

**University of Southern California**

Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work  
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## Education

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- 2022 **Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership, University of Southern California (USC), Rossier School of Education**  
*(expected)*
- Concentration: Higher Education Administration
- 2001 **Master of Social Work, San Diego State University (SDSU)**
- Concentration: Children, Youth and Families
  - Specialization: Public Child Welfare – CalSWEC Title IV-E stipend recipient
- 1999 **Bachelor of Arts, University of California, San Diego**
- Majors: Sociology and Spanish Literature

## Academic Positions

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- 2019-present **Professor, Field Education**  
**Director of Workforce Development Stipend and Scholarship Programs**  
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work
- 2018-2019 **Clinical Associate Professor, Field Education**  
**Director of Workforce Development Stipend Programs**  
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work
- 2017-2018 **Clinical Associate Professor, Field Education**  
**Director (*inaugural*) of Workforce Development Stipend Programs**  
**Vice-Chair of Department of Children, Youth and Families**  
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work
- 2014-2017 **Clinical Associate Professor, Field Education**  
**Assistant Director of Field Education**  
**Vice-Chair (*inaugural*) of Department of Children, Youth and Families**  
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work
- 2013-2014 **Clinical Assistant Professor, Field Education**  
**University Consortium for Children and Families (UCCF) Field Coordinator (*inaugural*)**  
USC School of Social Work

- 2011-2013      **Clinical Assistant Professor, Field Education**  
USC School of Social Work, San Diego Academic Center
  
- 2010-2011      **Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor, Field Education**  
USC School of Social Work, San Diego Academic Center
  
- 2009-2010      **Field Faculty and SDSU/County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HSA) - Child Welfare Services (CWS) Liaison**  
SDSU School of Social Work

## **Research, Workforce Development, Training Projects and Grants**

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Leads a team of faculty and staff who manage and implement several specialized workforce development programs funded by federal, state and local dollars. Under this leadership, these programs have been awarded over \$25.54 million in funding from 2014 to date (2022) with over \$14.49 million allocated to 785 MSW students in stipends and scholarships ranging from \$4,000 to \$37,000 with additional funding secured for future years. Also led a research project in El Salvador and a co-investigator to two additional grant-funded projects exceeding \$13 million. These projects are listed below:

- 2022-present      **Administrative Support – Veterans Administration Merit Grant**  
Funding of \$65,828 for Intergovernmental Personnel Act Agreements (IPAs) under Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Research and Development Center on Enhancement of Community Integration for Homeless Veterans (THRIVE) program for faculty to support and enhance training of peer support specialists to improve service delivery to veterans by using Motivational Interviewing techniques.
  
- 2021-present      **Principal Investigator – Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET)**  
Funding of \$1.9 million over four years. The Next Generation Partnership Project (NGPP) will train MSW students (n=116) through a community-based experiential approach to prepare students to address the behavioral health needs of children, adolescents, and transitional age youth in high-need urban and rural communities throughout the country. Each student receives a stipend of \$10,000.
  
- 2020-present      **Co-Investigator – HRSA Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) Program**  
Funding of \$3.25 million over five years. Mentored PIs in development of proposal and its implementation under role as Director of Workforce Development Stipend and Scholarship Programs and PI on HRSA grants. The Primary Care Project focuses on enhancing the education of MSW students (n=110) from disadvantaged backgrounds who are committed to working in primary care settings in medically underserved communities. Each students receives a scholarship of \$30,000.
  
- 2019-2022      **Co-Investigator – HRSA Opioid Workforce Expansion Program (OWEP)**  
Funding of \$1.35 million over three years. Mentored PIs in development of proposal and its implementation under role as Director of Workforce Development Stipend &

Scholarship Programs and PI on HRSA grants. The Coast to Coast Project trained MSW students (n=81) throughout the country in targeted areas to provide integrated behavioral health services in partnership with organizations providing prevention, treatment and recovery services for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) in response to the deadly opioid epidemic. Each student received a stipend of \$10,000.

- 2019-2021 **Principal Investigator – Protection and Quality Care for Children Project in El Salvador**  
Funding of \$170,000 provided by Whole Child International to increase the capacity of the government of El Salvador to protect children most at risk of being victims or perpetrators of violence/child abuse. This sub-award is the first phase of a five-year, \$7.4 million project funded in part by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through a \$4.9 million grant with to focus on two main areas: a mapping of the child protection system in El Salvador and an analysis of the deinstitutionalization process of minors.
- 2018-present **Principal Investigator – California Department of Social Services (DSS) Title IV-E Public Child Welfare**  
Funding of \$202,000. This grant is to continue tracking and collection activities related to the implementation of the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) Title IV-E Public Child Welfare Stipend Program at USC since 1990.
- 2017-2021 **Principal Investigator – HRSA BHWET**  
Funding of \$1.9 million over four years. The West Coast Project trained MSW students (n=120) to provide integrated behavioral health services to vulnerable populations across the lifespan in rural and medically underserved areas in Alaska, Oregon, Washington and California. Each student received a stipend of \$10,000.
- 2014-2022 **Principal Investigator (since July 2016) / Project Coordinator – CalSWEC Integrated Behavioral Health Stipend Program, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)**  
Funding of \$769,000. This program trained MSW students (n=39) to provide public mental health services through county agencies or county-contracted organizations throughout the state of California. Each student received a stipend of \$18,500.
- 2014-present **Program Director – Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Stipend Program**  
Funding of \$1.78 million. This program trains MSW students (n=96) to provide public mental health services through county-operated institutions or county-contracted organizations throughout Los Angeles County. This included the Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) program. Each student receives a stipend of \$18,500.
- 2014-present **Administrative Support – Geriatric Social Work Education Consortium (GSWEC)**  
Funding of \$347,000. This program trains MSW students (n=64) to increase their competency in the area of aging. Each student receives a stipend of \$4,000 - \$8,000.

