

CURRICULUM VITAE

Denise Nicole Chacon-Portillo, MPH, MCHES®

EDUCATION

PhD Student, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences **2022–Present**
The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), Department of IHS

Master of Public Health **2022**
Concentration: Hispanic and Border Health
Title of Master Thesis: The Use of Person-First Language in Diabetes Care & Research. How Far Have We Come Since ADA & ADCES Recommendations?: A Systematic Review
UTEP, Department of Public Health Sciences

Bachelor of Science, Health Promotion **2018**
Minor: Community Health
UTEP, Department of Public Health Sciences

Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology **2014**
Minor: Psychology
UTEP, Department of Kinesiology

Associate of Arts **2014**
El Paso Community College

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Associate (Trainer) **2024–2025**
UTEP Diabetes Awareness, Department of Public Health Sciences

- Trained 23 undergraduate Public Health students to deliver the UTEP Diabetes Awareness presentations across the El Paso community. Presentations reached over 292 community members across 9 locations.
- Coordinated all presentation logistics, including scheduling, site assignments, and communication with the hosting site.
- Supervised student presenters and ensured program fidelity.
- Supported students in developing presentation skills, adult learning techniques, professional communication, and audience engagement techniques.

Graduate Research Associate (Program Coordinator)

The Diabetes Garage, UTEP, Department of Public Health Sciences **2020–2024**

- Oversaw three program sites (El Paso, San Antonio, Harlingen) and supervised 4 diabetes educators, 2 program coordinators, and multiple undergraduate/graduate interns.
- Led recruitment and retention efforts, assisting in enrolling over 200+ men and employing engagement strategies to maintain 83-86% retention rate.
- Managed data collection, organization, and analysis, authored conference abstracts, and participant newsletters.
- Enhanced program accessibility by lowering curriculum reading levels and maintaining the program's social media.

Graduate Research Assistant (Outreach Coordinator)

The Diabetes Garage®, UTEP, Department of Public Health Sciences **2019–2020**

- Developed recruitment events and outreach strategies
- Managed social media content

Graduate Research Assistant (Project Coordinator)

HEAL, Diabetes Assessment, UTEP **2019**

- Recruited and scheduled interview participants
- Conducted quality control on interview transcripts
- Assisted with final report writing

Undergraduate Research Assistant

The Diabetes Garage®, UTEP **2018**

- Transcribed focus group data
- Created recruitment brochures
- Assisted in data collection and technology maintenance

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Intern, Men's Sexual Reproductive Health Study & Staying PrEPared **2021**

UTEP, College of Nursing

- Created and translated survey tools in RedCap and QuestionPro

Intern, Mujer Saludable, Familia Feliz

UTEP, Department of Public Health Sciences **2018**

- Conducted data collection and GPRA surveys
- Performed follow-up calls and home visits
- Secured two new community partnerships

PUBLICATIONS

Ruiz, S., Perez, D., **Chacon-Portillo, D.N.**, & Del Rio, K. The Business of Virtual DSME and MNT Implementation. *ADCES in Practice*. 2025: 0 (0).
doi.10.1177/2633559X251351023

ACCEPTED ABSTRACTS

Chacon-Portillo, D.N., Schober, G.S., Concha, J.B. *Driving Male Participation: The Diabetes Garage Retention Rates and Recruitment Success Through Personal Communication in a Car-Themed Diabetes Management Program*. ADA: 2026 Scientific Sessions.

Concha, J.B., Schober, G.S., **Chacon-Portillo, D.N.**, Sanchez, T.M., Ruiz-Reyes, R.F., Romero, R.L. *The Diabetes Garage: Improving Hispanic Men's Self-Care by Leveraging Car Culture and Using Automotive Maintenance Comparisons for Diabetes Education*. ADA: 2026 Scientific Sessions.

Herrera, E., Schober, G.S., **Chacon-Portillo, D.N.**, Villanueva, L., Sanchez, T.M., Ruiz-Reyes, R.F., Romero, R.L., Concha, J.B. *Voices of Men in Diabetes Care: Evaluating Participant Satisfaction in The Diabetes Garage*. ADA: 2026 Scientific Sessions.

Chacon-Portillo, D.N., Ruiz, S., Burgos-Monzon, X., Wittenburg, C., Ferreira-Pinto, J.B., Kelly, M., Garcia, A., Robertson, W.H., Duarte-Gardea, M. *Training the Next Generation of Diabetes Advocates While Bringing Awareness in Far West Texas*. ADCES 25.

