & [3]Limon, V. Structured, unstructured time: A collaborative narrative of virtual group mentorship in social work education. Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping. Submitted October 2026.

Nava, M., [2]Rubalcava Hernandez, E., [1]Mata, S., [1]Capmany, O., & Celeste-Villalvir, A. From individual therapy to community care: Photovoice-informed mutual aid as an ethical response to sociopolitical trauma and structural exclusion. Clinical Social Work Journal. Submitted September 2026.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Nava, M., [2]Scott, G., [3]Crago, C., [3]Cañizares, M., [3]Baker, L., [3]Harris, C., [3]Baig, K., [4]McDonald, T., [3]Wilson, N., [3]Wiggins, K., Vazquez, C. E., & Jones, H. From outreach to relational infrastructure: Lessons in shared accountability and collaborative learning for community engagement during COVID-19. Manuscript in preparation for resubmission.

Baker, L., **Nava, M.**, Scott, G., Crago, C., Cañizares, M., Harris, C., Baig, K., McDonald, T., Wilson, N., Wiggins, K., Vazquez, C. E., & Jones, H. Student-focused community health advocate manuscript. Manuscript in preparation; working title in development.

Research Protocols

[2]Rubalcava Hernandez, E., Bayhi, J.L., [4]Dew, S., & **Nava, M.** (2025). The public health impacts of discretionary arrests on Black/African American communities in the United States: A scoping review. https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/5TW9H

[2]Rubalcava Hernandez, E., Bayhi, J.L., [3]Herron, C., [4]Dew, S., & **Nava, M.** (2024). A scoping review protocol to assess the health impacts of discretionary arrests on the LGBTQ+ community in the United States. https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/FPAGC

Dissertation, Theses, and Capstone Research

Nava, M. (2021). The Political Economy of Immigrant Health: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Social Capital and the Immigrant Paradox [PhD Dissertation]. UT Dallas, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences. https://utd-ir.tdl.org/items/194d1708-6886-4a27-9d17-2898072ce167

Nava, M. (2009). A Tale Of Two Cities: Examining Nonprofit Accountability [Master's Thesis]. UT Arlington, School of Social Work. https://mavmatrix.uta.edu/socialwork_theses/21

Nava, M. (2006). Mexican Immigrant Women and Domestic Violence in the U.S. [Undergraduate Honors Thesis]. Texas Christian University, School of Social Work. A collaborative project with the Instituto de la Mujer Guanajuatense (Institute of the Guanjuatan Woman) in Guanajuato, MX.

Nava, M. (2006). A Grief and Loss Intervention: Measuring Coping Skills Among Juvenile Sexual Offenders in a Residential Setting [Undergraduate Capstone Project]. Texas Christian University, School of Social Work.

SPONSORED RESEARCH AND FUNDING

External Research Grants and Contracts — The University of Texas at Arlington

$331,870 1OT2OD035659-01 National Institutes of Health via Healthy Tarrant County Collaboration (PI Fulmer, L) 09/20/23 - 09/19/25 "Community-Led Health Equity Structural Intervention (CHESI): Macro-level Health Considerations of Community and Criminal Justice System Relationships on North Texas" The NIH Common Fund launched a new community-led research program in 2023 to address underlying factors that contribute to community health disparities. This award to a community-based organization leverages academic-community partnerships to develop a structural intervention that addresses local policing practices which disproportionately impact racially and politically minoritized groups. Role: Co-Investigator

$60,000 1OT2HL156812-01 National Institutes of Health via UNT Health Science Center (PI Vishwanatha, J) 11/01/2021 - 07/31/2022 Texas CEAL Consortium Subcontract This research, funded in part by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Agreement as part of the NIH Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL), is a collaboration between the Texas CEAL Consortium and the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) to support the development, coordination, implementation, and evaluation of community engagement activities which promote students and community health workers as Community Health Education Advocates to increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake in DFW Metroplex. Role: Co-Investigator

$40,000 Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS), a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. 01/01/2021- 06/30/2022 An Investigation of The Survival and Coping Strategies of Immigrant Persons and Immigrant-Serving Groups in Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston, Texas During the COVID-19 Pandemic The purpose of this study is to build community capacity among immigrant-serving community-based organizations (CBOs) to participate in and apply research concerning the health of immigrant persons and families in two large Texas cities. Role: Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI Celeste-Villalvir, A)

$4,000 Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS), a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 05/01/2019 - November 30, 2020 Dissertation Award Competitive program award for travel costs and participant incentives associated with data collection for dissertation research Role: Principal Investigator

$120,000 Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS), a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 09/01/2017-08/31/2021 Health Policy Research Scholars Leadership Program Award Highly competitive and prestigious four-year leadership program for doctoral students from populations underrepresented in specific doctoral disciplines and/or historically marginalized background. Specific activities included: (1) immersive policy and leadership development trainings and coursework in Washington, DC and multiple sites throughout the United States, as well as webinars and other virtual learning; (2) training in health policy translation, dissemination, communication, health equity, and population health while based in home institutions; (3) cultivation of mentorship networks with public health and policy leaders; (4) an annual stipend of $30,000 for four years; and (5) competitive program awards Role: Principal Investigator

$54,000 NIMHD via University of North Texas Health Science Center (PI Vishwanatha, J) 11/01/2016—12/31/2017 Tarrant County Cancer Disparities Coalition Needs Assessment The goal of this project is to conduct a mixed-methods needs assessment to provide health providers in a collaborative network with a greater understanding of patient experiences and barriers along the cancer continuum of services in Tarrant County. Role: Co-Investigator

$75,000 NIMHD via Community Council of Greater Dallas (PI Voinea-Griffin, A) July 1, 2015—12/31/2017 Compliance Barriers and Initial Outcomes of the Medicaid First Dental Home Policy in Dallas Co. This mixed methods study evaluated the oral health impact of a new Texas health policy in the Dallas community and to provide evidence for policy development and improvement. The goal of the project is to improve oral health in vulnerable children, assess progress toward the Healthy People 2020 objectives for this population group, and guide future efforts. Role: Co-Investigator

$20,000 NIMHD via UNT Health Science Center (PI Vishwanatha, JK) "Texas Center for Health Disparities Community Engagement/Outreach Core." 08/01/14—07/01/15 Provided oversight, project management and community engagement activities for NIMHD Exploratory Centers of Excellence (P20) Community Outreach Core in translational research center focused on women's health disparities. Community-based participatory research initiatives focused on obesity, breast cancer, and HIV/AIDS alongside a Community Advisory Board Role: Co-Investigator

