Marcela Nava, PhD, MPP, MSSW

Assistant Professor · Department of Public Administration

School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Public Administration · Tarleton State University

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

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., [3]Cañizares, M., [1]Earl, J., [3]Patel, H., & [3]Ren, L. (2026). 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, 46(4), 353–371. https://doi.org/10.1177/2752535X251352995

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]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 (pp. 403–448). World Scientific. https://doi.org/10.1142/9789811278419_0018

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 **Community-Led Structural Intervention to Address Health Consequences of Community–Police Interactions**

National Institutes of Health via Healthy Tarrant County Collaboration (1OT2OD035659-01) | September 2023–September 2025

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: L. Fulmer). Supported development of a community-led structural intervention addressing the health consequences of community–police interactions and inequitable policing practices in North Texas.

$60,000 **Texas CEAL Consortium Subcontract**

National Institutes of Health via UNT Health Science Center (1OT2HL156812-01) | November 2021–July 2022

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: J. Vishwanatha). Coordinated, implemented, and evaluated community-engagement activities using students and community health workers as health education advocates to increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake in the Dallas–Fort Worth region.

$40,000 **An Investigation of Survival and Coping Strategies among Immigrant Persons and Immigrant-Serving Groups in Dallas–Fort Worth and Houston During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholars | January 2021–June 2022

Role: **Co-Principal Investigator** (Co-PI: A. Celeste-Villalvir). Built research capacity among immigrant-serving community organizations and examined immigrant families' survival and coping strategies during the pandemic.

$4,000 **Dissertation Research Award**

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholars | May 2019–November 2020

Role: Award recipient. Supported research travel and participant incentives for dissertation research on immigrant health.

$120,000 **Health Policy Research Scholars Leadership Program Award**

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation | September 2017–August 2021

Role: Scholar and award recipient. Completed a four-year health-policy and leadership development program for doctoral scholars from underrepresented backgrounds, with training in health equity, policy translation, dissemination, communication, and interdisciplinary mentorship.

$54,000 **Tarrant County Cancer Disparities Coalition Needs Assessment**

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities via UNT Health Science Center | November 2016–December 2017

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: J. Vishwanatha). Conducted a mixed-methods needs assessment of patient experiences and barriers across the cancer-care continuum to inform a collaborative provider network in Tarrant County.

$75,000 **Compliance Barriers and Initial Outcomes of the Medicaid First Dental Home Policy in Dallas County**

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities via Community Council of Greater Dallas | July 2015–December 2017

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: A. Voinea-Griffin). Evaluated implementation barriers and early oral-health outcomes of a Texas Medicaid policy for vulnerable children to inform policy improvement and assess progress toward Healthy People 2020 objectives.

$20,000 **Texas Center for Health Disparities Community Engagement/Outreach Core**

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities via UNT Health Science Center | August 2014–July 2015

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: J. K. Vishwanatha). Oversaw project management and community engagement for translational research initiatives addressing obesity, breast cancer, and HIV/AIDS in partnership with a community advisory board.

Internal Research Grants — The University of Texas at Arlington

$60,000 **An Exploratory Study into Implementation and Decision-Making Processes Related to Community Health Needs Assessments in Tarrant County**

University of Texas at Arlington Office of the Vice President for Research | September 2016–August 2017

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: K. Sanchez). Examined how nonprofit hospitals and community partners conducted community health needs assessments to develop a framework for collaborative data collection and implementation addressing local health disparities.

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

$5,000 **Health Equity Training for a Community Integrated Health Network (CIHN)**

Administration for Community Living via Texas Healthy at Home (90NWPG0021-01-00) | September 2021–February 2024

Role: Trainer. Developed and delivered statewide virtual training on health disparities and social determinants of health for organizational staff and providers of long-term services and supports for older adults.

$500 **BSWH Texas Takes on Falls Project: Statewide SDOH and Health Disparities Training**

Baylor Scott & White Health Plan via Texas Healthy at Home | November 2023–October 2024

Role: UTA project partner and faculty supervisor. Supported statewide training on social determinants of health and health disparities.

$10,000 **Let's Talk About It: An Immigration and Health Teach-Out**

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholars | January–August 2021

Role: **Principal Investigator**. Developed a free, public, action-oriented online teach-out that translated immigration and health research into an accessible learning experience.

$1,000 **Assessment of the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs of United Way Partners in Health and Aging Services**

JPS Health Network | October 2016–May 2017

Role: **Principal Investigator**. Evaluated a health-disparities workshop for health and aging service organizations to support development of a shared framework for health equity.