- 2013-present     **Program Coordinator – Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) + UCLA Academy of Workforce Excellence, Title IV-E**  
Funding of \$6.6 million. PI Dean Sarah Gehlert. This program trains MSW students (n=104) to provide public child welfare services through Los Angeles County DCFS. Each student receives an annual stipend of \$18,500.
- 2014-2018     **Project Coordinator – CalSWEC Title IV-E Public Child Welfare Stipend Program**  
Funding of \$4.6 million. PI Dean Marilyn Flynn. This program delivered specialized public child welfare curriculum and support to MSW students (n=62) committed to service in public child welfare in California. Each student received a stipend of \$37,000 for two years of graduate studies.
- 2014-2017     **Principal Investigator – HRSA BHWET**  
Funding of \$1.4 million. The USC Tri-County Behavioral Health Training Consortium focused on enhancing the education and training of MSW students (n=98) who are committed to providing improved behavioral health services targeted for transition-age youths between 16 and 25-years old who are at risk of mental illness, substance abuse, violence and suicide in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego. Each student received a stipend of \$10,000.
- 2013-2017     **Co-Investigator - Department of Defense Educational Activity (DoDEA)**  
Funding of \$5 million. PI Ron Avi Astor. Field faculty in the implementation of “Welcoming Practices that Address Transition Needs of Military Students in Public Schools: Transitions into Welcoming Schools Consortium” with an emphasis on parent engagement. Implementation through a consortium of five school districts in the San Diego and Riverside counties region. Participation ended in 2014.
- 2010-2014     **Co-Investigator - DoDEA**  
Funding of \$7.8 million. PI Ron Avi Astor. Field faculty contributor in the implementation of “Building Capacity to Create Highly Supportive Military-Connected School Districts: The Integration of Local School Data, Community Supports, Evidence-based Programs, and Empowerment Strategies to Promote Social and Academic Climates”. Implementation through a consortium of eight school districts in the San Diego and Riverside counties region.

## Teaching – Courses

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- 2021-2022     ○ LA DCFS 2nd Year Stipend Fall Seminar (2 hours)  
○ LA DCFS 2nd Year Stipend Spring Seminar (2 hours)  
○ SOWK 630 Diversity, Social Justice, and Culturally Competent Social Work Practice – spring (3 hours)  
○ SOWK 630 Diversity, Social Justice, and Culturally Competent Social Work Practice – summer (3 hours)
- 2020-2021     ○ LA DCFS 2nd Year Stipend Fall Seminar (2 hours)  
○ LA DCFS 2nd Year Stipend Spring Seminar (2 hours)

- 2019-2020
  - LA DCFS 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Stipend Fall Seminar (2 hours)
  - LA DCFS 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Stipend Spring Seminar (2 hours)
  
- 2018-2019
  - SOWK 589a Applied Learning in Field Education (2 hours)
  - SOWK 588 Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice (2 hours)
  - SOWK 659 Pathways to Immigration: Global Immersion to Mexico (3 hours)
  
- 2017-2018
  - SOWK 599 Special Topics – Pathways to Immigration: Global Immersion to Mexico (3 hours)
  
- 2016-2017
  - SOWK 590 Directed Research – independent study (1 hour)
  - SOWK 599 Special Topics – Pathways to Immigration: Global Immersion to Mexico (3 hours) – created course
  - Tri-County Project 2<sup>nd</sup> year Stipend Fall Seminar (1.5 hour)
  - Tri-County Project 2<sup>nd</sup> year Stipend Spring Seminar (1.5 hour)
  
- 2015-2016
  - SOWK 654 National Immersion in Washington, DC: Child Development and Social Policy (3 hours)
  - Tri-County Project 2<sup>nd</sup> year Stipend Fall Seminar (1.5 hour) – created course
  - Tri-County Project 2<sup>nd</sup> year Stipend Spring Seminar (1.5 hour)
  - SOWK 611 Leadership in the Social Work Professions and Organizations – virtual (3 hours)
  
