



LONG BEACH STATE UNIVERSITY
**CENTER FOR LATINO
 COMMUNITY HEALTH**
 EVALUATION & LEADERSHIP TRAINING

2018 - 2019 Annual Report

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About Us

The CSULB Center for Latino Community Health, Evaluation, and Leadership Training (hereafter Center) is a partnership between UnidosUS (formerly known as the National Council of La Raza [NCLR]) and California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). The CSULB Center was established in 2005 through a congressional earmark spearheaded by then Congresswoman Hilda Solis. The Center has three pillars of work which are highlighted in our descriptive name.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Center's research and program areas embody the use of community based participatory research methods – an academic model that promotes community empowerment, learning, and participation in society. Our research promotes faculty excellence through research, prepares students for success, expands the self-efficacy of community members involved in our projects, and creates collaborative partnerships aimed at impacting the delivery and messaging of Latino health through culturally and linguistically appropriate methods.

EVALUATION

We provide culturally and linguistically appropriate evaluation services to community-based organizations and health entities such as federally qualified health centers who serve Latinos. These services include research and evaluation design; quantitative and qualitative instrument development; training for data collection staff (in person or via webinar); technical assistance; data processing and cleaning; data analysis; and report writing. Clients include both local and national organizations.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

We are committed to student success and the academic and professional preparation of future generations. We collaborate across departments and colleges to gain funding to provide exemplary student success programs. Each year, we provide internship opportunities and fellowships to support students from CSULB and other institutions. In collaboration with faculty and staff across the campus, we provide student trainings and workshops to support academic and professional development.

Mission, Vision and Values

Our Mission:

To improve, promote, and advocate for the health, culture, and well-being of diverse Latino/Hispanic communities.

Our Vision:

To improve health, educational, and social equity among the Latino communities with whom we work and serve.

Our Values:

- We are driven to action by our community-centered mission.
- We embody an attitude of community service.
- We operate with integrity and inclusiveness.
- We foster leadership and empowerment.
- We value our grass-roots underpinnings.
- We are accountable to the communities we serve.
- We uphold the community-driven missions of NCLR and CSULB.
- We acknowledge, appreciate, and celebrate the cultures, resiliency, insights, and contributions of Latino/Hispanic families and communities.

Message from the Center Directors

2018-2019 was an exciting year for the CSULB Center for Latino Community Health, Evaluation and Leadership Training with the naming of Dr. Melawhy Garcia as Co-Director of the Center. Dr. Garcia has grown with the Center since its founding in 2005. She worked closely with founding Director Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis to transform \$500,000 in seed funding provided by an earmark from the Congressional Hispanic Task Force for Health, to the vibrant, self-sustaining health research center with a team of seasoned bilingual, bicultural professional staff that it is.

In 2019 the Center will be celebrating its 15th anniversary, or *quinceañera*, a time measured for human lives as a transition to adulthood. In so many ways the CSULB Center for Latino Community Health has made its mark already with its work, and is ready for a transition to foster deeper collaborations across universities and regions. A forerunner in HIV prevention research among Latinos, we have four culturally-tailored shelf-ready curricula. We strongly support the integration of community health workers, *promotores de salud*, as recognized and valued colleagues in supporting health and addressing health disparities. We adapted the model of *promotores* to the educational environment, using a peer-mentorship model for the *Mi Casa Mi Universidad* project, CSULB's first Hispanic-Serving Institution grant. This effective model has since been scaled up vis-à-vis numerous efforts throughout campus, including our own work through the Hispanic Health Opportunity Learning Alliance, the HSI-STEM *Sí Puedo* project, the *Salud a la Vida* project, and most recently the Long Beach Collaborative to Prevent Childhood Obesity: *Familias Saludables* project, to name a few. Finally, within each of our community-based participatory research endeavors, which comprise the bulk of our daily activities, we support the community wealth and values of the diverse Latinx community members. This approach has been the backbone of success in promoting health and health equity. Each of these facets of our work indicate that the Center is ready to take on ever greater challenges in the decade ahead.