Internal Research Grants — The University of Texas at Arlington

$60,000 University of Texas at Arlington Office of the Vice President for Research (PI Sanchez, K) 09/01/2016 – 08/31/2017 An Exploratory Study into Implementation and Decision-Making Processes Related to Community Health Needs Assessments in Tarrant County The purpose of this project is to explore the community health needs assessment process conducted by nonprofits hospitals and other collaborators in Tarrant County to develop a framework for collaborative data collection and implementation of strategies focused on addressing community health disparities. Role: Co-Investigator

Training and Curriculum Development Funding — The University of Texas at Arlington

$5,000	90NWPG0021-01-00 Administration for Community Living via Texas Healthy at Home 9/1/2021 – 2/29/2024 Health Equity Training for a Community Integrated Health Network (CIHN) Developed and conducted a statewide virtual training on health disparities and social determinants of health targeting organizational staff and providers of long-term services and supports for older adults Role: Trainer
Amount not listed	Baylor Scott & White Health Plan via Texas Healthy at Home 11/2023 – 10/2024 BSWH Texas Takes on Falls Project: Statewide SDOH and Health Disparities Training Role: UTA Project Partner and Faculty Supervisor
$10,000	Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS), a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. 01/01/2021- 08/31/2021 Let's talk about it: An immigration and health teach-out. Competitive program award to develop a virtual teach-out. Teach-outs are learning experience that are topic-focused and action oriented, online, free, open to the public, and designed to provide information about a specific topic through a learning format that is less academic and more accessible than the traditional classroom environment. Role: Principal Investigator
$1,000	JPS Health Network. 10/2016—05/2017 "Assessment of the Knowledge, Attitude and Beliefs of United Way Partners in Health and Aging Services" This project evaluates the impact of a health disparities workshop conducted with organizations focused on health and aging services in order to develop a shared framework for addressing health equity. Role: Principal Investigator
$10,000	University of Texas at Arlington Coalition for Alternative Resources in Education for Students 11/27/23 – 11/27/25 An open education project to support the development of open educational resource teaching and learning materials using a Creative Commons license to allow materials to be reused and adapted by others without costs or additional permissions. This award will focus on health insurance and accessing care in health and behavioral health settings. Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Sponsored Projects — University of North Texas Health Science Center

$75,000	United Way of Tarrant County (PI Cardarelli, K) "The HEALTH Initiative/ Healthy Aging and Independent Living (HAIL)/ Health Literacy Program" 07/01/2013 – 06/30/2014 The health literacy project applies a systems approach toward its goal of increasing the collective capacity of key organizational stakeholders to improve the health literacy of individuals in the target population served, thereby creating a "health literate" Tarrant County. Role: Community Engagement Coordinator
$9,970	United Way of Tarrant County (PI Adorno, G) "Emerging Elders and Older Adults of Arlington, Texas: Perspectives on 'Aging Well' in Their Community." 01/2014 – 08/2014 The goal of this project is to utilize a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach to explore features of "aging-friendly" Arlington, Texas according to community stakeholders. Role: Community Engagement Coordinator
$100,000	United Way of Tarrant County (PI Cardarelli, K). "Health Literacy in Tarrant County Adults: A Systems Approach." 07/01/2013 – 06/01/2014 The goal of this project is to apply a systems approach to enhance connections between institutions such as libraries and healthcare systems and local evidence-based programs that enhance self-management of older adults with chronic disabling conditions. Role: Community Engagement Coordinator
$10,000	Susan G. Komen for the Cure – Greater Fort Worth "Community Organizing Grant Program." 06/2013 – 05/2015 Small grant submitted with a community-based co-investigator on advisory board of Tarrant County Disparities Coalition, a local community/academic partnership established to address health disparities. Small grant funded two county-wide, multi-site breast cancer screening events in collaboration with local hospitals and community-based organizations. Role: Co-Principal Investigator
$50,000	United Way of Tarrant County (PI Cardarelli, K) "Health Literacy in Tarrant County Older Adults: A Systems Approach." 01/01/13 – 06/30/13 The goal of this project is to apply a systems approach to enhance connections between institutions such as libraries and healthcare systems and local evidence-based programs that enhance self-management of older adults with chronic disabling conditions. Role: Community Engagement Coordinator
$6,664,315	NIMHD Exploratory Centers of Excellence (P20) (PI Vishwanatha) "Texas Center for Health Disparities Community Engagement/Outreach Core" 08/01/12—07/01/17 Provided oversight, project management and community engagement activities for Community Outreach Core in translational research center focused on women's health disparities. Included community-based participatory research initiative in areas of obesity, breast cancer, and HIV/AIDS; Coordination of a Community Advisory Board Role: Community Core Director 09/01/13—07/31/14; Community Engagement Coordinator, 07/01/12—08/31/13
$1,601,496	CDC via Texas Department of State Health Services (PI Cardarelli) "Transforming Texas Evaluation" 04/30/12 – 09/30/13 The goal of this project is to add to the chronic disease reduction and prevention evidence base by determining which health strategies produce successful outcomes in different environments. Role: Community Engagement Coordinator

$1,403,548	Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (PI Cardarelli) “Comprehensive breast cancer prevention for high-risk women in Dallas County” 09/01/11 – 08/31/14 The goal of this project is to expand an evidence-based breast cancer primary prevention program among high-risk women while increasing community capacity for prevention. Role: Community Engagement Coordinator
$298,148	Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (PI Cardarelli, K). “Culturally sensitive HPV Vaccine Education in Tarrant County” 06/01/10 – 05/31/12 The project sought to increase HPV vaccination among girls ages 9–17 in Tarrant County through community outreach, social media, and clinical in-reach designed to increase community knowledge, support informed vaccine decision-making, and reduce cervical cancer disparities. Role: Community Engagement Coordinator

HONORS, AWARDS, AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Honors and Awards

2021	Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Instructor of the Year, UT Arlington School of Social Work
2021	Conference Travel Award, Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS)
2020	Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Excellence in Teaching, UT Arlington School of Social Work
2019	Writing Retreat Award, HPRS
2019	“Most Practical/Bipartisan Team Award,” HPRS Case Competition
2019	Dissertation Award, HPRS
2016	Recognition of Outstanding Support to Students, Lambda Theta Alpha, UT Arlington
2011	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “Sharing the Dream” Nominee, City of Arlington, Texas,
2006 – 2009	Phi Alpha Honor Society Member, UT Arlington School of Social Work
2006	Golden Key Honor Society, Texas Christian University
2002 – 2006	National Merit Semi-Finalist Award, Texas Christian University
2002 – 2006	Academic Scholarship, Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Specialized Training and Leadership Development