- 2014-2015
  - Tri-County Project 2<sup>nd</sup> year Stipend Spring Seminar (1.5 hour) – created course
  - CalSWEC Public Child Welfare 2<sup>nd</sup> year Stipend Fall Seminar (1.5 hour) – created course
  - CalSWEC Public Child Welfare 2<sup>nd</sup> year Stipend Spring Seminar (1.5 hour) – created course
  - CalSWEC Public Child Welfare 1<sup>st</sup> year Stipend Fall Seminar (1.5 hour) – created course
  - CalSWEC Public Child Welfare 1<sup>st</sup> year Stipend Spring Seminar (1.5 hour) – created course
  - DCFS/UCCF Public Child Welfare 2<sup>nd</sup> year Stipend Fall Seminar (1.5 hour)
  - DCFS/UCCF Public Child Welfare 2<sup>nd</sup> year Stipend Spring Seminar (1.5 hour)
  - SOWK 686a Field Practicum II (4 hours)
  - SOWK 686b Field Practicum II (4 hours)
  
- 2013-2014
  - DCFS/UCCF Public Child Welfare 2<sup>nd</sup> year Stipend Fall Seminar (1.5 hour) – created course
  - DCFS/UCCF Public Child Welfare 2<sup>nd</sup> year Stipend Spring Seminar (1.5 hour) – created course
  - SOWK 686a Field Practicum II (4 hours)
  - SOWK 686b Field Practicum II (4 hours)
  
- 2012-2013
  - SOWK 586a Field Practicum (3 hours)
  - SOWK 586b Field Practicum (3 hours)
  - SOWK 587a Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice (3 hours) – 2 sections

- SOWK 587b Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice (3 hours) – 2 sections
  - SOWK 686a Field Practicum II (4 hours) – 2 sections
  - SOWK 686b Field Practicum II (4 hours) – 2 sections
- 2011-2012
- SOWK 586a Field Practicum (3 hours)
  - SOWK 586b Field Practicum (3 hours)
  - SOWK 587a Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice (3 hours) – 2 sections
  - SOWK 587b Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice (3 hours) – 2 sections
  - SOWK 686a Field Practicum II (4 hours)
  - SOWK 686b Field Practicum II (4 hours)
  - SOWK 611 Leadership in the Social Work Professions and Organizations (3 hours)
- 2010-2011
- SOWK 586a Field Practicum (3 hours)
  - SOWK 586b Field Practicum (3 hours)
  - SOWK 587a Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice (3 hours) – 2 sections
  - SOWK 587b Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice (3 hours) – 2 sections
  - SOWK 611 Leadership in the Social Work Professions and Organizations (3 hours)
- 2009-2010
- SW 650 Field Practicum (3 hours)
  - SW 750 Advanced Field Practicum (4 hours)

## Academic Presentations

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- López, O.** (2021). *Presentación de Resultados de La Desinstitucionalización de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes en el Sistema de Protección de El Salvador*. A 10 años de la Doctrina de Protección Integral, un ejercicio analítico y transformador del Sistema Nacional de Protección, San Salvador, El Salvador (virtual). A series of presentations to share and discuss results of research to improve the child protection system in El Salvador with national and regional stakeholders.
- Franklin, U., Brown, D., **López, O.**, Aanonson, S., Smith, A., & Supranovich, R. (2021). *The Evolution of Teaching Inter-Professional Practice Through the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) Cycle*. The Network for Social Work Management's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Management Conference, New York City, NY (virtual).
- López, O.** & Jiménez-McSweyn, S. (2020). Trabajo social clínico en Los Ángeles, California y ajustes tecnológicos post COVID-19 (Clinical Social Work in Los Angeles, California and Technological Adjustments post COVID-19). Organización Internacional de Trabajo Social (OITS) Cumbre 2020 in Lima, Peru.
- Supranovich, R., Wind, L., **López, O.**, Zappas, M., & Franklin, U. (2019). *The Evolution of Teaching Inter-Professional Practice through PDSA: An Interactive Workshop* at Council on Social Work Education 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Program Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Jiménez-McSweyn, S. & **López, O.** (2019). *The Odyssey of the Mexican/Central American Migrants: A Global Immersion Program*. Interactive Workshop. Council on Social Work Education 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Program Meeting, Denver, CO.

