
Camilo Ruggero, Ph.D.
Professor / Co-Director of Center for Psychosocial Health Disparities Research

Jennifer Callahan, Ph.D.
Professor / Co-Director of Center for Psychosocial Health Disparities Research

University of North Texas
940-565-2671

Sponsorship and funding provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Lupe Murchison Foundation
Overview of Aims

Minority groups in Texas face major health disparities, particularly with respect to access to and quality of mental healthcare, with the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) metroplex named as a national “hotspot” for this problem. Clinical psychologists play an important role in addressing health disparities through training that emphasizes rigorous evaluation and application of evidence-based, culturally competent practices. Yet, underserved communities in North Texas face a shortage of well-trained clinical psychologists, as well as a lack of diversity in the workforce that exacerbates the problem.

Building on our team’s prior research and community work, the North Texas Evidence-based Psychologist Placement (NTEPP) Initiative is seeking to redress mental health access disparities in our region through: 1) building academic-clinical partnerships, 2) placing doctoral students in clinics that serve underrepresented groups, 3) expanding the number and diversity of students being trained in our doctoral program, 4) providing interprofessional and other training opportunities for clinical psychologists and those in training and 5) expanding recruitment into the profession efforts among under-represented groups in Texas.

Project Outcomes

Reporting Period: 09/01/2019 - 08/31/2021 (2 years)

North Texas Community Impact

• 5 new or expanded UNT partnerships with community clinical sites as of 2/29/2020
• 23 UNT student therapists placed at clinical sites
• 3,698.8 total face-to-face hours of therapy provided to North Texas community
• 1,440.75 total face-to-face hours of assessment provided to North Texas community
• 853 clients served through partnerships
• 56% proportion of Hispanic/Latinx or African-American/Black/African-Origin clients seen by students
• $614,162.4 to $786,662.9 estimated economic value of services provided to community (based on clinic fee schedules, lower to upper range)
• Created Spanish-language website outlining mental health resources for members of North Texas community who do not speak English, including a listing of Denton County mental healthcare providers offering services in Spanish

Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Program Impact

• 10.6%* Increase in enrollment of students from under-represented groups *(African-American or Hispanic)
• 100% Completion of IPE curriculum
• 2 Clinical case conferences presented
• 3 Training workshops provided
Project Outcomes (continued)
Reporting Period: 09/01/2019 - 08/31/2021 (2 years)

Undergraduate Psychology Program Impact

• 21 Undergraduate fellowships provided to UNT students
• $11,400 Total funding packages provided to UNT undergraduate fellows
• 9 GRE training workshops provided
• $720 Cost of 6-week courses in GRE prep
• 10 Professional mentorship meetings provided to undergraduate fellows
• 15 Undergraduate fellows conducted research, wrote manuscripts, and/or presented at local and/or national conferences

Recruitment of Underrepresented Groups Impact

• 3 Minority-Serving Institutions visited and talks given
• 4 Graduate student fairs attended
• 302 Face-to-face contacts with prospective students (including talks)
• 1,928 Direct emails to McNair and members of other national academic groups
• 1 Virtual program open house provided
• 1 Public radio interview provided
• 1 National conference attended to present program results