

Omar Lopez

Director of Stipend Programs, Clinical Professor, Field Education, Department of Children, Youth and Families at USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Los Angeles, CA, US

Dr. Lopez is a clinical associate professor of field education and serves as vice chair of its Department of Children, Youth and Families

Biography

Omar López is a clinical associate professor of field education in the Department of Children, Youth and Families. He held the inaugural administrative appointment of vice-chair, field education from 2014-2018. He currently holds an administrative appointment as director of workforce development and stipend programs, leading a team of faculty and staff who manage and implement several specialized workforce development programs funded by federal, state and local dollars. Under his leadership, these programs have received \$14.2 million in funding from 2014 to date (2018) with over \$7 million distributed to 379 MSW students in stipends ranging from \$4,000 to \$37,000.

These programs offer students a specialized curriculum and training that prepares them to pursue careers in public child welfare, public mental health, integrative behavioral health and geriatrics.

As a former undocumented immigrant from Mexico with significant professional experience in the field of immigration, López applies his expertise to a number of initiatives. He developed and implemented a global immersion program titled "Pathways to Immigration," which is designed to increase the understanding of the causes and dynamics of immigration, including current policies and legislation that impact delivery of services to immigrant families in the United States. He has been faculty advisor to the school's Latina/o and International Social Work student caucuses. López previously shared responsibilities for all of the school's San Diego Academic Center field education activities, taught integrative seminars, and was the lead in the development of the Community Organization, Planning and Administration (COPA) concentration and nontraditional social work internships in San Diego.

Availability

Moderator, Panelist, Corporate Training

Industry Expertise

Training and Development, International Affairs, Employment Services, Education/Learning, Social Services, Program Development, Government Relations, Professional Training and Coaching

Areas of Expertise

Intepretation of International Law, Advocacy, Social Services for Families, Workforce Development Initiatives, Immigration, Social Work, Child Welfare Issues, Macro Social Work, Social Work Education, Higher Education Administration

Grand Challenges

Ensure healthy development for all youth

Within a decade, we can reduce the incidence and prevalence of behavioral health problems in the population of young people from birth to age 24 by 20% from current levels and reduce racial and socioeconomic disparities in behavioral health problems by 20 percent through the widespread implementation of tested and effective preventive interventions.

Education

San Diego State University

M. S. W.

University of California, San Diego

B. A.

Accomplishments

Appreciation Award by SDSU School of Social Work, Title IV-E Program

Exceptional Service and Commitment to the School and the County of San Diego

Certificate of Appreciation by County of San Diego, HHSA

Outstanding Service, Devotion, Dedication, and Lasting Contributions from 2001 to 2009

Teamwork and Collaboration for Valuable Contributions, County of San Diego, HHSA-South Region

2008

40 under 40 award by San Diego Metro Magazine

Individuals with Bright Minds and Community Spirit - 2013

Angel in Adoption Congressional Award

Awarded by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in Washington D.C.

Under 40 Award from the Urban League of San Diego County

Urban Leader Under 40 award by Urban League of San Diego County

Hutto Patterson Foundation Award for Distinguished Faculty, USC School of Social Work

2015

Commencement Marshal, USC School of Social Work

2015

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