2019	Translational Research Equity and Engagement Center for Advancing Behavioral Health, Aging Administrative Supplement Training Program, University of New Mexico
2017 – 2021	Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Four-year national leadership training program focused on health equity, policy translation, and community-engaged research for underrepresented doctoral scholars
2017	Digital Scholarship and Pedagogy Professional Learning Community, UT Arlington
2016	AcademyHealth Institute on Advocacy and Public Policy, Presidential Scholarship
2013	Translational Health Disparities Course, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)
2010	California Brief Multicultural Competency Scale Multicultural Training Program, Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County
2009	The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, Undoing Racism® Workshop
2005	Study Abroad: Community Development in Guanajuato, Mexico, Texas Christian University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught — Tarleton State University

Undergraduate	Leadership in Public Administration
Undergraduate	Introduction to Public Policy
Graduate	Public Policy Praxis

Courses Taught — The University of Texas at Arlington

Graduate	Grant Writing
Graduate	Foundations of Professional Success in Social Work
Graduate	Research and Evaluation Methods in Social Work II
Graduate	Generalist Macro Practice
Graduate	Special Topics in Health Equity
Graduate	Health Policy and Social Justice
Graduate	Health Insurance and Access to Care

Graduate	Research and Evaluation I
Graduate	Human Behavior and Diverse Populations
Undergraduate	U.S. Immigration Policy and the American Dream
Undergraduate	Social Work Research Methods
Undergraduate	Social Welfare Policy and Services
Undergraduate	Social Work Practice III
Undergraduate	Human Behavior and Diverse Populations

Course Development and Quality Matters–Aligned Revisions

2026	Health Policy and Social Justice (graduate; co-revised)
2024	Advanced Community Practice (graduate; co-revised)
2024	Health Insurance and Access to Care (graduate; co-revised)
2017	U.S. Immigration Policy and the American Dream (undergraduate; created)
2016	Special Topics in Health Equity (graduate; created)

Invited Lectures

Fall 2022	"Shared accountability for immigrant health: whose job is it anyway?" Virtual presentation for students of Health Equity Course at Tulane University, New Orleans, LA.
Fall 2021	"Shared accountability for immigrant health: whose job is it anyway?" Virtual presentation for students of Health Equity Course at Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
Fall 2021	"Shared accountability for immigrant health: whose job is it anyway?" Virtual presentation for students of Human Geography Seminar at Trinity Washington University, Washington, DC.
Summer 2014	"Approaches to prevention: Social determinants of health" Lecture to Health Promotion graduate course for UNTHSC Physical Therapy students
Spring 2014	"Infant Mortality in Tarrant County" Lecture to Social Work Direct Practice in Health Care graduate class, UTA School of Social Work
Summer 2013	"Approaches to Prevention." Lecture to Health Promotion graduate class, UNTHSC Physical Therapy Department
Spring 2013	"Infant Mortality in Tarrant County." Lecture to Social Work Direct Practice in Health Care graduate class, UTA School of Social Work
Fall 2009	"East Arlington Family Support Center: History, Description, and Initial Findings." Lecture to Social Work Practice III undergraduate class, UTA School of Social Work

STUDENT MENTORING AND RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Doctoral Dissertations

Fall 2026	Rubalcava Hernandez, E. "'They Still Have the Power, Because They Have the Badge and the Gun': Social Work Collaborations and Interactions With Police and Immigration Enforcement Through Critical Race and Anticolonial Conceptual Frameworks" (Chair)
Summer 2025	Scott, G. "Factors Associated with Outpatient Treatment Discontinuation for Black Adults with Mental Health Disorders Living in States That Have Expanded Medicaid vs. States without Expansion" (Committee Member)
Fall 2023	Ryan, A. "Health care quality and health care access disparities among racial and ethnic populations with comorbid mental and physical health conditions" (Committee Member)

Doctoral Comprehensive Examination Committee

Summer 2024	Rubalcava Hernandez, E. (Chair)

Master's Theses

Summer 2025	Herron, C. "Experiences of Community Leaders and Organizers within the Stop Six Community." (Chair)
Summer 2025	Goff, G. "From experience to insight: Mapping experiential approaches to cultivating self-awareness in undergraduate social work curricula." (Chair)
Summer 2022	Kitchens, K. "Piloting an index of segregation at the census tract level: Associations with racial/ethnic health disparities in life expectancy." (Committee Member)
Spring 2022	Lindsey, K. "Understanding why Green Tree Estates lacked access to clean water." (Committee Member)
Fall 2021	Reyna, L. "Barriers to Resource Access: The need for social workers as cultural brokers in Hispanic immigrant communities." (Committee Member)

Summer 2021	Brooks, A. “How long-term case management can decrease poverty.” (Committee Member)
Fall 2017	Cole, M. “Interviews and conversations about leaving services (ICALS): A review of resources after TANF” (Committee Member)

Undergraduate Honors Research

Fall 2020	Grubbs, R.E. Mental health and daily functioning after childhood trauma. (Supervisor)
Spring 2020	Brooks, A. How social service organizations respond to barriers to Latino immigrant employment. (Supervisor)
Spring 2020	Landaverde, O. “Attitudes associated with bullying perpetration and victimization.” (Supervisor)
Spring 2019	Starling, K. “Effectiveness of trauma-focused cognitive-behavioral therapy: Youth experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms.” (Supervisor)