- López, O.** & Jiménez-McSweyn, S. (2019). *The Odyssey of the Mexican/Central American Migrants: A Global Immersion Program*. Interactive Workshop. 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities and Nations in Patras, Greece.
- Hu, M., Franklin, U., & **López, O.** (2019). *Trauma-Informed Practice with Immigrant Youth and Families*. Lecture. American Council for School Social Work Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Supranovich, R. & **López, O.** (2017). *Bringing Micro to the Macro Arena: Using Motivational Interviewing to Develop Staff and Create Positive Organizational Change*. Interactive Workshop. Network for Social Work Management's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Management Conference in New York, New York.
- Supranovich, R. & **López, O.** (2017). *Adam Lanza and Problem-Based Learning: Teaching About Transition Age Youth*. Lecture. 20<sup>th</sup> American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- López, O.** (2016). *Initiatives to Increase Understanding of the Causes and Dynamics of Immigration at 1a Conferencia Binacional: Experiencias de intervención en el ámbito nacional e internacional con migrantes (1<sup>st</sup> binational social work conference focused on interventions to work with migrants)*. Lecture. Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.
- López, O.** & McElreath, K. (2016). *Preparing Child Welfare Practitioners: A University-Community-Public Agency Approach*. Lecture. Council on Social Work Education 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- Supranovich, R., **López, O.**, & Alamo, R. (2016). *Adam Lanza and Problem-Based Learning: Teaching About Transition Age Youth*. Interactive Workshop. Council on Social Work Education 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Program Meeting in Atlanta, GA.
- López, O.** (2016). *International Health Training Partnership with Latin American Consulates*. Lecture. Promoting Health Equity and Transnational Partnerships in Cancer Prevention and Control in the Americas Strategic Planning Summit, Panama City, Panama.
- López, O.**, Reina, E., & McElreath, K. (2014). *Field Innovation: Co-located CPS and Community Agency Placements through a Teaching Institute Model*. Lecture. Title IV-E National Roundtable Conference, Galveston, TX.
- Nakamura, K., & **López, O.** (2012). *Building Community: Engaging Residents of a Large Apartment Complex to Increase Safety and Reduce Child Abuse*. Lecture. Title IV-E National Roundtable Conference, Galveston, TX.
- Panelist in *Title IV-E Alumni Panel* at CalSWEC Title IV-E Student Day Conference in San Diego, California on April 2012.
- Panelist in *Relación entre género y ejercicio del Trabajo Social* (the impact of gender in social work practice) at Colegio de Trabajadores Sociales de Baja California in Tijuana, B.C., Mexico on March 2011.

**López, O.** (2011). *Aplicación e integración de trabajo social en el ambiente profesional* (application and integration of social work values in the professional setting) at Escuela de Trabajo Social Tijuana in Tijuana, B.C., Mexico.

**López, O.** (2010). *Behavioral Interviewing of Student Interns*. Lecture. San Diego State University School of Social Work, San Diego, CA.

## Publications

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### Technical Reports

Perrigo, J.L., Palmer, A., Supranovich, R., Waters-Roman, D., Borja, J., **López, O.**, Palinkas, L. (2020). *The Deinstitutionalization of Youth in El Salvador's Child Protection System*. Whole Child International.

Traube, D., Perrigo, J. L., Palmer, A., Palinkas, L., Supranovich, R., Waters-Roman, D., Borja, J., and **López, O.** (2019). *Protection and Quality of Care for Children Project: Mapping and Assessment*. Whole Child International.

Perrigo, J. L., Waters-Roman, D., Hu, M., Traube, D., Palinkas, L., Borja, J., and **López, O.** (2019). *El Salvador and the United States through a Global Lens: A Literature Review of Alternative Care for Children and Youth*. Whole Child International.

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Article

Mennen, F. E., Cederbaum, J., Chorpita, B. F., Becker, K., **López, O.**, & Sela-Amit, M. (2018). The Large-Scale Implementation of Evidence-Informed Practice Into a Specialized MSW Curriculum. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 1-9.

## Practice Experience

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2008-2009      **Bilingual Protective Services Supervisor - County of San Diego, HHS-CWS**  
Supervisor of "Continuing Services" unit in the South Region responsible for the provision of juvenile court ordered services to individuals and families as a means to alleviate risk to children while in the process of achieving family reunification, family maintenance or permanency.

2007-2008      **Special Projects Supervisor - County of San Diego, HHS-CWS**  
Responsible for programs that provided specialized services to line staff in the South Region. These services were provided by the Placement Unit, Intensive Family Preservation Program, Team Decision Making, and coordinated support from social work interns and other volunteers. Additional responsibilities: community outreach, program and policy development, training and administrative support.



- 2007-2008      **Research Consultant - Columbia University, New York**  
Facilitated focus groups, interviews and research activities for Unclaimed Children Revisited: California Study conducted by the National Center for Children in Poverty sponsored by The California Endowment and the Zellerback Family Foundation. The purpose of this study was to assess the state of child mental health policies in California to identify best practices in policies and to support a national study that examined policies for improved mental health outcomes for children, adolescents and their families.
- 2006-2007      **Internship and Training Coordinator - County of San Diego, HHS-CWS**  
Responsible for the coordination of interns (55-65 students) from universities nationwide. Provided support to interns, primarily to Title IV-E stipend recipients, and Field Instructors to enhance the interns' learning experiences. Co-chaired CWS Training Steering Committee and collaborated with HHS's Training and Development Department on scheduling, curriculum development, state-mandated training requirements and staff participation. Conducted policy analyst's responsibilities such as the development of policy and administrative tasks regarding immigration, undocumented children, international issues and research focused on child welfare.
- 2006-2007      **Trainer - SDSU Academy for Professional Excellence**  
Facilitated classes through the Parent Peer Support Group, a community partnership program that focused on the provision of support and education about child welfare matters to parents involved in the dependency system.
- 2005-2006      **International Liaison - County of San Diego, HHS-CWS**  
Responsible for facilitating communication, services and administration related to child welfare issues with international and domestic institutions including consulates, embassies, and other government agencies abroad; primarily those from Mexico and Central America. Public relations and diplomacy with the aforementioned entities were key characteristics of the position. Investigated child abuse referrals for the Critical Assessment Release Early (CARE) unit in a lead worker position that frequently served in a supervisory role.
- 2003-2009      **Field Instructor - SDSU School of Social Work**  
Through employment with the County of San Diego, HHS-CWS, provided supervision to BASW, MSW and MSW/JD interns.
- 2002-2005      **Instructor - Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College**  
Facilitated the PRIDE course as a County's adoptions social worker for individuals wanting to obtain a foster care license and/or become adoptive parents through the Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Care Education Program.
- 2001-2005      **Bilingual Protective Services Worker - County of San Diego, HHS-CWS**  
In the Nuestros Niños (Our Children) adoptions unit responsible for: assessments of parent/child relationships and adoptability of children; matching of children with adoptive families; investigation of child abuse/neglect allegations to assess risk; provision of case management services; facilitation of adoption orientations