$10,000 **Open Educational Resources for Health Insurance and Access to Care**

University of Texas at Arlington Coalition for Alternative Resources in Education for Students (CARES) | November 2023–November 2025

Role: **Co-Principal Investigator**. Developed Creative Commons–licensed teaching and learning materials on health insurance and access to care in health and behavioral health settings.

Sponsored Projects — University of North Texas Health Science Center

$75,000 **The HEALTH Initiative: Healthy Aging and Independent Living (HAIL) Health Literacy Program**

United Way of Tarrant County | July 2013–June 2014

Role: Community Engagement Coordinator (PI: K. Cardarelli). Supported a systems-based initiative to strengthen organizational capacity and improve health literacy among older adults in Tarrant County.

$9,970 **Emerging Elders and Older Adults of Arlington, Texas: Perspectives on "Aging Well" in Their Community**

United Way of Tarrant County | January–August 2014

Role: Community Engagement Coordinator (PI: G. Adorno). Supported a community-based participatory research study examining community stakeholders' perspectives on characteristics of an age-friendly Arlington, Texas.

$100,000 **Health Literacy in Tarrant County Adults: A Systems Approach**

United Way of Tarrant County | July 2013–June 2014

Role: Community Engagement Coordinator (PI: K. Cardarelli). Supported a systems-based initiative linking libraries, healthcare systems, and evidence-based programs to strengthen chronic-disease self-management among older adults.

$10,000 **Community Organizing Grant Program**

Susan G. Komen for the Cure–Greater Fort Worth | June 2013–May 2015

Role: **Co-Principal Investigator**. Partnered with a community-based co-investigator and the Tarrant County Cancer Disparities Coalition to conduct two countywide, multisite breast-cancer screening events with hospitals and community organizations.

$50,000 **Health Literacy in Tarrant County Older Adults: A Systems Approach**

United Way of Tarrant County | January–June 2013

Role: Community Engagement Coordinator (PI: K. Cardarelli). Supported a systems-based initiative connecting libraries, healthcare systems, and evidence-based programs to strengthen chronic-disease self-management among older adults.

$6,664,315 **Texas Center for Health Disparities Community Engagement/Outreach Core**

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Exploratory Centers of Excellence (P20) | August 2012–July 2017

Role: Community Engagement Coordinator (July 2012–August 2013); Community Core Director (September 2013–July 2014) (PI: J. Vishwanatha). Oversaw project management and community engagement for translational research on women's health disparities, including community-based initiatives addressing obesity, breast cancer, and HIV/AIDS and coordination of a community advisory board.

$1,601,496 **Transforming Texas Evaluation**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention via Texas Department of State Health Services | April 2012–September 2013

Role: Community Engagement Coordinator (PI: K. Cardarelli). Supported evaluation of chronic-disease prevention and reduction strategies across varied implementation environments.

$1,403,548 **Comprehensive Breast Cancer Prevention for High-Risk Women in Dallas County**

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas | September 2011–August 2014

Role: Community Engagement Coordinator (PI: K. Cardarelli). Supported expansion of an evidence-based primary-prevention program for high-risk women and strengthened community capacity for breast-cancer prevention.

$298,148 **Culturally Sensitive HPV Vaccine Education in Tarrant County**

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas | June 2010–May 2012

Role: Community Engagement Coordinator (PI: K. Cardarelli). Supported community outreach, social media, and clinical in-reach to promote informed HPV-vaccine decision-making among girls ages 9–17 and reduce cervical-cancer disparities.

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 Research 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 Formulation and Analysis

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

Quality Matters–Aligned Collaborative Course Revisions

2026	Health Policy and Social Justice (graduate)
2024	Advanced Community Practice (graduate)
2024	Health Insurance and Access to Care (graduate)

Courses Created

2017	U.S. Immigration Policy and the American Dream (undergraduate)
2016	Special Topics in Health Equity (graduate)

Invited Lectures

Spring 2026	"Immigrant Health and the Political Determinants of Health." Guest lecture for HPM 766, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (virtual).
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**; successfully defended October 2026)

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)

PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, AND PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

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, L. (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 también comen: A qualitative photovoice exploration of survival and coping strategies among undocumented Latinx immigrants in Texas during the COVID-19 pandemic [paper]. Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC.

Nava, M., & Celeste-Villalvir, A. (2022, September 20–23). Los inmigrantes también comen: A qualitative photovoice exploration of survival and coping strategies among undocumented Latinx immigrants in Texas during the COVID-19 pandemic [paper]. Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Annual Meeting, 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. (2021, February 16–18). Institutions, immigrant health, and cross-sectoral, community-led approaches [rapid-fire presentation; moderated panel]. AcademyHealth Health Datapalooza and National Health Policy Conference. 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]. Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Annual Meeting. 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, TX.