Central to all the work via the Center for Latino Community Health are the contributions that CSULB students, both graduate and undergraduates, make as they simultaneously strengthen their skills to be rigorously prepared professionals. Each year our annual reports list by name each student, which comprise 75% of our team. Similarly, we recognize and appreciate our many community partners, and advisory board members of national experts. While each is listed individually, a heartfelt *gracias* to all of our Center *familia*. Together we are the strength of our community.

Year at a Glance



58 students trained and mentored



\$1.6 million in external funding



22 student trainings and professional development workshops



5 new grants and contracts



\$70,844 in scholarship funds to students



424 community members served

Programs and Activities

Our programs empower communities by training undergraduate and graduate students to work closely with multi-disciplinary researchers to positively create culturally relevant strategies that improve the health access of Latinos in the United States. We strive to ensure that each of our programs has a sustainable and tangible outcome in the community and that our work promotes positive change in Latino health status and access.



Scholars Program



LONG BEACH COLLABORATIVE



**Comprando Rico y Sano
Evaluation**



**Community Health Worker
Trainings**



Focus Group Evaluation

**AVANZANDO
THROUGH COLLEGE**

**Familias Unidas: Pre-
diabetes Prevention**

**Palliative Care
Community Health
Worker Training**



Long Beach Collaborative to Prevent Childhood Obesity (September 2017 - June 2020)

Pillars: Community Health Research

Funder: Office of Minority Health (OMH) as a national demonstration project

Project Staff: Mara Bird, Ph.D. (Principle Investigator), Diana Aguirre, MPH (Project coordinator)

LONG BEACH COLLABORATIVE

In collaboration with The Children's Clinic: serving children and their families and the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, the Long Beach Collaborative entered its second year of implementation of a quasi-experimental research study with an obesity diagnosis Latino families with children between the ages of 5 - 12 years, with the purpose of reducing the prevalence of childhood obesity. Additional community partners include: Spane Park in Paramount and Starr King Elementary School. Dr. Olga Karosteleva and CSULB's Statistical Consulting group provide evaluation services.



Sixty-seven children and their families initiated participation in the culturally and linguistically tailored, program consisting of 7 health education sessions and five evaluation points, including pre-, post-, and 3-, 6-, and 9-month follow up. Fifty-four families participated in the control group, which consists of 3 evaluation points, pre-, 3- and 9- month. The control group receives standard of care, which includes information pamphlets and referrals to existing community resources. In total, 396 individuals and their families and guest have participated in either the control or intervention.



Graduate Research Fellows: 12
Undergraduate Interns: 29

During my time with the Long Beach Collaborative - *Familias Saludables* program, I had the ability to build and enhance skills essential for program implementation and evaluation. Through this opportunity I was given a space to grow as a student and young professional in public health.

Clarivel Vega- Graduate Research Fellow

In addition to the community health and evaluation components of the research, 7 graduate students from CSULB were trained to implement the research activities. The Graduate Research Fellows lead the health education sessions. Students also assist in the evaluation component. Eight students were hired throughout the year to be part of the evaluation team and facilitate data collection, entry, and tracking. In addition, during the Spring and Fall semesters, undergraduate students intern for course credit and take part in the research activities.

We are grateful for the contributions of all the staff, students, and community partners who are working together to address the disparate rates of childhood obesity among the Latinx community in Long Beach.

Graduate Research Fellows

- Patricia Dionicio
- Angelica Durazo
- Lucero Silva
- Kimberly Sanchez
- Patricia Trinidad
- Clarivel Vega
- Esmeralda Castro

Evaluation Team

- Gabriel Rodriguez
- Eduardo Renteria
- Jesus Gaona
- Nicole Morales
- Eva Lee
- Marco Ceballos
- Leticia Perez
- Leticia Casarez

Interns

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Alejandra Vargas | • Elva Velez | • Maricela Bravo |
| • Ashley Colbern | • Janet Haro-Ramirez | • Marisol Cruz |
| • Brenda Rosales | • Jannira Barrera | • Melissa Viera |
| • Briana Garcia | • Jasmin Salazar | • Roselia Perez |
| • Candelaria Garcia | • Jessica Lopez | • Sofia Paniagua |
| • Caroline Carbajal | • Kate Diaz | • Stephania Enriquez |
| • Chelsea GrosJean | • Leslie Lopez | • Valeria Montes |
| • Christina Ta | • Lizette Sanchez | • Zeinab Jafaar |
| • Daisy Corona | • Jacqueline Garcia De La Cruz | |
| • Daniel Ron | | |
| • Eldy Martinez | | |





