

DIANA PELAEZ

HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY

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PROFILE

Accomplished educator with a strong background in fostering student engagement and success in First Year Experience courses. Demonstrates consistent ability to inspire and motivate students resulting in higher engagement levels and academic performance.

EDUCATION

M.A.T. Education

Trinity University | San Antonio, TX

Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*

M.A. School Counseling

University of Texas in San Antonio | San Antonio, TX

Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*

B.A. English and Communication

Trinity University | San Antonio, TX

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor

Texas A&M-San Antonio | San Antonio, TX

Aug 2024 - Present

- Teach First Year Seminar, to new college students that helps them learn and develop an awareness of self, academic strategies, career exploration, and essential soft skills.
- Support students by teaching academic learning strategies that will develop grit and enhance academic and professional success.
- Provide guidance and support to students through individual academic and career planning meetings.

Visiting Lecturer

Northwest Vista College | San Antonio, TX

Oct 2018 - Present

- Implemented interactive teaching techniques and personalized mentoring strategies to students in First Year Experience courses, EDUC 1300 Learning Framework and SDEV 0370: Foundation of College Learning;
- Delivered consistent, tailored mentoring to students through the Faculty-Mentor program;
- Designed curriculum adaptable to face-to-face, remote, and fully online environments that increased learner engagement through real-world problem-solving activities, and collaborative learning;
- Integrated multimedia resources and interactive online tools to deliver comprehensive course materials to meet the needs of individual student backgrounds and goals;
- Led a project to review and realign course learning outcomes to current educational standards;
- Conducted detailed teaching observations and provided actionable feedback;
- Established a comprehensive mentoring program tailored to individual faculty development needs and access to resources on effective teaching strategies;
- Pursued and completed extensive professional development courses, including Master Teacher Certification, Quality Matters, ACUE, and the Adjunct Faculty Certification Program.

Professional School Counselor

Stevens High School | San Antonio, TX

Oct 2016 - Jul 2017

- Conducted one-on-one and group counseling sessions, to assist in students' social, personal, educational, and career development;
- Faced communication gaps by coordinating meetings among educators, parents, and administrators, resulting in more cohesive support strategies for students;
- Managed aspiring students' career planning concerns by providing structured guidance;
- Coordinated resources for students' development, including serving as a translator for Spanish-speaking students and parents.

Family Specialist/Community Liaison
Larkspur Elementary | San Antonio, TX

Jul 2014 - Jun 2016

- Awarded PTA Lifetime Achievement Award for positive impact on students, parents, and the community as Family Specialist in a Title I school;
- Successfully increased parental involvement, volunteerism, and PTA activities for both Spanish-speaking and English-speaking parents;
- Developed and implemented school-wide recognition program for students;
- Maintained positive relationships with both school parents and adults who contributed to the school, including area businesses, churches, and mentors;
- Worked with families in crisis to provide counseling, assistance, and referrals to community agencies;
- Promoted school programs through community newsletters and online stories through the district's web page;
- Taught classes to adults in the school community in various subjects including parenting, safety, health, culture, civics, academics, and English as a second language;
- Recruited volunteers and requested donations from community partners such as businesses and churches;
- Wrote and managed grants on behalf of students and the school;
- Organized and promoted special events such as parent field trips, speakers, PTA meetings, school festivals, special assemblies;
- Represented district and campus as guest speaker at area churches, Head Start, and civic meetings such as the Rotary Club.

Teacher & Counseling Intern
Bush Middle School | San Antonio, TX

Jan 2009 - Jun 2014

TEACHER ROLE:

- Addressed diverse learning needs by teaching students in Gifted and Talented, English Language Arts, Reading, Special Education and English as a Second Language;
- Elected to Superintendent's Teacher Forum, where advocacy and policy recommendations led to the introduction of new educational programs influencing district-wide curriculum improvements and resource allocation;
- Oversaw National Junior Honor Society as Club Sponsor;
- Guided 8th grade teachers as Team Leader, fostering professional development and collaborative practices that boosted student success.

COUNSELING INTERN ROLE:

- Delivered 700+ counseling hours to earn Master of Arts in Counseling at UTSA, which included, counseling students individually and in groups and resulted in improved student mental health and academic performance.

Education Grant Writer
Self-Employed

Jun 2006 - Jan 2009

- Identified inadequate funding for educational initiatives;
- Collaborated with education non-profits such as San Antonio Children's Museum and Mexican American Unity Council to research, write, and submit grant proposals.

Program Specialist
KnowledgeWorks Foundation | Cincinnati, OH

Jan 2004 - Jun 2006

- Initiated and coordinated cross-institutional meetings to align goals, curriculum standards, and administrative processes to establish new educational partnerships between high schools and colleges/universities;
- Successfully launched new Early College High Schools, increasing student enrollment in dual-credit programs in the state of Ohio.

Teacher & Mentor for Trinity MAT Interns

Jackson Middle School | San Antonio, TX

Aug 2000 - Dec 2003

- Addressed learning disabilities among students by implementing tailored education plans and executing individualized lesson strategies;
- Combated minimal student interest in service projects through innovative event planning and marketing as the sponsor for Junior Optimist Service Club;
- Served as a master teacher and mentor for Trinity University MAT students by providing hands-on mentorship and co-teaching experiences.

DISTINGUISHED HONORS & AWARDS

Distinguished Graduate of New Faculty Institute

Alamo Colleges District

Apr 2023

Master Teacher Recognition

St. Philip's College

Apr 2023

Adjunct Faculty Certification Program

Alamo Colleges District

Aug 2019

PTA Life Achievement Award

Northeast Independent School District

May 2016

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & BADGES

Texas School Counseling Certificate (Grades EC-12)

Texas Education Agency

Nov 2017 - Present

Texas Teaching Certificate (Grades 6-12)

Texas Education Agency

Nov 2017 - Present

- Secondary English
- Secondary Reading
- Secondary English Language Arts
- Secondary Generic Special Education
- English as a Second Language

Inspring Inquiry and Lifelong Learning in an Online Course

ACUE

Apr 2024

Fostering a Culture of Belonging for Online Students

ACUE

Mar 2024

Promoting Active Learning Online

ACUE

Nov 2023

QM Rubric Update Seventh Edition (RU) 2023

Quality Matters

Oct 2023

Digital Badge Coach

Alamo Colleges

Jun 2023

Quality Matters Peer Reviewer

Quality Matters

Feb 2021

Applying the Quality Matters Rubric (APPQMR)

Quality Matters

Mar 2020

Certified Online Instructor

Alamo Colleges District

May 2019

Adjunct Faculty Certification Program

Alamo Colleges

May 2019

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION

Pelaez, D., & Plummer, M. (Presenters.) (2023, March 25). Helping the phoenix take flight in college: SDEV 0370 foundations of college learning. Lecture presented at 13th Annual Pedagogy Conference, Northeast Lakeview College, TX, United States.

SOFTWARE PROFICIENCIES

- Canvas Learning Management System
 - Microsoft Office
 - Google
 - Zoom
 - Simple Syllabus
 - Alamo GPS degree planning software
 - SurveyMonkey
 - PollEverywhere
 - SkillsFirst career planning tool
 - Kahoot! learning platform
 - iGrad financial literacy
 - Canva
 - Prezi
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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Director of The President's Volunteer Service Award Program

BASIS Shavano

Aug 2017 - Present

Volunteer on Mission Trip to Build Homes in Eagle Pass, TX

University Methodist Church

Jul 2021 - Jul 2021

Reading Tutor

San Antonio Youth Literacy

Aug 2018 - Jul 2019