Invited Academic Presentations

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

Nava, M. (moderator and 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.

Cañizares, M. (presenter), & **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]. Panel organized by the NIH Office of the Director and Data Science Strategy for the 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 the Administration for 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.

Zloniski, C., Davenport, L., Rueda-Acedo, A., & **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. (2025, April–May). Protecting generational wealth: Property taxes, protests, and homestead exemptions [three-part bilingual workshop series]. Worth Heights and Jennings–May St. Louis Neighborhood Associations, Fort Worth, TX; sponsored by the UTA School of Social Work and Office of Councilwoman Jeanette Martinez.

[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.**, & [1]O'Neal, C. (2023, November 3). North Texas Social Impact Summit [panel]. Organized by Open Channels Group (OCG), a social impact agency, Fort Worth, TX.

[1]Trent-Adams, S., King, L., [1]Allen Gray, K., **Nava, M.**, & [3]O'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 [Roundtable on actions supporting representation and political participation of the migrant community in Mexico] [roundtable discussion]. Organized by the Instituto Nacional Electoral de México (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 Services (CLAS) standards [two-part online workshop]. Texas Healthy at Home and the Dallas Fort Worth Hospital Council Foundation. Presented to aging-services staff, health professionals, social workers, and community-based organizations.

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]. StoryCorps Archive, Library of Congress, American Folklife Center. Documents community and policy narratives concerning 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. Student-produced interviews examining health insurance, healthcare access, and 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 [Open online course]. Coursera. Free public course translating immigration and health research into accessible, action-oriented learning. 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 address 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 Member
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

Advisory and Conference Service

2026	Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference, Meet the Scientist Session, Invited Scientist

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
2014–2017	Annual Texas Conference on Health Disparities, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Planning Committee Member

Peer Review and Scholarly Evaluation

2026	Journal of Health Equity, Ad Hoc Reviewer
2026	Health & Social Care in the Community, Ad Hoc Reviewer
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
2014–2015	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

Selected Community-Engaged Initiatives

2025	Protecting Generational Wealth Community Workshop Series — Co-organized a three-part bilingual series with Community Advisory Board partners, the Worth Heights and Jennings–May St. Louis Neighborhood Associations, the UTA School of Social Work, and the Office of Councilwoman Jeanette Martinez. Sessions addressed property taxes and homestead exemptions, property-tax protests, and estate planning.
2023–2025	Community–Police Interactions Structural Intervention — Supported development of a community-led structural intervention with the Healthy Tarrant County Collaboration addressing the health consequences of community–police interactions and inequitable policing practices in North Texas.
2022	Promoting Health Equity through Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards — Developed and delivered a two-part statewide online training with Texas Healthy at Home and the Dallas Fort Worth Hospital Council Foundation for Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center staff, community health workers, nurses, case managers, social workers, and community-based organizations.
2021–2022	Texas CEAL Community Health Advocate Initiative — Coordinated, implemented, and evaluated a regional collaboration engaging students and community health workers as health education advocates to increase COVID-19 vaccine access and uptake across Dallas–Fort Worth.
2021–2022	Immigrant Survival, Coping, and Mutual Aid Participatory Research Initiative — Co-led a participatory project with immigrant-serving organizations in Dallas–Fort Worth and Houston that strengthened community research capacity and documented immigrant families' survival, mutual-aid, and coping strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Participation reflected professional, project-based, or organizational roles.

2023–2025	Texas Elder Justice Coalition, Member
2022–2025	Arlington Latino Resource Coalition, Member and Faculty Partner; CEAL Student Supervisor
2022–2025	Arlington Wellness Coalition, Faculty Liaison for CEAL Student Engagement
2022–2025	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, Participant
2012–2015	Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council Foundation, Community Health Collaborative, Participant
2012–2015	Morningside Children's Partnership, Community Team, Participant
2012–2015	Tarrant County Task Force on Health Care for the Homeless, Participant
2012–2015	Tarrant County Fatherhood Coalition, Participant
2012–2013	Office of State Representative Lon Burnam, Women's Health Initiative, Participant
2011–2015	Mental Health Connection, Participant
2011–2012	Tarrant County Obesity Prevention Council, Participant
2010–2012	Arlington Coalition for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, Participant
2010–2012	Arlington Police Department Weed & Seed Program, Prevention, Intervention & Treatment (PIT) Subcommittee Member, Participant
2010–2012	United Way of Tarrant County, Arlington Youth Priority Issues Task Force, Participant
2010–2012	Arlington Police Department, Victim Services Multidisciplinary Staffing, Participant
2010–2012	United Way of Tarrant County, Financial Stability Initiative, Participant
2010–2011	Tarrant AgriLIFE Extension, Urban Development Program Area Committee, Participant
2009–2011	Arlington Chamber of Commerce, Policy Project, Participant
2009–2011	Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance, Dallas/Fort Worth Committee, Participant
2009–2010	Healthy Marriage Healthy Families Coalition, Participant
2008–2009	Fort Worth/Tarrant County Minority Leaders and Citizens Council, Participant
2006–2009	North Texas Anti-Trafficking Task Force, Participant
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