Telehealth Education and Learning in Psychiatry

Pillars: Training

Funder: California Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development

Project Staff: Christine Costa, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, Clinical Specialist, Cathleen Deckers, EdD, RN, MSN, CHSE, and Center for Latino Community Health staff

T-HELP is a pilot clinical training program designed to train psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) students at CSULB to effectively use telehealth technology to reach underserved individuals with mental health needs and wellness activities in community settings. It's funded by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development and in collaboration with the School of Nursing at CSULB. PMHNP students will facilitate 8-week wellness groups in various community sites, and on campus to provide individuals with culturally and linguistically appropriate cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) on various topics aimed to increase coping skills and resilience. All sessions will be facilitated under the supervision of board certified psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners and CSULB faculty. The findings from this pilot program will inform best practices for utilization of telehealth technology for mental health services by PMHNPs as well as future training needed for the profession. During the Spring 2019, five focus groups were conducted with the populations of interest to help inform the topics covered in the wellness groups that are set to initiate in the Fall of 2019.

AVANZANDO THROUGH COLLEGE

Avanzando through College Learning Community

Pillars: Training

Funder: Unidos US

Funded by UnidosUS, *Avanzando* through College is a learning community to support incoming Latino students who are freshmen or first-year transfer students at CSULB. Through a series of workshops, the program helps students navigate the higher education system at CSULB and provides skill-building for educational success to save time and money. The program requires a one-year commitment. Students receive a scholarship for participation. Thirty students will be recruited and selected to participate starting Fall 2019.



Community Health Worker Trainings

Pillars: Community Training

Through funding by L.A. Care Health Plan, a health promoter training consisting of 5 modules was developed to train 18 community health workers on several topics including the role of community health workers, professionalism, effective recruitment strategies, best practices, evaluation, data collection and tracking, effective health education strategies, culture and health, and cultural competency. The modules were available in English and Spanish. Certificates were provided to those who scored 80% or higher on all post-tests, 18 participants.



Five CSULB undergraduate students were selected as ÁNDALE Scholars to obtain academic and professional training, engage in research with a faculty mentor, and participate in an externship experience during the summer. In addition, our collaborating institution and sister campus, CSU Monterrey Bay, also selected five students as scholars. During the month of June and July three of their scholars completed their externship with our Center and participated in the Long Beach Collaborative project. Two of our scholars, Carina Alvarado and Caroline Carbajal, presented their research projects at the University of Southern California (USC) DORI's 6th Annual Research Symposium on Diabetes and Obesity. Caroline gave an oral presentation, and Carina presented a poster where she received 1st place in the research symposium. In addition, Carina and Aaron Espitia were accepted to the Summer Program in Diabetes and Obesity Research (SPIDOR) at USC. We are proud of our scholars and grateful to the faculty mentors that give their time for trainings and mentorship. Carina and Caroline worked under the direction of Dr. Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez from the department of Health Science, Lizette and Diana worked with Dr. Kelly Walters, and Candelaria worked with Dr. Mara Bird.

Scholars:

- Candelaria Garcia, major: Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Carina Alvarado, major: Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Caroline Carbajal, major: Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Diana Belmontez, major: Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology
- Lizette Sanchez, major: Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology



Photo: Final presentations and certificate ceremony for ÁNDALE Scholars from CSULB and CSUMB. July 2018.

Being in the ÁNDALE scholars program illuminated my understanding on research. I received academic and professional training that provided me the opportunity to access informational resources to expand my knowledge. It allowed me to develop meaningful relationships with staff, my mentor, and my peers that provided understanding and support in my career and academic goals. Each of these experiences allowed me to be exposed to new training, research findings, and research experiences in the health field.