to the public. Developed a specialization working on cases where dependent children were placed in other countries, primarily Mexico, with relatives for the purposes of adoption. Regularly represented HHSA-CWS Adoptions in media events such as radio and television shows. Lead worker responsible for the more difficult cases and supervisory activities starting in September 2003.

2000-2001

**MSW Intern - County of San Diego, HHSA-CWS**

Conducted investigations of allegations of child abuse and neglect. Explored alternative placement options for children detained at Polinsky Children's Center and conducted evaluations of minors in the Juvenile Justice System. Case managed "voluntary" and "continuing services" cases.

1999-2000

**MSW Intern/Parent Support Specialist - Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego**

Provided intensive case management services and psycho-educational services for at-risk children and families as a MSW Intern from September 1999 to May 2000. Per-diem Parent Support Specialist for the following programs: Child Protective Services vouchers, Asthma Management, CalWORKS, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century (school referrals) from May 2000 to December 2000. Group facilitator of parenting classes in Spanish and English.

1997-1999

**Various roles - Chicano Federation of San Diego County, Inc.**

Community Advocate for the I CAN Project (a welfare-to-work program) from October 1998 to August 1999 provided services utilizing a wraparound services model with several community agencies, including community colleges, to help motivated individuals become employed.

Lead Coordinator for Our Harvest Project/Proyecto Nuestra Cosecha in Escondido from June 1998 to October 1998. Collaborated with the local government to service over 100 families in the development of a community garden. The project had an emphasis on providing nutritional education to the local immigrant community.

Case Manager for the Families United Program from June 1997 to August 1999. Provided intensive case management services to low-income individuals and families to assist them achieve a higher level of family and self-sufficiency. Began as a paid Case Manager Intern in February 1997.

## Professional Service Experience

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2014-2017

**Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)**

Member of Commission on Global Social Work Education. The work of this commission is far reaching in terms of setting an agenda for CSWE relative to global social work education as well as maintaining an interface with other organizations and their global initiatives, including the Katherine A. Kendall Institute for International Social Work Education.

- 2017 Chair of Partners in Advancing International Education (PIE) Awards Committee
- 2016 Chair of PIE Awards Committee

- 2015 Co-Chair of PIE Awards Committee and Co-Chair of Hockenstad Lecture Committee

2012-2014

**Network for Social Work Management (NSWM) - San Diego Chapter**

The NSWM is a membership organization for social workers, working at all levels of management, across a broad and diverse range of human services organizations. The Network is dedicated to equipping social work managers with management skills at its Annual Management Institute and through its Human Services Management Competencies.

- Vice-Chair from February 2013 to September 2014

2012-2014

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico - Institute of Mexicans Abroad - Advisory Council (CCIME)**

Elected by community leaders through the Consulate of Mexico, San Diego to a three-year term as a CCIME Advisor. CCIME is a consultative body, established in 2003, that has a mandate to analyze problems, challenges, and opportunities facing Mexican communities in the United States and Canada. This consultative body of over 100 elected advisors works closely with high-ranking Mexican, American and Canadian officials to develop and implement joint strategies, efforts and programs that benefit Mexicans primarily living in the United States and Canada.

- Elected by CCIME Advisors as Alternate Chair of the Commission on Education.
- Assigned to Special Committee responsible for revision and update of the Guidelines Manual that regulates CCIME operations.

2011

**New Leaders Council - San Diego Chapter**

Fellow of non-partisan, non-profit organization that engages a diverse, collaborative national network of progressive political entrepreneurs. The gateway to this network is NLC's flagship program, the NLC Institute, a rigorous five-month training program that focuses on entrepreneurship, advocacy, team building, and other change-maker skills. NLC seeks out the top tier of emerging progressive leaders from around the country for the Institute, building a collaborative community of vetted, trained progressive leaders with the skills and support system to help to change the way politics is done and foster a more equitable, just America.