Interprofessional Education and Practicum Supervision — UTA

2025	Wiggins, K. (MSW Advanced). Tarrant County Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL)
2024	Herron, C. (MSW Advanced) Community-Led Health Equity Structural Intervention (CHESI): Macro-level Health Considerations of Community and Criminal Justice System Relationships on North Texas
2024	DeBerry, L. (MSW Advanced). Community-Led Health Equity Structural Intervention (CHESI): Macro-level Health Considerations of Community and Criminal Justice System Relationships on North Texas
2024	Dew, S. (BSPH) Community-Led Health Equity Structural Intervention (CHESI): Macro-level Health Considerations of Community and Criminal Justice System Relationships in North Texas
2024	Landaverde, M. (MSW Advanced). District Office of State Representative Chris Turner
2024	Harris, C. (MSW Advanced). Tarrant County Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL). Student Intern; Student Co-Lead, Texas Takes on Falls SDOH Training Initiative.
2024	Baker, L. (MSW Advanced). Tarrant County Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL). Student Intern; Student Co-Lead, Texas Takes on Falls SDOH Training Initiative.
2024	Wilson, N. (MSW Foundation). Tarrant County Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL)
2024	Brent, J. (MSW Advanced). Tarrant County Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL)
2024	Floyd, D. (MSW Foundation). Tarrant County Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL)
2023	Baig, K. (MSW Advanced). Tarrant County Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL)
2023	McDonald, T. (BSW). Tarrant County Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL)
2023	Upadhyay, A. (MSW Foundation). CoAct North Texas: A collective action network.
2023	Remidala, R. (MSW Foundation). CoAct North Texas: A collective action network.
2023	Elijah, K. (MSW Foundation). CoAct North Texas: A collective action network.
2023	Cañizares, M. (MSW Advanced). Tarrant County Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL)
2023	Limon, V. (MSW Advanced) Latinx Faculty and Staff Association (LaFSA)
2022	Crago, C. (MSW Advanced) Tarrant County Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL)
2022	Goff, G. (MSW Advanced) Community-based participatory research practice
2021	Davies, A. (MSW Advanced) Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services: Community Organizing
2020	Reyna, L. (MSW Advanced) Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services: Community Organizing
2020	Waters, M. (MSW Advanced) Community Advocate and Leadership Development Opportunities (CALDO) Program Development
2020	Guzman, C. (MSW Advanced) Community Advocate and Leadership Development Opportunities (CALDO) Program Development
2019	Allen, V.E. (MSW Advanced) District Office of State Representative Chris Turner
2018	Paghi, J. (MSW Advanced) District Office of State Representative Chris Turner
2012	Granger, S. (MSSW Foundation) ACH Child and Family Services: Community-Based Services
2011	King, P. (BSSW) ACH Child and Family Services: Community-Based Services
2011	Butler, D. (BSSW) ACH Child and Family Services: Community-Based Services
2008	Kennedy, J. (MSSW) All Church Home for Children: Residential Services
2008	Eastham, J. (MSSW) All Church Home for Children: Residential Services

Other Supervision and Mentorship

2024	John, S. (DO, UNTHSC) Pediatric Research Program (PRP) (Faculty Mentor)

2024	Rabieh, H. (DO, UNTHSC) Pediatric Research Program (PRP) (Faculty Mentor)
2024	Ren, L. (MPH, UNTHSC) Public Policy and Women's Health (Practicum Supervisor)
2023	Jayesh, I. (DO, UNTHSC) Pediatric Research Program (PRP) (Faculty Mentor)
2023	Chu, M. (DO, UNTHSC) Pediatric Research Program (PRP) (Faculty Mentor)
2022	Patel, H. (MPH, UNTHSC). Public Policy and Women's Health (Practicum Supervisor)
2017	Brown, J. (PhD, TAMU) Steps Toward Academic Research (STAR) Fellowship (Faculty Advisor)
2015–2016	Tonui, B. Graduate Supervised Research
2015	Dickerson, R. (MSW, Texas Christian University) Applied Research in Social Work and Public Health (Practicum Supervisor)
2012	Sung, H. (MPH, UNTHSC). Office of State Representative Chris Turner Public Policy Internship (Practicum Supervisor)

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Superscripts identify collaborators at the time of the work: [1] community partner; [2] doctoral student; [3] master's student; [4] undergraduate student.

Refereed Presentations

Nava, M. (2026, November 6). Using AI to design public-service cases that require student judgment [AI Peer Learning Lab; facilitator]. Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference, Boston, MA.

Rubalcava Hernandez, E. & **Nava, M.** (2026 January 14-18). The public health consequences of discretionary arrests on LGBTQ+ communities in the United States: A scoping review [poster]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Rubalcava Hernandez, E., **Nava, M.**, & Pérez, J. (2026 January 14-18). Transforming social work education: centering community voices and inclusive pedagogy [workshop]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Nava, M., [3]Cañizares, M., & [3]Ren, Lucy. (2023, November 9-11). Barriers and opportunities to advance a model of shared accountability for immigrant health in a restrictive and reactionary political environment [paper]. Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Nava, M., [3]Patel, H., [1]Earl, J., & [3]Cañizares, M. (2023, October 2-5). Promoting a framework of shared accountability for reducing cervical cancer health disparities among Hispanic immigrant women in a county with a restrictive political environment and inequitable access to cancer treatment [poster]. Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science 2023 Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD.

Nava, M., [2]Rubalcava Hernandez, E. & Celeste-Villalvir, A. (2022, November 17-19). Los inmigrantes tambien comen: A qualitative photovoice exploration of survival and coping strategies among undocumented Latinx immigrants in Texas during the COVID-19 pandemic [paper]. APPAM Fall Research Conference, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington DC.

Nava, M. and Celeste-Villalvir, A. (2022, September 20-23). Los inmigrantes tambien comen: A qualitative photovoice exploration of survival and coping strategies among undocumented Latinx immigrants in Texas during the COVID-19 pandemic [paper]. IAPHS Annual Meeting, Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science, Minneapolis, MN.

[2]Nguyen, H., [2]Dada, B., [2]Scott, G., [1]Davis-Lydia, E., **Nava, M.**, Bunnell, B., Jones, H. (2022, March 25). Health Advocates Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy in Minority Communities: A Program of the Texas Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) of Fort Worth, Texas [poster]. UNT Health Science Center Research Appreciation Day, Fort Worth, TX.

Nava, M. "Institutions, Immigrant Health and Cross-Sectoral, Community-Led Approaches. (2021, February 16 - 18). A Rapid-Fire presentation at the virtual AcademyHealth Health Datapalooza and National Health Policy Conference [moderated panel]. Virtual conference, in-person meeting canceled due to Covid-19.

Nava, M. (2020, September 30 - October 2). Institutional gatekeepers and models of oppression in perpetuating immigrant trauma: Implications for cross-sector collaboration, service delivery systems and family-based interventions [poster]. 2020 Annual Meeting Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science, Virtual conference, in-person meeting canceled due to Covid-19.

Nava, M. (2020, July 28 - August 6). Perspectives of social service providers on socioeconomic status and migrant health: Implications for cross-sector collaboration and system integration [poster]. AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Virtual Conference, in-Person meeting canceled due to COVID-19.

Nava, M. (2019, November 21 -22). Migrants in the Health Equity Discourse: A Political Economy Lens [paper]. 4th Binational Mexico-United States Conference on Social Work and Migration, Houston, TX.

Gutierrez, M., [1]Hoffman, P., [2]Murphy, E. & [1]White, S. (2018, June 24 - 26). A Model of Caregiver Participation in Early Childhood Oral Health Care [poster]. AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Seattle, WA.

Gutierrez, M., [1]English, A. & Sanchez, K. (2018, March 14–16). Exploratory Study into Primary Data Collection Methods [paper]. Association for Community Health Improvement 2018 National Conference, Atlanta, GA.

[1]Prieto, C., [1]Prieto, G., [4]Segovia, A., **Gutierrez, M.**, Spence-Almaguer, E., Linnear, K. & McMains, C. (2015, June 11- 12). Opportunities for Community-Based Obesity Prevention Among Immigrant Latino Communities in Dallas County [poster]. Texas Center for Health Disparities 10th Annual Conference, Fort Worth, TX.

Gutierrez, M., DeBose, M., Adorno, G., [1]Wilder, M., [1]Dickerson-Sankofa, D., [3]Williams, K.,…Carbajal-Diaz, A. (2014, November 15-19). Navigating the Role of a Backbone Organization in Collective Impact for Cancer Prevention [paper]. 142nd American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition, New Orleans, LA,

Cardarelli, K., Carbajal-Diaz, A., Linnear, K. & **Gutierrez, M.** (2013, November 2- 6). Enhancing health literacy in adults with chronic disease: A systems approach [poster]. 141st American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition, Boston, MA.

Nava, M. & Hoefer, R. (2009, November). Accountability for Human Service Agencies: A Tale of Two Cities [paper]. National Association of Social Workers, Texas Chapter, Fort Worth, Texas.

Invited Academic Presentations

Nava, M. (2026, March 24). Immigrant health and the political determinants of health [guest lecture]. HPM 766, Department of Health Policy and Management, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Virtual presentation.

Rueda-Acedo, A., Zloniski, C., **Nava, M.**, & Chacón, J.C. (2025, October 11). Planning for Future [panel]. HSI Symposium, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX.

Nava, M. (moderator & panelist), Fulmer, L., Herrera, J., & Patton, B. (2025, June 5). Building consortia to broaden stakeholder engagement for healthy communities [panel discussion]. Institute for Health Disparities Annual Conference, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, TX.3

Cañizares, M. (presenter) and **Nava, M.** (2023, March 29-31). Social work practice in politicized environments: Implications for social work training and education [oral presentation]. Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education (GADE) in Social Work, Arlington, TX.

Nava, M. (2022, June 3). Politically conscious medicine and research: Embracing shared accountability for community health [keynote address]. JPS Research and Quality Symposium. Virtual conference.

Nava, M. (2022, March 16). Race & Racism in a Global Context [panel]. Symposium organized to address racism in foreign policy. Organized by Trinity Washington University in Washington, DC.

Valeria, M.V., Krochmal, M., Walsh, M., Arochi, G., Carmona, E., Belandria, I., **Nava, M.**, [1]Arizola, A., & [1]Mendoza Medina, G. (2022, March 10). Acceso a servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva de mujeres migrantes mexicanas en Estados Unidos: Barreras y recursos [Access to sexual and reproductive health services for Mexican migrant women in the United States: barriers and resources]. Virtual conference in honor of International Women's Day. Organized by the Department of International Studies at Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City (DEI-Ibero CDMX), and the Consulate General of Mexico in Dallas, Texas.

Nava, M., Ogunyemi O., Pritchett, J., & Wagner, J. (2021, July). Diversity in Data Science Training and Research [moderated panel]. Presenter on panel organized by the NIH Office of the Director and Data Science Strategy International Society for Computational Biology Annual Conference. Virtual conference.

Cipoletti, N., Davis, J., Fernandes, R., **Gutierrez, M.**, Iyengar, V., Long, E.,…Ordonez, M. (2018. March 26 - 29). Reaching Minority and Rural Individuals with Dementia: Strategies, Experiences and Successes from Administration on Aging Grantees [moderated panel]. American Society on Aging Conference, San Francisco, CA. Travel funded by Administration on Community Living's National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center

Nava, M. (2017, April). Transformative learning in social justice education [lecture]. Professional Learning Communities 2017 Mini-Conference, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX.

Zlolniski, C., Davenport, L., Rueda-Acedo, Al., **Gutierrez, M.** (2017, February 11). Looking to the future: Immigration regional conference for community leaders [panel]. Organized by the UTA Center for Mexican-American Studies, Arlington, TX.

Nava, M. (2015, November). Immigration 101: An overview for social change agents. 2nd Annual Ubuntu Social Justice Conference at UTA. Organized by the Multicultural Affairs and the Office of International Education, Arlington, TX.

Nava, M. (2014–2020). Defining and understanding the social determinants of health [lecture]. Annual presentation delivered to participants of the STAR (Steps Toward Academic Research) Fellowship Program, guest presenter.

Invited Community and Leadership Presentations

Nava, M. (2025, May 23). Resilience, community, and righteous anger: A bilingual keynote address to the Class of 2025. Uplift Grand High School Graduation, Arlington, TX.

Nava, M., & Community Advisory Board partners. (April–May 2025). Protecting Generational Wealth: Property Taxes, Protests, and Homestead Exemptions [community workshop series]. Organized in partnership with the Worth Heights and Jennings–May St. Louis Neighborhood Associations, Fort Worth, TX. Sponsored by the UTA School of Social Work and Councilwoman Jeanette Martinez's Office. The three-part bilingual series included Understanding Property Taxes and Homestead Exemptions (April 2, 2025), Property Tax Protest and Exemption Clinic (April 12, 2025), and Estate Planning Workshop (May 17, 2025).

[1]Veasey, M., [1]Turner, C., [1]Collier, N., [1]Simmons, A., **Nava, M.** [moderator] (2024, October 4). 2024 North Texas Social Impact Summit [panel]. Organized by Open Channels Group (OCG), a social impact agency, Fort Worth, TX.

Trent-Adams, S., [1]King, L., [1]Allen Gray, K., **Nava, M.**, & 1O'Neal, C. (2023, November 3). North Texas Social Impact Summit [panel]. Organized by Open Channels Group (OCG), a social impact agency, Fort Worth, TX.

Trent-Adams, 1S., King, L., [1]Allen Gray, K., **Nava, M.**, & 3O'Neal, C. (2023, October 17). Open Conversations with Tonya Veasey: Meet the Summit Changemakers! [panel]. Organized by Open Channels Group (OCG), a social impact agency, Fort Worth, TX. https://www.linkedin.com/events/openconversationswithtonyavease7117558316070830080/theater/

[1]Arizola, A., Maryman, J., Spain, S., Duncan, K., **Nava, M.**, & Tiro, J. (2022, March 23). Women's Health e-Panel Discussion [virtual panel]. Virtual conference focused on the health of women in Tarrant County, Texas. Organized by the Office of Tarrant County Commissioner Devan Allen.

Kieber-Emmons, A., [1]Earl, J., [1]Acosta, K., [1]Zuniga, A., [1]King, C., **Nava, M.**, & Thompson, E. (2022, March 3). Cervical Cancer Community Roundtable [virtual roundtable]. Hosted by Cancer Care Services, UTA, and UNTHSC.

Plascencia, L., **Nava, M.** & Salinas, C. (2020, August 15). America's changing demographics: Born in the U.S.A. [moderated panel]. 2nd Hispanic Media Conference. Organized by the UTA Hispanic Media Initiative, Arlington TX.

Nava, M. (2019, May 24). Mesa de diálogo sobre acciones a favor de la representación y participación política de la comunidad migrante en México (Round table over actions supporting representation and political participation of the migrant Community in Mexico) [roundtable discussion]. Organized by the Instituto Nacional Electoral de Mexico (National Electoral Institute of Mexico Arlington, TX.

Nava, M. (2019, March 26). Immigration after the elections: Challenges and opportunities [roundtable discussion]. Organized by the UTA Center for Mexican-American Studies, Arlington, TX.

Nava, M. (2019, March 5). You have the right! Immigration and education forum [lecture]. Organized by the UTA Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Arlington, TX.

Nava, M., Jabara, J., Perales, A., Fruge, R., Morton, M., & Chacin, X. (2019, March 19) Immigration: Facts and future [roundtable]. Panel organized by the UTA School of Social Work, Arlington, TX.

Nava, M. (2016, September 10). Building a healthy community [lecture]. Fall Policy Summit: Health and Human Service Track. Organized by the African American Leadership Institute, Paul Quinn College, Dallas, TX.

Nava, M. (2015, Spring). Keynote address. Tau Sigma Induction Ceremony, University of Texas at Arlington.

Practice-Based Workshops and Training

Nava, M. (2025, April). Embedding cultural competencies: Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in protecting older adults from financial exploitation [lecture]. Delivered to members of the Texas Elder Justice Coalition. Watch the recording.

Nava, M. (2022, September-October). Promoting Health Equity through Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Service (CLAS) Standards [lecture]. A two-part online workshop for Area Agency on Aging staff, Aging and Disability resource center staff, community health workers, nurses, case managers, social workers, and community-based organization staff. Presented by Texas Healthy at Home and the Dallas Fort Worth Hospital Council Foundation. September-October 2022

Nava, M. (2017, April 11 & 2016, November 14). A Community Conversation: Raising the Bar for All Tarrant County Adults with Chronic Disease (Parts II & I) [lecture series]. Delivered to grantees of the United Way of Tarrant County and the Area Agency on Aging, Fort Worth, TX.

Nava, M. (2013, August). Community engagement: Defining, understanding, and implementing. Delivered to employees of Center of Hope in Parker County.

Nava, M. (2013, July). Understanding and addressing cancer disparities. Delivered to grantees of North Texas area Susan G. Komen chapters.

Nava, M. (2012, August). Working with immigrants: A basic overview for human service providers. Delivered to participating organizations of the Arlington Resource Sharing Group.

Nava, M. (2011, January). Customer experience: Understand, learn, and respond to your customers. Delivered to staff of the City of Arlington Parks and Recreation.

Nava, M. (2010, August). Characteristics of Arlington youth: ACH Child and Family Services Emergency Youth Shelter. Delivered to members of the Youth Priority Issues Study Task Group, United Way of Tarrant County – Arlington.

Nava, M. (2006–2008). Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse, Professional Trainer and Facilitator for monthly new employee training, ACH Child and Family Services, Fort Worth, TX.

Nava, M. (2006–2008). Solution-Focused Interactions with Children, Professional Trainer and Facilitator for monthly new employee training, ACH Child and Family Services, Fort Worth, TX.

Nava, M. (2006–2008). Becoming a Love and Logic Parent, Professional Trainer and Facilitator for monthly new employee training, ACH Child and Family Services, Fort Worth, TX.

Creative Works

Arizola, A., & **Nava, M.** (2025). Amanda Arizola and **Marcela Nava** [Oral history; narrative audio recording]. StoryCorps Archive, Library of Congress (American Folklife Center). A collaboratively produced oral history documenting lived experience, community partnership, and policy-relevant narratives related to cervical cancer, healthcare access, and Latina health equity in Tarrant County, Texas. https://archive.storycorps.org/interviews/amanda-arizola-and-marcela-nava/

Nava, M. (Producer). (2023 – 2024). What the Health? Perspectives on Health Insurance and Access to Care [Audio podcast]. UTA School of Social Work. A student podcast exploring issues in health insurance and access to care through interviews with social workers, health care professionals, and other experts with a focus on culturally and linguistically appropriate communication. https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/mnava2021

Nava, M. & Frattaroli, S. (2021). Let's talk about it: A health and immigration teach-out. A virtual, free public course designed as a topic-focused, action-oriented learning experience about immigration and health. The course is online, free, open to the public, and designed to provide information about a specific topic through a learning format that is less academic and more accessible than the traditional classroom environment. Accessible on the Coursera platform at https://www.coursera.org/learn/lets-talk-about-it-a-health-and-immigration-teach-out

Media Contributions and Mentions

UTA School of Social Work. (2026, March 11). CYC S4E3 **Marcela Nava** – Empowering Change: Women Shaping Social Work Today [Video interview]. YouTube. https://youtu.be/IUQYg8TUy8w?si=7Ip7Gr-bT6RM0XhC

Fort Worth Report. (2023, October 11). North Texas Social Impact Summit brings together area changemakers to addresses challenges facing communities of color. Fort Worth Report. https://fortworthreport.org/2023/10/11/north-texas-social-impact-summit-brings-together-area-changemakers-to-addresses-challenges-facing-communities-of-color/

Allison, A. (2021, November 22). Local, state policies may contribute to higher cervical cancer death rate for Hispanic women in Tarrant County. Fort Worth Report. https://fortworthreport.org/2021/11/22/local-state-policies-may-contribute-to-higher-cervical-cancer-death-rate-for-hispanic-women-in-tarrant-county

Schultz, A. (2021, November). Starting from where we are: Let's talk about it with Dr. **Marcela Nava**. Sociability. https://sociability.life/articles/lets-talk-about-it-with-dr-marcela-navan