-Caroline Carbajal

Pillars: Evaluation

Center staff provide evaluation of the Comprando Rico y Sano (CRS) project, led by UnidosUS Health in Washington, DC. The purpose of the program is to enhance national food security. We provided the original evaluation plan in 2014 and have continued to partner ever since to with 24-28 sites yearly. . Our role is to evaluate the successful delivery of a curriculum provided by community health workers/*promotores de salud* that shares nutrition education and SNAP information to vulnerable communities. Primary funding for this project is to UnidosUS from the Walmart Foundation.



Good Samaritan Hospital
A Tradition of Caring

Stroke Needs Assessment***Pillars: Evaluation***

The Center partnered in a needs assessment for stroke prevention and support for survivors in collaboration with the staff, patients and Community Advisory Board (CAB) at Good Samaritan Hospital, Los Angeles. We provided data analysis of four focus groups (2 in English and 2 in Spanish) and demographic survey data using mixed methods and created a report to inform the CAB decision-making about future stroke prevention services to be provided by Good Samaritan Hospital.

Familias Unidas: Pre-diabetes Prevention***Pillars: Community Health Research***

In partnership with the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, St. Mary's Medical Center, and The Children's Clinic, this pre-diabetes diagnosis and treatment research planning project aimed to include community members living with diabetes to plan research to ultimately decrease the number of diabetes diagnoses within the Latino community in Long Beach, CA Zip Code 90813, the zip code that for the last decade has had the highest incidence rate in the City. Through the development and implementation of community preferences for pre-diabetes education and prevention activities, this project hoped to educate the community as well as engage in comparative effectiveness research and data collection. This endeavor is supported by Patient-Centered Outcome Research Institute. Two letters of intent and one full research proposal was submitted to PCORI thanks to this funding, but ultimately our research proposal was not awarded funding. The collaboration partners will continue to pursue funding for diabetes prevention through additional mechanisms, given its importance to the community.

The CSULB Center was involved in the following *evaluation* projects during the reporting period:

Palliative Care in the Latino Community***Pillars: Training***

The goal of this project was to replicate the earlier *Empoderate* training project to increase awareness and use of palliative care (care that improves quality of life for people with chronic illness and/or dying) within the Latino community. The funding for this project provided an additional interactive training to community health workers/*promotores de salud* in Spanish to help increase their awareness of physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual palliative care so that they may serve Latino patients and families, to relieve suffering within their communities. Funding by Gary and Mary West via the National Symposium on Academic Palliative Care and Research allowed for an additional training of 15 *promotores*.

Conferences & Publications

American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference

In November 2018, the Center took a team of staff and students to the American Public Health Association Conference in San Diego, CA. Erika Bonilla gave an oral presentation on the results of the HIV, Hep C, and substance abuse prevention project titled *Salud a la Vida, Cheers to Life!* Director, Mara Bird, led a round table discussion on palliative care among Latinos and the role of community health workers.

Bird, M., Gerber, O., Bonilla, E., Morris, L., Goebel, J. (2018). Community health workers increase awareness of palliative care among Latino communities. *2018 Annual American Public Health Association Conference, San Diego, Ca. Round table.*

Bonilla, E., Bird, M., Nguyen-Rodriguez, S., Rios-Ellis, B., Garcia, M., Lucas, W., Martinez, C. (2018). *Salud a la Vida: Cheers to Life!* A university and community-based prevention intervention to address HIV, hepatitis C, alcohol, and substance abuse among Latinx young adults. *2018 Annual American Public Health Association Conference, San Diego, Ca. Oral presentation.*

The center also hosted a meet and greet for alumni and prospective students.

Publications

Garcia, M. L., Gatdula, N., Bonilla E., Frank, G.C., Bird, M., Rascón, M., & Rios-Ellis, B. (2019). Engaging intergenerational Hispanic/Latinos to examine factors influencing childhood obesity using the PRECEDE-PROCEED model. *Maternal and Child Health Journal, 23(6)*, 802-810. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10995-018-02696-y>



Photo: Staff, students, and faculty from the Center and the Health Science Department after the oral presentation of 'Cheers to Life!' at APHA.

Collaborative Impact

The Center's impact is strengthened by its collaborations across different departments, colleges, and universities with students, faculty, and staff; in addition to the outstanding community partners. We could not do the work that we do without their participation.

Students

The Center provided \$42,900.00 in student fellowship funding to graduate students and \$27,984.00 to undergraduate students in the College of Health and Human Services. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, a total of 51 CSULB and 7 external undergraduate and graduate students contributed to the Center in 2018-2019. Some students are hired through grant-specific projects or receive grant-sponsored support, however most are volunteers who receive internship course credit or gain from the work experience. Students are involved in different capacities, but are integral to all Center activities. While receiving training, mentorship, and hands-on experience, students are also making a difference in the communities we serve. Below is a list of students along with the degree they are pursuing.

Graduate Students (13)

- Angelica Durazo, Master of Public Health
- Ashley Colbern, Master of Public Health
- Clarivel Vega, Master of Public Health
- Deanna Afif, Master of Public Health
- Esmeralda Castro, Masters of Science in Kinesiology
- Eva Lee, Masters of Science in Mathematics
- Kimberly Sanchez, Master of Public Health
- Leticia Cesares, Master of Public Health
- Lucero Silva, Master of Public Health
- Maricela Bravo, Master of Public Health
- Patricia Dionicio, Master of Public Health
- Patricia Trinidad, Master of Public Health
- Zeinab Jafaar, Master of Public Health

We had a total of 39 community partners. Special acknowledgement to our main community partners; The Children's Clinic, the Long Beach Public Health Department, and the City of Paramount.



Undergraduate Students (43)

- Alejandra Vargas, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Angie Alcaraz, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Ariel Garcia, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Brenda Rosales, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Briana Garcia, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Candelaria Garcia, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Carina Alvarado, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Caroline Carbajal, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Chelsea GrosJean, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Christina Ta, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Daisy Corona, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Daniel Ron, Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration
- Debbie Johansson, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Diana Belmontez, Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology
- Eduardo Renteria, Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
- Eldy Martinez, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Elva Velez, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Gabriel Rodriguez, Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
- Hoarcio Genis, Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, CSU Monterrey Bay
- Jacqueline Garcia De La Cruz, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Jacqueline Netro Beltran, Kinesiology, University of Pennsylvania
- Janet Haro-Ramirez, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Jannira Barrera, Bachelor of Science in Health Science & Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies
- Jasmin Salazar, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Jessica Lopez, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Jesus Goana, Bachelor of Science in Anthropology
- Kate Diaz, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Leslie Lopez, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Leticia Perez Nolasco, Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration
- Lizette Sanchez, Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology
- Marcos Ceballos, Bachelor of Science in Statistics
- Marisol Cruz, Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, CSU Monterrey Bay
- Marissa Jauregui, Master of Public Health, University of Washington, YHEMOP Summer Fellowship
- Melissa Viera, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Nicole Morales, Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences, Long Beach City College
- Noah Ferrel, Chapman University, Mathematics
- Rocio Becerra, Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, CSU Monterrey Bay
- Rosalba Saavedra, Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, CSU Monterrey Bay
- Roselia Perez, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Sofia Paniagua, Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology
- Stephania Enriquez, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Valeria Montes, Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Paula Duarte, High School Volunteer, LB CALL

Collaborative Impact Continued.

Faculty & Staff

We actively engaged 25 faculty, staff, and administrators last year, involving them in research, leadership or grant writing efforts.

College of Health & Human Services

- Michelle Barrack, Associate Professor, Department of Family & Consumer Sciences
- Dina Berg, Lecturer, Department of Public Policy & Administration
- Maria Claver, Professor, Director of Gerontology Program
- Christine Costa, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing
- Jackie Dawson, Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Therapy
- Gail Frank, Professor, Department of Family & Consumer Sciences
- Melawhy Garcia, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Science
- Joy Goebel, Associate Professor, School of Nursing
- Virginia Gray, Associate Professor, Department of Family & Consumer Sciences
- Marissa Hansen, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
- Amber Johnson, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Science
- Javier Lopez-Zetina, Associate Professor, Department of Health Science
- Kristina Lovato, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
- Iveris L. Martinez, Archstone Foundation Endowed Chair, Gerontology
- Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez, Associate Professor, Department of Health Science
- Debra Rannalli, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing
- Cheryl Rock, Assistant Professor, Department of Family & Consumer Sciences
- Michelle Taylor, Assistant Professor, Department of Family & Consumer Sciences
- Kellie Walters, Assistant Professor, Department of Kinesiology
- Debi Windle, Full-time Lecturer, School of Nursing

