

## **Diana I. Meléndez**

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### **EDUCATION**

**Doctorate of Philosophy** December 2007

Marriage and Family Counseling  
University of Florida

Research interests: parental involvement in the educational setting, college readiness, resiliency, achievement gap, equality in education, and first generation college students. Dissertation: Hispanic Parental Involvement: A Key component in High School Completion and College Readiness for First Generation College Students.

**Education Specialist** December 2006

Marriage and Family Counseling  
University of Florida

Professional Specialization: First generation college students' parental involvement in the high school setting.

**Masters in Education** December 2006

Marriage and Family Counseling  
University of Florida

Professional Specialization: high school completion, college readiness and college access for students in urban low performing-high poverty high schools.

**Masters in Education** December 2000

Guidance Counseling  
Bayamón Central University, Puerto Rico  
Professional Specialization: Crisis Intervention.

**Bachelor of Arts** June 1990

Inter-American University, Puerto Rico  
Major Field: Biology

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

## **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

2001 - Present - College Readiness Liaison, UF Alliance University of Florida College of Education, Gainesville, FL.

- Developed, implemented and supervised the College Readiness 9<sup>th</sup> Grade UF campus visits for six UF Alliance High Schools providing over 1600 students with a two-day overnight, once in a lifetime college experience. These visits exposed students to interact with admission officers; student organizations; academic advisors; colleges such as the college of journalism, dentistry, veterinary, education, business, architecture, agriculture, the athletic department and many others.
- Identified resources within the University campus and the Gainesville Community to enhance the students' experiences during their campus visits.
- Coordinated schedules, meals, lodging accommodations and transportation for over 1600 9<sup>th</sup> grade students over the past seven years.
- Provided follow up activities for the students that participated in the UF 9<sup>th</sup> grade campus visits to promote a seamless transition from high school into college.
- Directly involved (over a seven year period) in several of the UF Alliance initiatives including the UF Campus visits, Explorations in Teaching, Explorations in Writing, Service Learning, Cascading Tutoring, new teacher retention and professional development and Summer Leadership Institute.
- Provided special attention to students with special physical needs and identified the proper resources to guarantee that their experience at UF was equal to the experiences of all the other students.
- Developed, implemented and supervised a Parental Involvement Model at all six UF Alliance High Schools generating numbers in the upper 80<sup>th</sup> percentile for parental participation. This model was based on a positive-asset approach and it underlines the role of parents as coaches. Key components in the model were a personalized focus that promotes access and communication with parents.
- Participated in the Middle Schools Initiative that extends the Alliance work to include 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their families. Developed and provided a series of workshops for middle schools students and their parents.

## **COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- Fall 2005 Instructor, Interpersonal Communication Skills (SDS 4410) University of Florida. Provided a unique instructional approach based on different learning styles. Motivated many students enrolled in this class to pursue graduate education.
- Summer 2004 Teacher Assistant, Sexuality and Mental Health (MHS 6481) University of Florida

## **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2005 - Couples and Family Clinic Supervisor, University of Florida
- Supervised graduate counselor education students during, before and after client interventions at the UF Family Clinic.
- 2003 - Present **Consultant**, Guided to Safe Harbor
- Private practice faith based organization
  - Consultant on issues of family dynamics, human development, parent/teenagers relationship, communication, career development, stress management, and women's issues.
- 2002 - **Therapist**, Internship, Hospice North Central Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- Assisted clients and their families to prepare for and resolve death related issues.
  - Developed and implemented weekly session on bereavement and provided grief counseling.
  - Provided crisis counseling to patients and families including families that faced the death of a child.
- 2001 - **Career Counselor**, Internship, Career Resource Center, University of Florida
- Provided career counseling.
  - Administrated career assessment tools and personality assessment instruments.
  - Assisted with student development programs in the areas of: time management, career options, resume preparation, mock interviews, showcase preparation, Co-op internships, the role and meaning of labels in the LGB community, gender issues, job search strategies, interviewing techniques, spiritual and multicultural issues, over seas employment and how to balance multiple roles.
  - Assisted with career Showcase Job Fairs by facilitating the access of information for employers and students.
  - Provided workshops aimed to promote student development and campus acculturation.
- 1999 – **Mental Health Counselor**, Internship, Oasis de Amor AIDS Center, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
- Provided Mental Health Counseling and Crisis interventions to AIDS victims and their families.
  - Provided career counseling to clients that wanted or needed to make a career change due to their health condition.
  - Assisted AIDS victims to resolve family issues by providing family counseling.
  - Developed a series of support groups that included family members, AIDS victims and community resources.

