



Fabricio E. Balcazar, Ph.D.

Professor in the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

His primary interest is in developing methods for enhancing and facilitating consumer empowerment and personal effectiveness among individuals with disabilities. Dr. Balcazar has conducted research over the past 30 years on the development of systematic approaches for effective involvement of people with disabilities in consumer advocacy organizations. He has directed several federally-funded projects to develop and evaluate intervention models to prevent dropout and promote successful transitions among minority youth with disabilities graduating from high school; and to promote entrepreneurship and economic self-sufficiency among youth and other individuals with disabilities, among many others. Dr. Balcazar is the director of the Center on Capacity Building for Minorities with Disabilities Research and in this capacity he has led an effort to promote culturally competent service provision for minorities with disabilities. Dr. Balcazar has published over 80 peer-reviewed journal articles and published a co-edited book entitled “Race, culture and disability: Issues in Rehabilitation Research and Practice.” Dr. Balcazar is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA) and former president of Division 27 of the APA, Society for Community Research and Action.



Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar, Ph.D.

Professor and Head of the Department of Occupational Therapy, College of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

She is also a Professor in the

Department of Disability and Human Development and an Affiliate Faculty in the Department of Psychology at UIC. Trained as a community psychologist, Dr. Suarez-Balcazar brings over 25+ years of experience conducting community-based participatory research in collaboration with underserved communities and individuals with disabilities. In her research, she studies the design, implementation, and evaluation of obesity prevention and health promotion programs targeting disadvantaged communities. She also studies empowerment evaluation, evaluation capacity building, and strategies for building the capacity of community organizations and health professionals to provide culturally relevant programming. She is currently the Principal Investigator (PI) on a project funded by the Chicago Community Trust aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles among Latino immigrant families with youth and young adults with disabilities. She is also the PI on a Community Living and Participation training grant funded by DHHS, NIDILRR. She is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) and a Fellow of the Midwestern Psychological Association. She is currently the President of the Society for Community Research and Action, Division 27 of the American Psychological Association.



Luciano Berardi, Ph.D.

Director for TRiO Programs and Access Research at the Center for Access and Attainment at DePaul.

He holds a license in clinical psychology from Universidad de Belgrano in Buenos Aires, Argentina and an MA and Ph.D. in community psychology from DePaul.

His research focus on issues regarding educational transition of underrepresented groups, mentoring in academia, and issues of access and disparities in education. He serves as an affiliate faculty member at DePaul's Community Psychology Ph.D. program and as an Adjunct faculty at the Department of Educational Policy Studies and

Research, College of Education, DePaul University. Overall, his work is centered on fostering academic success and improving academic environments for underrepresented students transitioning through higher education.



Susan Dvorak McMahon, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development for the College of Science and Health and Vincent DePaul Professor of Clinical Community and Community Psychology at DePaul University.

She is Past President, Fellow, and recipient of the Outstanding Educator Award for the Society for Community Research and Action (Division 27 of the American Psychological Association).

She has over 75 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and over 185 scholarly presentations. Her research focuses on understanding risk and protective factors at

multiple ecological levels, school-based intervention and evaluation, teacher and student experiences with violence, and enhancing our educational systems.



Enrique Mu PhD, MBA, MS

**University Faculty Research Officer
Professor of Management,
College of Leadership and Social Change,
Carlow University**

Director, Managerial Training Program for
Latin American Executives (PROCAGE)
David Berg Center for Ethics and Leadership
Katz Graduate School of Business
University of Pittsburgh

Enrique Mu holds a PhD in Business Administration, an MBA, and a M.S. in Management of Information Systems from the University of Pittsburgh. He is also Director for the Summer Training Program for Latin American Executives (PROCAGE) at the University. His areas of research are the management of technology innovations, leadership & decision-making and management of higher education. He received a proclamation from the Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh in 2011 for his assistance in the evaluation of cloud technology vendors for the City of Pittsburgh and a “Friend of FOI” recognition for his collaboration with the University of Zagreb.

His work has been published in The International Journal of Production Economics, Frontiers of Psychology, Information and Management, Computers & Education, Journal of Electronic Commerce Research, Journal of Systems Science and Systems Engineering, Journal of Decision Systems, Journal of Information Technology and Teaching Cases, Socio-Economic Planning Sciences and other professional outlets. He is founder and Editor in chief of the [International Journal of the Analytic Hierarchy Process](#) and he has lectured and taught courses in Germany, Mexico, Colombia, Peru and other countries.



Mayor Luke Ravenstahl awards City of Pittsburgh Proclamation to Dr. Enrique Mu in 2011



Dr. Mu given “Friend of Faculty of Informatics” award in 2014



Christina Tus, M.Ed.

Project Director for the McNair Scholars Program at the Center for Access and Attainment at DePaul University.

She holds a Master's Degree in Social and Cultural Foundations of Education from DePaul University.

Her interdisciplinary research interests broadly center on the sociology of education, international education policy, and higher education equity issues in the United States. She is an active member of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) and the Educational Opportunity Association (EOA).



Elliot Vites, Ph.D.

Executive Vice Chancellor of Palmetto College at the University of South Carolina and a tenured faculty member.

Before coming to South Carolina in 2015, Dr. Vites spent his professional career at the University of Central Florida and served successively as Chair of Political Science; Assistant Dean in the College of Arts & Sciences; Director of Interdisciplinary Studies; Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies & Director of Academic Services; and Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies. In those roles, he had university-wide responsibilities. He served as the inaugural chair of the Florida State University System

Undergraduate Deans Council and worked with the State University System's Board office. He was a member of the university's Carnegie Engagement Reclassification Task Force, the president's Graduate Preparation and Employability committee, and helped develop and implement a 3+3 program with the Florida State University Law School. He has served as President of the Florida Political Science Association.

Dr. Vites' research covers public policy issues and American politics, including environmental policy, bureaucratic development, public attitudes, and campaign finance reform. He has published in the *British Journal of Political Science*, *Environmental Politics*, *Governing Florida*, *the Journal of State Government*, *Policy Studies Review*, *Polity*, *Quebec Studies*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Waste Management*, and elsewhere. His grant activity has included funding from the *National Science Foundation*, *U.S. Department of Education*, *Gulf Coast Hazardous Substance Research Center*, *Florida Center for Solid and Hazardous Waste Management*, *Embassy of Canada*, *Bicentennial Swedish-American Exchange Fund*, *Quebec Ministry of International Affairs*, and others. His teaching has centered on public policy, environmental politics, American politics, and American political thought.

Dr. Vites earned a bachelor's degree from William Paterson University, a master's degree from Cornell University, and a doctorate degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, all in Political Science.