College of Education

- Bitu Ghafoori, Professor, Department of Advanced Studies in Education & Counseling
- Ana Ortiz, Professor, Leadership Department Home

College of Liberal Arts

- Gino Galvez, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
- Guido Urizar, Professor, Department of Psychology
- Rigoberto Rodriguez, Lecturer, Department of Chicano and Latino Studies (Chair)

College of Natural Sciences & Math

- Olga Korosteleva, Professor, Department of Mathematics

Advisory Board

Hector Balcazar, Dean, Charles Drew Medical University

Ana Carricchi-Lopez, City Health Officer, Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services

Felipe Castro, Professor, Arizona State University, Southwest Borderlands Scholar

Jorge Daboub, Vice President of Client Development, Univision

Ziola Escobar, Vice President of Strategic Development and Community Support, President of the AltaMed Foundation, AltaMed Health Services

Cynthia Gomez, (retired) Director, San Francisco State University Health Equity Institute

David Hayes-Bautista, Professor of Medicine, Director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture at the School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles

Sara Elena Loiza, Executive Director, Latino Consultants

Vicky Mays, Professor, University of California, Los Angeles, Fielding School of Public Health

Jennifer Ng'andu, Senior Program Office, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Kurt Organista, Professor, University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare,

Henry Pacheco, Director of Medicine and Public Health, National Hispanic Council on Aging

Britt Rios-Ellis, Dean, CSU Monterrey Bay College of Health Sciences and Human Services

David Rivers, Associate Professor and Director of the Public Information and Community Outreach at the Medical University of South Carolina

Richard Zaldivar, Executive Director, The Wall Las Memorias Project

Leadership Team



Mara Bird, PhD, MA, Director

Dr. Bird holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Kalamazoo College, and a Masters of Art and Doctorate of Philosophy in International Relations from the University of Southern California. Dr. Bird serves as the Co-Principal Investigator /Program Director for all Center projects. She participates in and oversees all grant writing and manuscript efforts and is responsible for the oversight of center operations including human resources and account management. Dr. Bird also collaborates as the CSULB BUILD Community Outreach Liaison and as a Mentor for the *ÁNDALE Scholars Program*. She is also a part-time lecturer in the Department of Health Science at CSULB.



Melawhy Garcia-Vega, MPH, PhD, Assistant Professor, Faculty Associate

Dr. Garcia-Vega holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Masters of Public Health from California State University, Long Beach and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Public Health with an emphasis in Health Behavior Research from the University of California, San Diego / San Diego State University (UCSD/SDSU) Joint Doctoral Program. Dr. Garcia is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Science at CSULB and a Faculty Associate at the Center. She serves as the PI for the *ÁNDALE Scholars Program* and for several evaluation projects. She also collaborates in the development and submission of federal and private grant proposals.



Mayra Rascón, MPH, Research Associate, Evaluator

Ms. Rascón holds a Bachelor of Science in Physiological Sciences and a minor in Spanish from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Masters of Public Health in Community Health Education from California State University, Long Beach. Ms. Rascón is currently working towards completing her Doctorate of Philosophy in Health Policy and Management from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. She is the evaluator for the *ÁNDALE Scholars Program* and T-HELP project and leads grant writing and preparation of manuscripts at the Center. She is also a part-time lecturer in the Department of Health Science at CSULB.



Erika Bonilla, MPH, Research Associate, Program Manager

Ms. Bonilla holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and a Masters of Public Health from California State University, Long Beach. She served as the Program Manager to various projects including the *ÁNDALE Scholars Program* and the Long Beach Collaborative. In her role, she coordinated the implementation of the projects, as well as mentored and provided leadership development for undergraduate and graduate students. Ms. Bonilla also collaborated in the account management, development, and preparation of grant proposals, abstracts, and manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Ms. Bonilla's last day was August 15, 2018, after 9 years of service.