2008-2014

**Chicano Federation of San Diego County, Inc.**

Board of Directors Member of multi-purpose, non-profit community-based organization that has served the people of San Diego County since 1969. This is one of the largest and most influential non-profit organizations in San Diego that provides an array of services like low-income housing, HIV research and education, early childhood education (Head Start and Infant/Toddler program), small business development for women in the field of childcare, and a nutrition program.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair from February 2012 to August 2014.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair from March 2011 to February 2012.
- Program Administrator (pro-bono) for La Cuna, a foster family agency.
- Program Committee Co-Chair and Chair from January 2009 to June 2011.

- 2005-2007 **San Diego County Latino Association**  
 This is a networking organization that focuses on the provision of opportunities to its members for career development at the County of San Diego.
- Board Member for District 3.
- 2003-2014 **House of Mexico, San Diego**  
 As member of the House of Pacific Relations in Balboa Park and non-profit organization, the House of Mexico's objective is to promote liberty, peace, justice and better understanding among peoples of all nationalities, races and ethnic groups and promote the development of the rich Mexican culture. Many HOM members are key community leaders in the San Diego area.
- Parliamentarian from January 2004 to December 2005 and from January 2011 to December 2011.
  - Vice President from January 2006 to December 2008.
- 2002-2009 **Service Employees International Union (SEIU) - Locals 221 and 535**
- Local 221
- President (appointed) of the Social Welfare Chapter in 2007.
  - Executive Board Secretary Officer (appointed and elected) from 2007 to 2009.
  - Delegate (elected) to SEIU 2008 International Convention in Puerto Rico. SEIU represented over 2 million members in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico at that time.
  - Member Political Organizer (elected).
  - Member of 2009 Contract Negotiation Team (elected) with County of San Diego.
  - Bylaws Committee Member (elected chair) led efforts in the production of bylaws that were ratified by membership in March 2009. Ratification transitioned Local 221 out of provisional status.
- Local 535, San Diego Chapter
- Steward (appointed) for County of San Diego, HHS employees from January 2002 to July 2009.
  - State Executive Board Delegate (elected) in January 2003 and January 2005.
  - Vice-President (appointed and elected) from September 2003 to 2007.
  - Representative (elected) to the San Diego-Inland Empire Counties Labor Council from December 2003 to July 2009.
  - Member of 2006 Contract Negotiation Team (elected) for the County of San Diego's Social Welfare bargaining unit.
- 2001-2015 **Latino Social Work Network of California, Inc. - San Diego Chapter**  
 Led group of social workers in the coordination of the restructure and reemergence of the San Diego chapter of this former statewide organization in August 2002. The San Diego chapter is a grass-roots organization that focuses on community involvement through an array of activities, including a scholarship program for college-bound high school graduates.
- Chair from April 2002 to January 2007.  
Immediate Past Chair from January 2007 to January 2009.  
Sergeant-at-Arms since March 2009.

1999-2001 **San Diego State University, School of Social Work**  
President of the Latino Social Work Student Network for academic year 2000-2001.  
Vice-President of the Latino Social Work Student Network for academic year 1999-2000.  
MSW Title IV-E 1<sup>st</sup> Year (1999-2000) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year (2000-2001) Student Representative  
Faculty Council Graduate Representative for the College of Health and Human Services.

## Honors and Awards

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2021 **Champion of Children Award** by Drew Child Development Corporation

2021 **Most Outstanding Boxer of 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Las Vegas Masters Invitational** by Las Vegas Masters Boxing Club and Rick Avery Boxing

2020 **Sterling C. Franklin Award for Distinguished Faculty** for achieving recognition in the scientific community and addressing solutions to important social problems by USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

2017 **Award of Gratitude for Leadership and Guidance** by USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School Social Work Latina/o Social Work Caucus

2015 **Hutto Patterson Foundation Award for Distinguished Faculty** for excellence in teaching, service to the university, the school, and the community by USC School of Social Work

2015 **Commencement Marshal**, USC School of Social Work

2013 **40 Under 40 Award - Individuals with Bright Minds and Community Spirit** by San Diego Metro Magazine

2012 **Urban Leader Under 40 Award** “honoring the few who are proven leaders in their fields and gave their time and commitment empowering communities and changing lives” by Urban League of San Diego County

2011 **Congressional Award, Angel in Adoption™**, through the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in Washington D.C. Nominated by United States Congressional Representative of the 51<sup>st</sup> District

2011 Featured on NASW Help Starts Here website that celebrated Latino social work leaders in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month by profiling highlights of career achievements by National Association of Social Workers

2011 **Appreciation Award as Faculty Advisor** by USC School Social Work student Latina/o Caucus