Vo, C. (2021, September 13). UTA School of Social Work assistant professor creates free online course on health, immigration. The Shorthorn. University of Texas at Arlington. Available online at https://www.theshorthorn.com/news/uta-school-of-social-work-assistant-professor-creates-free-online-course-on-health-immigration/article_00cd0106-1500-11ec-a64a-c3d123cd7858.html

Zhang, C. (2021, April 5). US House passes 2 bills aiming to provide permanent residency to DACA recipients, agricultural workers. Shorthorn. University of Texas at Arlington. Available online at https://www.theshorthorn.com/news/us-house-passes-2-bills-aiming-to-provide-permanent-residency-to-daca-recipients-agricultural-workers/article_1ceddf10-967d-11eb-92e7-2f498d4218f4.html

Zhang, C. (2020, November 11). Here's how the first 100 days of a Joe Biden presidency might look. The Shorthorn. University of Texas at Arlington. Available online at https://www.theshorthorn.com/news/here-s-how-the-first-100-days-of-a-joe-biden-presidency-might-look/article_f5495250-21f6-11eb-b0b9-eb078c67795d.html

Zhang, C. (2020, September 14). How UTA student organizations are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month amid Covid-19. The Shorthorn. University of Texas at Arlington. Available online at https://www.theshorthorn.com/news/how-uta-student-organizations-departments-are-celebrating-hispanic-heritage-month-amid-covid-19/article_2438173a-f6ce-11ea-b329-db258087b3d7.html

Sassoon, C. (2017, January 30). Human trafficking: A profitable yet detrimental business. The Shorthorn. University of Texas at Arlington. Available online at https://www.theshorthorn.com/news/human-trafficking-a-profitable-yet-detrimental-business/article_84be675e-e416-11e6-a2f3-ef507f101a05.html

Spence-Almaguer, E., **Gutierrez, M.**, Wagner, T. & Cantu Anguiano, K. (2017, November 16). Prostate cancer and African-American men: A call for Health equity. School of Public Health & Texas Center for Health Disparities Community Blog. The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth https://www.unthsc.edu/school-of-public-health/prostate-cancer-african-american-men-call-health-equity

PwC Health Research Institute. (2014). "Hispanics: A growing force in the New Health Economy." Available online at www.pwc.com/us/hispanichealthcare

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

The University of Texas at Arlington — School of Social Work

2025–2026	Community and Administrative Practice (CAP) Content Committee, Member
2025–2026	Practicum Content Committee, Member
2025–2026	Student Success Review Committee, Member
2024–2025	Awards Committee, Member
2021–2023	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Member
2020–2021	Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Development and Review Committee, Co-Chair
2019–2020	Ad Hoc Associate Dean Search Committee, Member
2019–2020	BSW/Foundation Committee, Member
2019–2020	Field Education Committee, Member
2018–2019	Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Search Committee, Member
2016–2018	Professional Standards Committee, Member
2016–2019	Subcommittee on Undergraduate Studies/Subcommittee on Graduate Studies (SCUGS/SCOGS), Member
2016–2017	Executive Committee, Member
2015–2025	Health Specialization Content Committee, Member
2014–2019	Community and Administrative Practice (CAP) Content Committee, Member; Chair, 2016–2019

The University of Texas at Arlington — University Service

2025	Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Psychology, Department of Psychology, External Reviewer
2024–2025	Latinx Faculty and Staff Association, Advisory Board
2024	Search Committee for Nursing Faculty, College of Nursing and Health Innovation, External Reviewer
2023	Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Technical Writing and Professional Design, Department of English, External Reviewer
2023	Dreamers of Today, Faculty Mentor
2022	MavREAD Discussant, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
2022	Hispanic-Serving Institution Initiatives Team, Member
2020–2023	Latinx Faculty and Staff Association, At-Large Board Member
2015–2017	Hispanic-Serving Institution Task Force, Member

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

2026	Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference, Meet the Scientist Session, Invited Scientist
2026	Journal of Health Equity, Ad Hoc Reviewer
2026	Health & Social Care in the Community, Ad Hoc Reviewer
2022	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Policy-Wide Priorities (FWPPs) External Advisory Committee, Member
2022	17th Annual Conference of the Texas Center for Health Disparities at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, Conference Committee Member
2022 – 2024	Institute for Health Disparities at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, Community Advisory Board Member
2019 – 2024	National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, Clinical Data Science Institutional Review Board, Inaugural Member
2016	Progress in Community Health Partnerships, Article Reviewer
2015	STAR (Steps Toward Academic Research) Fellowship at University of North Texas Health Science Center, Grant Reviewer

2014 – 2017	Annual Texas Conference on Health Disparities, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Planning Committee Member
2014 – 2015	American Public Health Association Community-Based Public Health Caucus, Abstract Reviewer
2013 – 2016	Tarrant County Public Health External Review Committee, Grant Reviewer
2013 – 2014	UNT Health Science Center Research Appreciation Day, Abstract Reviewer

SELECTED COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEADERSHIP AND CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

Community Leadership and Governance

2024 – Present	Texas Healthy at Home, Board Member
2023 – 2024	BSWH Texas Takes on Falls Project: Statewide SDOH and Health Disparities Training, UTA Project Partner and Faculty Supervisor
2015 – 2018	Tarrant County Area Agency on Aging, Model for Alzheimer's/Dementia Services Quality Assurance Committee, Member
2012 – 2018	United Way of Tarrant County Health Council, Member, 2012–2015; Co-Chair, 2015–2018
2014 – 2018	Cancer Care Services of North Texas, Board Member; Chair, Program Evaluation Committee, 2015–2018
2010 – 2024	United Way of Tarrant County, Arlington Resource Sharing Group, Co-Founder and Steering Committee Chair, 2010–2012; Member and Leadership Adviser, 2012–2015; Faculty Supervisor, CEAL Student Engagement, 2022–2024
2014	Tarrant County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board, Member
2013 – 2015	United Way of Tarrant County–Arlington | Aging Well in Arlington, Co-Chair, Steering Committee
2012 – Present	Healthy Tarrant County Collaboration Steering Committee, Member
2012 – 2017	Tarrant County Cancer Disparities Coalition, Co-Founder and Member
2012 – 2015	Healthy Moms Healthy Babies & Healthy Community Collaboration, Oversight Board Member
2012 – 2015	Tarrant County Voices for Health Steering Committee, Member
2012 – 2015	Hispanic Wellness Coalition Steering Committee, Member
2012 – 2014	Carnaval de Salud Community Health Fair Planning Committee, Member
2010 – 2024	JPS Health Network Joint Council, Member
2010 – 2013	H.O.P.E. Tutoring Center, Inc., Board Member; Marketing Committee Chair, 2011–2012
2008 – 2009	Annual Cesar Chavez March and Rally Planning Committee, Member