Natalia Gatdula, MPH, Research Associate, Program Manager

Ms. Gatdula holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Science and a Masters of Public Health from California State University, Long Beach. She serves as the Program Manager to the *ÁNDALE Scholars Program* and the T-HELP project. Ms. Gatdula leads the fiscal monitoring and account management, coordinates student trainings, provides leadership development and mentorship to undergraduate and graduate students, and also collaborates in the development and preparation of grant proposals, abstracts, and manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals. She is also a part-time lecturer in the Department of Health Science at CSULB.



Diana Aguirre, MPH, CHES, Research Associate, Program Manager

Ms. Aguirre holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Science and a Masters of Public Health from California State University, Long Beach. She started at the Center in July 2018 and serves as the Program Manager to the Long Beach Collaborative. In her role, she coordinates the implementation of the intervention and control sessions, supervises and trains the Graduate Research Fellows and undergraduate interns/volunteers. Ms. Aguirre also collaborates in the development and preparation of grant proposals, abstracts, and manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals.



Alex Garbanati, BA, Technology and Graphics Coordinator

Mr. Garbanati is currently the Technology & Graphics Coordinator for the T-HELP program. Mr. Garbanati's role with the Center includes creating and maintaining multiple websites, designing and printing promotional and educational materials, and managing and training others to use technical equipment and software. Mr. Garbanati obtained his BA in Sociology from the University of Southern California and later attended Otis College of Art and Design's continuing education program. He has 8 years of fine artist training at Mission Renaissance of Los Angeles. His specialized experience and education in communication, art, technology, and recruitment make his skills ideal for innovative campaigns with health, social, and/or cultural messages.



Joaquin Morales, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Morales is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business at CSULB. As the Center's Administrative Assistant, Mr. Morales is responsible for center communication, office maintenance, coordinating intern/volunteer schedules, processing staff time cards for submission, and assisting with the Center's accounting. He also collaborates in preparing for Center meetings, trainings, and conferences.



Fiscal Overview

10

total grants and contracts



\$1.6 million

total grants and contracts funding

5

continuing grants and contracts



\$537,560

in continuing grants and contracts

5

new grants and contracts



\$1.1 million

in new funding

9

grant and contract proposals written



\$16.9 million

in proposed grants and contracts

Grants and Contracts (continued from previous-year funding)

Name of Project	Funder	Amount	Award End Date
Advancing Nutrition Development through Alliance for Leadership and Education (ÁNDALE) Scholars Program	United States Department of Agriculture	\$76,990	9/30/2019
Comprando Rico y Sano Nutrition Project IV- Evaluation 2017-2018	UnidosUS	\$54,737	11/30/2018
Familias Unidas: Pre-Diabetes Diagnosis and Treatment (Tier III)	Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute	\$45,833	7/21/2018
Long Beach Collaborative to Prevent Latino Childhood Obesity	Office of Minority Health	\$350,000	6/30/2019
Increasing Palliative Care within the Latino Community	National Symposium on Academic Palliative Care and Research	\$10,000	11/21/2018

Subtotal: \$537,560.00

New Grants and Contracts (initiated between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019)

Name of Project	Funder	Amount	Award End Date
Advancing Nutrition Development through Alliance for Leadership and Education (ÁNDALE) Scholars Program	United States Department of Agriculture	\$76,990	9/30/2019
Comprando Rico y Sano Nutrition Project IV- Evaluation 2017-2018	UnidosUS	\$54,737	11/30/2018
Familias Unidas: Pre-Diabetes Diagnosis and Treatment (Tier III)	Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute	\$45,833	7/21/2018
Long Beach Collaborative to Prevent Latino Childhood Obesity	Office of Minority Health	\$350,000	6/30/2019
Increasing Palliative Care within the Latino Community	National Symposium on Academic Palliative Care and Research	\$10,000	11/21/2018

Subtotal: \$537,560.00

Contact us:
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Please visit us at: **Website** | **Facebook** | **Instagram** | **Twitter**