APPLIED AND COMMUNITY-ENGAGED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

10/2025–Present	Contract Fitness Trainer, SoberFit, Arlington, TX. Deliver trauma-informed, recovery-oriented strength, conditioning, and functional-movement coaching across mental health hospitals, rehabilitation programs, sober-living environments, and community wellness settings. Adapt programming to varied fitness and recovery needs while fostering physical wellness, accountability, peer connection, and motivation.

07/2012–08/2014 Community Engagement Manager, Center for Community Health, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, TX. Led a community advisory board and developed partnership and communication infrastructure connecting FQHCs, community organizations, local government, philanthropy, and academic partners. Advanced from project manager to Co-Investigator on NIMHD-funded translational research addressing women's health disparities through community-based participatory initiatives focused on obesity, breast cancer, and HIV/AIDS. Contributed to strategic planning, policy and grant development, health-literacy and prevention initiatives, and supervision of DrPH, MPH, and DO students.

01/2009–06/2012 Family Support Center Manager, ACH Child and Family Services, Fort Worth, TX. Developed a participatory governance structure incorporating clients and community stakeholders; designed evidence-based child-abuse and sexual-violence prevention programming and program-evaluation processes; secured national accreditation; and built a cross-sector service-delivery coalition spanning faith communities, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and public officials.

07/2008–12/2008 In-Home Respite Assessment Coordinator, All Church Home for Children, Fort Worth, TX. Conducted in-home clinical assessments of children with mental health and behavioral needs; coordinated service planning with families and mental health and social-service agencies; supported family participation in respite programming; and managed programmatic, financial, and performance data.

06/2008–12/2008 Legislative Intern, Office of Texas State Representative Lon Burnam, Fort Worth, TX. Analyzed state legislation and its implications for social work and human services; researched local and state policy issues and prepared legislative briefings; supported constituents navigating state agencies; and represented the office in collaborative community resource-sharing initiatives.

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 for youth in emergency shelter care; coordinated services across referral agencies, families, and support systems. Delivered monthly staff training on child-abuse identification and reporting and strengths-based, solution-focused, and Love and Logic approaches; managed grant, statistical, agency, county, and federal reporting; and participated in a regional coalition of runaway and homeless youth service providers.

12/2005–05/2006 Youth Specialist, Emergency Youth Shelter, All Church Home for Children, Fort Worth, TX. Provided direct supervision and behavioral support for youth in foster care and youth experiencing homelessness or runaway crises; maintained safety, managed crises and behavioral incidents, and supported daily routines in an emergency-shelter setting. Promoted to Case Manager upon completing the BSW.

08/2005–05/2006 Specialized Treatment for Offender Program (STOP) Intern, Tarrant County Juvenile Services, Fort Worth, TX. Supported program orientation and group treatment in a post-adjudication residential program for youth adjudicated for sexual offenses. Designed a program-evaluation survey; developed and facilitated a grief-and-loss group intervention; conducted an outcome evaluation; and collaborated with program administrators, clinical supervisors, and institutional probation officers on program development.

08/2005–05/2006 Community Program Contractor, South Hills Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX. Assisted with implementation of English as a Second Language courses and coordinated advocacy events and a community health fair, including securing community partners.

08/2003–05/2006 Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Program Tutor, Fort Worth Independent School District, Fort Worth, TX. Facilitated college-readiness instruction and tutorial groups for high school students; developed and implemented lesson plans; supported program and activity planning; and coordinated community-based volunteer projects.

08/2003–05/2006 Youth Program Staff, Communities in Schools / YMCA 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Fort Worth, TX. Led academic-enrichment and youth-development activities with sixth-grade students for one year and high school students for two years; provided direct supervision, mentoring, and program support in Fort Worth ISD school-based learning centers serving high-poverty and low-performing schools.

06/2004–08/2004 Child Care Staff, United Community Centers—Bethlehem Center, Fort Worth, TX. Provided direct care, supervision, and age-appropriate activities for three-year-old children in a community-center program serving families in Fort Worth's 76104 community.