- 2010      **Appreciation Award for Exceptional Service and Commitment to the School and the County of San Diego** by SDSU, School of Social Work, Title IV-E Program
- 2009      Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service, Devotion, Dedication, and Lasting Contributions from 2001 to 2009 **by County of San Diego, HHSA**
- 2008      **Teamwork and Collaboration for Valuable Contributions** by County of San Diego, HHSA-South Region
- 2008      **Shining Star Award as Inspirational Field Instructor** by County of San Diego, HHSA-Child Welfare Services
- 2007      **Recognition Award for Outstanding Service as President** by SEIU Local 221, Social Welfare Chapter
- 2007      **Certificate of Appreciation for Leadership and Contributions Supporting the Education and Professional Development of All Social Work Students** by SDSU School of Social Work, Title IV-E Program
- 2007      **Teamwork and Collaboration Award** by Child Welfare Services' Director, County of San Diego, HHSA
- 2007      **Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Contribution to Family Youth Professional Partnership** by Family and Youth Roundtable of San Diego County
- 2006      **Certificate of Award for Most Creative Field Instructor** by County of San Diego, HHSA-Child Welfare Services
- 2006      **Appreciation Award for Dedication and Commitment** by San Diego Latino Social Work Network, Inc.
- 2006      **Certificate of Appreciation for Organizing, Planning and Enthusiastic Support with La Conferencia Transfronteriza** by County of San Diego, HHSA
- 2005      **Certificate of Appreciation as Field Instructor Extraordinaire** by County of San Diego, HHSA-Child Welfare Services
- 2003      **Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Contribution as a Member Organizer** by SEIU Local 535
- 2002      **Recognition Award for Teamwork, Collaboration, and Customer Service** by San Diego County Adoptions
- 1999      **Recipient of Title IV-E stipend of \$33,500 for MSW program** by SDSU School of Social Work

## **International Experience (selected)**

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- 2019                    **Protection and Quality of Care for Children Project in El Salvador - USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work**  
Led efforts as PI of the first phase of a research project funded by Whole Child International to support the government of El Salvador to further improve the care and protection of vulnerable children and youth and to assess the effectiveness and impact of the national deinstitutionalization and reintegration policy.
- 2016-2019            **SOWK 659 Pathways to Immigration: Global Immersion to Mexico - USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work**  
Developed an elective course that is designed to increase MSW students' understanding of the causes and dynamics of immigration, including policies and legislation that impact delivery of services to immigrant families in the United States. The semester course included a 10-day trip that exposed students to the realities immigrants face through a "migratory journey in reverse" starting in Los Angeles then "migrating" to San Diego, across the international border with Mexico through Tijuana/Ensenada, Mexico City, and Puebla City concluding in Coatzingo/Zacapala (remote migrant sending communities). The pedagogy focused on lived experiences of students and professors while learning from government officials, community leaders, activists, immigrants, professionals and academics who shared their experiences and perspectives on immigration from Mexico and Central America to United States. The students' critical thinking pedagogical skills were required to evaluate the narratives and intercultural learning that they were exposed to understand the deeper implications of the immigrant experience. The course also focused on the development of students' practice skills in the macrosystemic and microsystemic domains to increase their capacity to deliver equitable and culturally informed services.
- th2015                **Immersion and data collection trip: Costa Rica - USC Rossier School of Education**  
Studied Costa Rica's K-12 educational system and its ability to prepare its citizens with skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century in a globalized society.
- 2013                    **International Studies Seminar: Hong Kong and Guangzhou, China - USC Rossier School of Education**  
Studied context of international education to increase insight about the issues that face international and global urban education. Participated in an experiential learning environment through site visits and educational exchanges at K-12 and higher education institutions, including Hong Kong University.
- 2011                    **Cultural exchange event with Escuela de Trabajo Social Tijuana (UABC)**  
Coordinated and hosted visitors from the School of Social Work in Tijuana, including current and former students, at USC San Diego Academic Center. Visiting Director conducted an academic presentation about social work in Mexico. Sponsored by SDAC's Latino/a Social Work Caucus and International Social Work Caucus.

- 2011      **Cultural exchange trip to Escuela de Trabajo Social Tijuana (UABC)**  
Organized trip for USC School of Social Work students through their Latina/o and International Social Work Caucus to a private university, incorporated to the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (state university system), that focuses in social work education. Students from both educational institutions interacted in group discussions to meet, greet and learn from each country's social work practices and realities.
- 2009      **Co-coordinator for Binational Social Work Forum, SDSU School of Social Work**  
Forum took place in Tijuana, Mexico where over 75 SDSU social work students were transported to join a total audience of almost 200 participants from collaborative efforts with the School of Social Work in Tijuana, Colegio de Trabajadores Sociales de Baja California, A.C., United States Consulate in Tijuana, and the San Diego Chapter of the Latino Social Work Network of California, Inc. This collaboration led to the development of a reciprocal field placement model that eventually led to the placement of SDSU social work students in Mexican agencies near the international border.
- 2008      **Co-lead organizer for the 7<sup>th</sup> Binational Child Abduction and Child Protection Conference, San Diego**  
Conference brought together over 400 participants, many high ranking officials, from the United States, Mexico, Canada and Argentina from collaborative efforts between the County of San Diego HHS, California State Attorney's Office, Consulate of Mexico San Diego and San Diego District Attorney's Office. The favorable climate and positive outcomes allowed the County of San Diego, HHS to sign a desired Memorandum of Understanding with the Consulate of Mexico in San Diego, which had been a pending item for over seven years.
- 2006      **Lead organizer for the "Conferencia Transfronteriza", Institute of the Americas at UCSD**  
Conference brought together over 120 professionals to address United States/Mexico cross border child welfare issues. Participants included: former United States Ambassador to Mexico, Judges from both countries, representatives from American and Mexican Consulates, State and San Diego District Attorney's Offices, Mexican and California child welfare representatives, and Customs and Border Protection.
- 2005      **Lead organizer for 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Latino Social Work Network of California, Inc. State Conference, San Diego**  
Conference brought together over 400 participants. One of this conference's objectives was to increase United States/Mexico social work binational collaboration.