Cross-Sector Coalitions and Networks

2023 – 2025	Texas Elder Justice Coalition, Member
2022 – 2025	Arlington Latino Resource Coalition, Member and Faculty Partner; CEAL Student Supervisor
	Arlington Wellness Coalition, Faculty Liaison for CEAL Student Engagement
	Tarrant County Public Health Unity Council, Faculty Liaison for CEAL Student Engagement
2019 – Present	Academic-Community Partnerships at UNT Health Science Center, Member
2012 – 2014	Dallas Area Coalition to Prevent Childhood Obesity, UNTHSC Center for Community Health Representative
2012 – 2015	Dallas Cancer Disparities Community Coalition, Attendee
2012 – 2015	Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council Foundation, Community Health Collaborative, Attendee
2012 – 2015	Morningside Children's Partnership, Community Team, Attendee
2012 – 2015	Tarrant County Task Force on Health Care for the Homeless, Attendee
2012 – 2015	Tarrant County Fatherhood Coalition, Attendee
2012 – 2013	Office of State Representative Lon Burnam, Women's Health Initiative, Attendee
2011 – 2015	Mental Health Connection, Attendee
2011 – 2012	Tarrant County Obesity Prevention Council, Attendee
2010 – 2012	Arlington Coalition for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, Attendee
2010 – 2012	Arlington Police Department Weed & Seed Program, Prevention, Intervention & Treatment (PIT) Subcommittee Member, Attendee
2010 – 2012	United Way of Tarrant County, Arlington Youth Priority Issues Task Force, Attendee
2010 – 2012	Arlington Police Department, Victim Services Multidisciplinary Staffing, Attendee
2010 – 2012	United Way of Tarrant County, Financial Stability Initiative, Attendee
2010 – 2011	Tarrant AgriLIFE Extension, Urban Development Program Area Committee, Attendee

2009 – 2011	Arlington Chamber of Commerce, Policy Project, Attendee
2009 – 2011	Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance, Dallas/Fort Worth Committee, Attendee
2009 – 2010	Healthy Marriage Healthy Families Coalition, Attendee
2008 – 2009	Fort Worth/Tarrant County Minority Leaders and Citizens Council, Attendee
2006 – 2009	North Texas Anti-Trafficking Task Force, Attendee
2006 – 2008	North Texas Emergency Youth Shelter Coalition, Member

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSURE

06/2025 – Present	CrossFit Level 1 Trainer (CF-L1)
2009 – 2016	Licensed Master Social Worker, State of Texas

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

10/2025 – Present	Contract Fitness Trainer, SoberFit, Arlington, TX Independent Contractor. Provide recovery-oriented fitness coaching across behavioral health and recovery settings, including mental health hospitals, rehabilitation programs, sober living environments, and community-based wellness spaces. Lead strength, conditioning, and functional movement sessions for participants across age groups, adapting programming to varied fitness levels, recovery needs, and clinical/community contexts. Support physical wellness, accountability, peer connection, motivation, and trauma-informed engagement as part of a broader recovery wellness model.
07/2012 – 08/2014	Community Engagement Manager, Center for Community Health, University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC), Fort Worth, TX. Established and coordinated a community advisory board and maintained a partner contact/database to support communications across FQHCs, CBOs, local government, and philanthropy. Transitioned from project manager to Co-Investigator of NIMHD-funded translational research on women's health disparities through three community-based participatory research initiatives on obesity, breast cancer, and HIV/AIDS, respectively. Developed communication and engagement methods with academic, professional, business, and community stakeholders in strategic partnerships to carry out mission of health equity. Leader in strategic planning, policy, and grant writing initiatives relating to health literacy systems, prevention programming, and community participatory research approaches. Provided supervision for students pursuing DrPH, MPH and DO degrees
01/2009 – 06/2012	Family Support Center Manager. ACH Child and Family Services, Fort Worth, TX. Forged governance structure inclusive of clients and community stakeholders. Developed evidence-based child abuse and sexual violence prevention programming. Implemented innovative program evaluation methods. Successfully obtained national accreditation for program activities. Created active coalition of faith communities, public agencies, nonprofits, and public officials for service delivery collaboration
06/2008 – 12/2008	Legislative Intern. Office of Texas State Representative Lon Burnam, Fort Worth, TX. Analyzed state legislation and assessed its implications for social work. Advocated for constituents with state public agencies. Participated in collaborative resource sharing activities and organizations as representative of legislative office. Researched local and state policy and events and prepared briefings for legislator
07/2008 – 12/2008	In-Home Respite Assessment Coordinator. Conducted in-home clinical assessments of children with mental health and behavioral disorders. Coordinated service planning with mental health and social service agencies. Engaged families in respite visit programming. Managed programmatic, financial, and statistical data and reports.
05/2006 – 08/2008	Emergency Youth Shelter Case Manager. All Church Home for Children, Fort Worth, TX. Provided crisis counseling, case management, family preservation and transition planning. Coordinated the collaboration of referral agencies, family members, and other support systems to meet the needs of youth in care. Delivered monthly training to professional staff on identification and reporting of child abuse and strengths-based interactions with children derived from solution-focused therapy and Love and Logic© parenting approaches. Prepared and submitted grant reports, statistical data, and paperwork. Utilized agency-specific, county-wide, and federal databases to report client data and participated in regional coalition of RHY-serving agencies
08/2005 – 05/2006	Specialized Treatment for Offender Program (STOP) Intern. Tarrant County Juvenile Services, Fort Worth, TX, 08/05-05/06. Provided program orientation and participated in group therapy in a post-adjudication residential treatment program for youth who have committed sexual offenses. Developed program evaluation survey, facilitated grief and loss group intervention, and conducted an outcome evaluation, and collaborated with program administrator, supervisor, and institutional probation officers to develop programming and activities

08/2003 – 05/2006 Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) Program Tutor. Fort Worth Independent School District, Fort Worth, TX. Implemented college preparation techniques with inner-city high school youth; Facilitated tutorial groups; Developed and implemented lesson plans; Assisted in program development and activity planning; Coordinated community-based volunteer projects

08/2005 – 05/2006 South Hills Christian Church. Contracted with a faith-based organization to assist in the implementation of English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, advocacy events and a community health fair

08/2003 – 05/2006 Communities in Schools / YMCA 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Partnered with school districts in Fort Worth ISD to support the creation of school-based learning centers to provide academic enrichment activities for K-12 students in high-poverty and low-performing schools