**Education**

* **Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Counseling,** University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, **2022**
* **Graduate Certificate, Mexican American Studies,** University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, **2020**
* **Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling, University** of Texas - Pan American, **2015**
* **Bachelors in Rehabilitative Services**, University of Texas - Pan American, **2011**

**Current Positions**

* **Lecturer;** University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Rehabilitation Services & Counseling

*January 2023- Current*

*Responsibilities include delivering instruction, career exploration, student mentoring and career advisement. In this position I have taught multiple undergraduate courses to include: Family & Disability, Case Management, Psychology of Disability, Disability Policy & Advocacy, at both the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses.*

* **Board Member**; Valley Association for Independent Living

*January 2021- Current*

*Responsibilities include* determining and overseeing corporate policies of the center, promote a growing sense of personal dignity and empowerment through individualized programs, providing accountability to the community, ensuring a positive and productive work environment for center staff and developing center performance plans.

**Relevant Past Experience**

* **Community Work Incentives Coordinator**; Austin Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc.

*August 2022- August 2023*

*Responsibilities include providing work incentive counseling, career planning, and providing benefits analysis to Social Security beneficiaries on Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income.*

* **PhD Research Assistant;** UTRGV

*January 2021 – August 2022*

*Responsibilities included delivering instruction, clinical supervision, career exploration, student mentoring and career advisement. In this position I was also tasked with the daily operations of the Peer Mentoring Center at the School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling.*

* **Training & Development Specialist**; Valley Association for Independent Living

*September 2019- December 2020*

*Responsibilities included developing, creating, administering, and delivering systems advocacy training to businesses, organizations, and internal professional development. Duties also included: overseeing existing support groups, independent living skills classes, and trainings provided to individual consumers, Administrative duties were managing the daily operations of stand-alone grant programs, budgets, and program development and evaluation.*

* **Peer Services Coach;** Valley Association for Independent Living

*September 2018- September 2019*

*Responsibilities included developing and creating a training session manual and program for people with disabilities to become peer support specialists for community members living in restrictive settings. In this role I provided direct counseling and mentoring services and career training to individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities in independent living and peer services. I developed and created a training program for students receiving special education services and seeking to transition to post-secondary education and vocational settings.*

* **Special Education Teacher**; Webb CISD, La Joya ISD, McAllen ISD

*September 2015 - July 2017*

*Responsibilities included providing resource, inclusion, and self-contained education services for students with disabilities in the rural secondary school settings, facilitating Annual Review and Dismissal Meetings, 504 Plans, and Substance Abuse Informational Sessions.*

* **Social Worker;** Hidalgo County Public Defender’s Office

*March 2012 – September 2015*

*Responsibilities included providing case management, individual counseling, and referral services to people with disabilities in the criminal justice system during the pre-adjudication process.*

**Presentations/Publications**

* Contributing Factors of Successful Undergraduate Leadership Development and Mentoring Programs at an HSI. *National Council on Rehabilitation Education Conference*. April 2022
* Pláticas: Exhausted Latinx Scholars - The Personal & Social Impact of CID during Pandemic. *National Council on Rehabilitation Education Conference*. April 2022
* Testimonios of Two Latinas in Academe. *Journal of South Texas*. Fall 2021
* Poetry Performance: Beyond the Checkpoint. *City of Edinburg's first Spoken Word Poetry Festival: Untamed Tongues: Poets Sin Fronteras.* October 2021
* Bridging the Gaps between Secondary and Post-secondary education for Students of Color with Disabilities. 2*2nd Annual Conference Curriculum & Pedagogy Group.* October 2021
* Pre-Conference Workshop: Decolonizing Academia. 2*2nd Annual Conference Curriculum & Pedagogy Group.* October 2021
* De Quien Eres? *National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Tejas Foco.* March 2021.
* Human Trafficking Crimes against People with Disabilities. F*ourteenth Annual Symposium on Human Trafficking. April 2019*
* Transportation Advocacy: Different Effective Methods that Work for You. *Transportation Works: Accessing Transportation in a Diverse Community. March 2019*
* Color Blind*. Noche De MAS/Chachalaca Review Launch. Chachalaca Review, Volume 4: Identity.* December 2018
* Challenging Traditional Latina Roles that Carry Over from the Home into the Workforce. *National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies.* October 2017
* Why do we do what we do? An autoethnographic exploration of teaching in a system that provides barriers. *National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Tejas Foco.* February 2017
* Using Accessibility and Free Apps in the Special Education Classroom. *IpadPalooza South Texas Techno Libre Conference.* August 2016
* Dissertation Title: ***From Nepantla to Aztlan: Testimonios of Faculty Mothers of Color with Disabilities;*** Dissertation Members: Drs. Bruce Reed, Sandra Hansmann, Kim Nguyen-Finn, Miryam Espinosa- Dulanto

**Certifications**

* Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Credential
* Standard Teacher Certificate EC-12 Special Education
* Standard Teacher Certificate EC-6 Generalist
* Standard Teacher Certificate 4-8 Generalist
* Class C Certificate: [Texas Passenger Vehicle Endorsement](https://online-cdl-test.com/Texas/TX-cdl-passenger-vehicles-test)

**Postsecondary Courses Taught:**

* Case Management
* Psychology of Disability
* Disability and Advocacy
* Family and Disability

**Primary and Secondary Courses Taught:**

* Special Education Self-Contained Core Courses
* Special Education Vocational and Independent Living Skills
* General Education Texas and American History
* General Education Computer Literacy Course

**Current Community Service**

* Board Member for Valley Association for Independent Living
* Consultant and Trainer on Transportation Accessibility Issues for University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Transportation Department and Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
* Peer Mentor for Dissertation Writing Group at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley