

Education

M.S.W. from Washington University, St. Louis, May 2001
B.S.W. with honors, University of Kansas 1999

Professional Experience: Program/Campaign Development and Evaluation, Policy Analysis, Community Organizing, and Direct Practice

•School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas, Lawrence and Overland Park, Kansas

Adjunct Professor and Guest Lecturer, October 2001-present

Have taught Social Policy (SW720) (Fall 2007), Community and Organizational Practice (SW713) (Fall 2007), Advanced Policies and Programs (SW841) (Fall 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008), and Advanced Advocacy Practice (SW846) (Spring 2008) in the Master of Social Work program and Seminar in Professional Issues (SW623) (Spring 2008) and Social Work Practice with Latinos (SW455) (Summer 2008) in the Bachelor of Social Work program. Have guest lectured in Policy Analysis, Information Management, Introduction to Social Work, Diversity, Social Work Practice, and Community Organizing classes.

•El Centro, Inc., Kansas City, Kansas

Director of Policy Advocacy and Research, August 2002-June 2007

Conducted policy advocacy on issues including access to higher education, predatory lending, affordable housing, workers' rights, civil liberties, and health care. Cultivated allies in Kansas to work on legislative, media, and organizing campaigns. Conducted qualitative and quantitative research with immigrant families to inform policy decisions and give voice to immigrants' struggles, including one publication in Families in Society related to social work practice with Latino immigrant families (2008). Directed voter registration and education efforts in Latino communities. Trained other nonprofit organizations on civic participation. Facilitated leadership development for youth and adult immigrant leaders. Served on regional and national coalitions focused on immigrant rights. Led campaign to pass instate tuition for undocumented immigrant students, more than \$800,000 per year in asset-based anti-poverty initiatives, and enhanced consumer protections, as well as opposition to several anti-immigrant legislative attacks. Wrote grants and conducted grassroots fundraisers to support program operations.

•El Centro, Inc., Kansas City, Kansas

Special Projects Coordinator, May 2001-August 2002

Developed new initiatives for Latino immigrant community, including Asset Development Department to enhance economic justice for low-income families, and a mortgage loan product for undocumented immigrants. Directly supervised four staff.

•Life Crisis Services, St. Louis, Missouri

Spanish Hotline Developer, March 2000-May 2001

Secured over \$80,000 in grants to support Spanish crisis line. Met with community leaders, developed promotional materials, conducted training, created and administered evaluations, worked with Latino immigrants in crisis, and supervised operation of hotline.

•Center for Social Development, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri

Research Assistant and Social Work Intern, January 2000-May 2001

Researched strategies to make higher education more accessible for low-income individuals. Assisted in planning national symposium on asset development policy. Developed working document on providing state tax credits for corporate contribution to IDA matching funds.

•Missouri Progressive Vote, St. Louis, Missouri

Campaign Organizer, June 2000-November 2000

Managed campaign for state representative. Conducted voter registration drives, educated community about progressive issues, assisted with fundraising and strategy planning, and recruited volunteers.

Honors and Awards

Pitch "Best of" Award, 2007, "Immigration Activist"
El Centro, Inc. Employee of the Year, 2006

University of Kansas Social Work Alumna of the Year, April 2005
Equal Educational Opportunity Award, Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, 2004
Phi Beta Kappa, 1999
Truman Scholar, 1999 (National award for outstanding students in public service; one of 70 chosen)

Affiliations and Memberships

Kansas Families United for Public Education, Board Member 2007-present
Cross Border Network for Justice and Solidarity, Board Member 2002-2008, Vice-President of the Board of Directors 2002-2006
Campaign for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, Strategy Council member 2007
United We DREAM Campaign, Steering Committee member 2003-2007