## Continuing Education

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2015	American Council on Education (ACE) Leadership Academy for Department Chairs
2015	Kinetic Communication with AdvoCoach
2011	National Conflict Resolution Center Training Institute - San Diego
2002-2004	Frontline Leadership Development Program - County of San Diego, HHSA
1997-1998	Leadership Training Institute - Chicano Federation of San Diego County, Inc.

## Professional Memberships

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Council of Social Work Education (CSWE)  
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)  
National Network for Social Work Managers (NNSWM)  
San Diego State University Alumni Association Lifetime Member – Social Work Chapter

## Boxing Instruction

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Boxing instructor/coach, certified by USA Boxing, that delivers personal and group training. Also competes as an amateur in the masters division winning several tournaments as a welterweight and middleweight, including at the national level. Started boxing in 2001 as a 23-year old to manage stress of being a child protection social worker. Competed in four amateur bouts in 2002, then paused competition until 2019 but kept boxing as preferred exercise.

Boxing provides a platform to practice self-care while pursuing the love of teaching and supporting others to achieve personal goals.

- 2020-present     **Boxing Instructor/Coach – L.A.K.O. Boxing Club and Training Studio**  
*4419 Eagle Rock Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90041*  
Gym member from 2020 until getting hired on March 2021 while training to compete as an amateur boxer in the masters division participating in nine tournaments:
- National Junior Olympics and Summer Festival in Wichita, KS (Jul 2022)
    - Championship medals of two match bouts as welterweight (147 lbs)
  - Southern California State Championships in Menifee, CA (Jun 2022)
    - Championship belt as welterweight (147 lbs)
  - Title Boxing Invitational in Las Vegas, NV (May 2022)
    - Championship belt as welterweight (147 lbs)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Las Vegas Masters Invitational in Las Vegas, NV (Feb 2022)
    - Light middleweight (156 lbs)
  - 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Gene Lewis Invitational Tournament in Mesa, AZ (Nov 2021)
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy as middleweight (165 lbs)
  - Round 2 Texas Masters Boxing Invitational in Houston, TX (Oct 2021)

- Championship belt as welterweight (152 lbs)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Las Vegas Masters Invitational in Las Vegas, NV (Sep 2021)
  - Championship belt as welterweight (152 lbs)
- The Gold and Silver States Championships in Primm, NV (Aug 2021)
  - Championship belt as middleweight (165 lbs)
- Texas Masters Boxing Invitational in Houston, TX (May 2021)
  - Championship belt as middleweight (165 lbs)

2020 – present     **Independent Boxing Instructor**

Occasional work with private clients who want to get fit and achieve other personal goals through boxing.

2016-2020     **Boxing Instructor – City of Angels Boxing**

*3000 S Hill St, Los Angeles, CA 90007*

Gym member from 2016-2019 until getting hired in 2020 while training to compete as an amateur boxer in the masters division winning championship belts in six tournaments:

- The Sugar Belt Boxing National Tournament in Kissimmee, FL (Nov 2019)
  - Championship belt as welterweight (152 lbs)
- Sonny’s International Masters Boxing Tournament in Goodyear, AZ (Nov 2019)
  - Championship belt as welterweight (152 lbs)
- Dreamland’s Masters World Championships in San Jose, CA (Sep 2019)
  - Championship belt as welterweight (152 lbs)
- Sugar Bert National Qualifier in Ontario, CA (Aug 2019)
  - Championship belt as welterweight (152 lbs)
- Las Vegas Masters Invitational in Las Vegas, NV (Jul 2019)
  - Championship belt as middleweight (165 lbs)
- Southern California State Championships in Menifee, CA (Jul 2019)
  - Championship belt as welterweight (152 lbs)

## Additional Skills

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### Spanish

- Fluently bilingual and bicultural, born and raised in Mexico until the age of twelve arriving to the United States of America as an undocumented person.
- Continued academic education of the Spanish language throughout high school and undergraduate studies.

### Strengths

- Identified from Rath, T., & Conchie, B. (2008). *Strengths based leadership: Great leaders, teams, and why people follow*. Simon and Schuster:
  - Maximizer; Self Assurance; Arranger; Relator; Achiever (Activator; Competition)