- Provided group counseling.

1999 – **Guidance Counselor**, Internship, Apolo San Antonio Middle School, Vega Alta, Puerto Rico.

- Provided guidance counseling to middle school students helping make the connection to high school.
- Developed a community resource center in the school for parents and families.
- Identified and facilitated the inclusion of community resources into the school setting.
- Provided group counseling to students with behavioral and discipline issues.

### **UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS**

University of Florida Admissions Office Application for Admissions Essay Evaluator.

### **PROFESSIONAL AWARDS**

- University of Florida Outstanding Leadership Award, May 2007
- Graduate Student of the Year, Puerto Rico Counseling Association, December 2000.

### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS/SYMPOSIA**

- The Many Hats of a Guidance Counselor, Evans High School, Orlando, Fl., 2004
- Women and Stress, PCUSA Women's Association, Orlando, Fl. 2005

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Melendez, D. (February, 2007). Co-Presenter. Community Asset Mapping: Navigating the Terrain for Equity in Education, The Association of Teachers Educators, San Diego, California.

Melendez, D. (February, 2007). Panelist. University of Florida Latino/ Hispanic Recruitment Conference, Gainesville, Florida.

Melendez, D. (January, 2007). Co-Presenter. The University of Florida Alliance: Sustaining a Six-Year Partnership with Six Urban High Schools, The Holmes Partnership Conference, San Antonio, Texas.

Melendez, D. (January, 2007). Co-Presenter. Principles of Breakthrough Learning in School-University Partnerships, The Holmes Partnership Conference, San Antonio, Texas.

Melendez, D. (November, 2006). Parent Involvement: A key Component in High School Completion and College Readiness, Closing the Achievement Gap Centennial Conference, University of Florida, St. Petersburg.

Melendez, D. (November, 2006). Co-Presenter, High School Reform and the Achievement Gap: Do limited partnerships work? Closing the Achievement Gap Centennial Conference, University of Florida, St. Petersburg.

Melendez, D. (September, 2006). Parent Involvement: A key Component in High School Completion and College Readiness, Florida Association of Teacher Educators Conference, Orlando, Florida

Melendez, D. (September, 2006). Co-Presenter. The University of Florida Alliance: Sustaining a Six-Year Partnership with Six Urban High Schools, Florida Association of Teacher Educators Conference, Orlando, Florida

Melendez, D. (June, 2006). Parent Involvement: A key Component in High School Completion and College Readiness, University of Florida Summer Leadership Institute, Gainesville, Florida

Melendez, D. (September, 2005).Co-Presenter, Integrating Resiliency Models into School Partnerships, Florida Association of Teacher Educators Conference, Orlando, Florida

Melendez, D. (September, 2004).Co-Presenter, Sustaining the Tides of Change: A University-Urban High School Partnership; Florida Association of Teacher Educators Conference, Orlando, Florida

## **CONTINUED EDUCATION**

The Association of Colleges for Teachers Education Conference, Parental Involvement Engagement: Successful Program Models, New York, 2007.

Leadership Development Conference on School, Family and Community Partnerships, John Hopkins University, 2005.

Action Team Training, National Network on School, Family and Community Partnerships, Baltimore, Md., 2005.

Grant Writing, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Fl., 2005.

Critical Incident Stress Management Group Crisis Intervention, International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Orlando, Fl. 2004.

Training of Trainers, Cesar Chavez Inspired Service-Learning Institute, Miami, Fl., 2004.

American Sign Language, Orange County Public Schools Community Education, Orlando, Fl., 2003.

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- American Counseling Association
- Florida Counseling Association
- American Educational Research Association
- Florida Association of Teachers Educators