Chacon-Portillo, D.N., Schober, G., Medina, C., & Concha, J.B. *Driving Male Participation: The Diabetes Garage Retention Rates and Recruitment Success Through Personal Communication in a Car-Themed Diabetes Management Program*. Viva la Salud.

Chacon-Portillo, D.N., Ruiz, S., Burgos-Monzon, X., Wittenburg, C., Ferreira-Pinto, J.B., Kelly, M., Garcia, A., Robertson, W.H., & Duarte-Gardea, M. *Training the Next Generation of Diabetes Advocates*. 17th Annual Diabetes Conference: Faces of Diabetes.

Chacon-Portillo, D.N., Schober, G., Medina, C., & Concha, J.B. *Male Participation in a Car-Culture Tailored Diabetes Management Program—Retention Rates for The Diabetes Garage*. 17th Annual Diabetes Conference: Faces of Diabetes.

Concha, J.B., Schober, G., **Chacon-Portillo, D.N.**, et al. *The Diabetes Garage Improves Diabetes Stress and Psychological Well-Being among Mexican-American Men Living in Texas*. ADCES 23.

Concha, J.B., Schober, G., **Portillo, D.N.**, Sanchez, T., Ruiz Reyes de Holguin, R., Romero, R. L., Villagomez, L., Winkler, P., Hernandez, L., Lopez, A., Escareno, J. *An Online Intervention in the U.S. to Address Disparities in Latino Men's Participation in Diabetes Education*. IDF World Diabetes Congress 2022.

Portillo, D.N., Duarte-Gardea, M., Moya, E., & Concha, J.B. *The Use of Person-First Language in Diabetes Care & Research*. APHA 2022.

Bajpeyi, S., Concha, J.B., Duarte-Gardea, M.O., Moya, E.M., & **Portillo, D.N.** *Diabetes Assessment in El Paso, Texas Using ADA Chronic Care Model*. ADA 2022.

Concha, J.B., Schober, G., **Portillo, D.N.**, et al. *The Diabetes Garage: Using Automotive Maintenance Analogies....* ADA 2021.

Portillo, D.N., Berger, J., & Mangadu, T.D. *Strategies for ESG Members to Engage in Community Engagement*. SOPHE 2019.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

Concha, J.B., Duarte, M.O., Moya, E., & **Portillo, D.N.** (2021). *Diabetes Assessment in El Paso County: Phase 2 Focus Groups*.

Concha, J.B., Duarte-Gardea, M.O., Moya, E.M., **Portillo, D.N.**, & Bajpeyi, S. (2020). *Diabetes Assessment in El Paso County: Qualitative Report*.

PRESENTATIONS

Chacon-Portillo, D.N., Ruiz, S., Burgos-Monzon, X., Wittenburg, C., Ferreira-Pinto, J.B., Kelly, M., Garcia, A., Robertson, W.H., Duarte-Gardea, M. Training the Next Generation of Diabetes Advocates While Bringing Awareness in Far West Texas. *Accepted for ADCES 25, August 8-11, 2025*. Phoenix, AZ. [Poster]

Portillo, D.N., Duarte-Gardea, M., Moya, E., & Concha, J.B. (November 2022). The Use of Person-First Language in Diabetes Care & Research. How Far Have We Come Since ADA & ADCES Recommendations?: A Systematic Review. *2022 APHA Annual Meeting & Expo, November 6-9, 2022*. Boston, MA. [Poster]

Bajpeyi, S., Concha, J.B., Duarte-Gardea, M.O., Moya, E.M., **Portillo, D.N.** Diabetes Assessment in El Paso, Texas, Using ADA Chronic Care Model. *American Diabetes Association 82st Scientific Sessions, June 3-7, 2022*. New Orleans, LA. [Poster]

Portillo, D.N., Berger, J., & Mangadu, T.D. (March 2019). Strategies for Eta Sigma Gamma members to engage in meaningful community engagement: Lessons from the U.S.-Mexico Border. *SOPHE 2019 Annual Conference, March 27-29, 2019*. Salt Lake City, UT. [Poster]

Portillo, D.N., Gallegos, R., & Mangadu, T.D. (December 2018). *Increasing networking approach to assist in combating HIV and co-occurring disorders for El Paso women*. HSCI 4600 Practicum in Community Health Poster Exhibit, UTEP, El Paso, TX. [Poster]

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

CHES Study Sessions

UTEP, Department of Public Health Sciences

Spring 2023–Present

ASPHN Health Equity Internship Preceptor

- Fall 2023: Mariah Alvarez & Jackeline Flores Moreno
- Spring 2023: Desiree Rangel
- Fall 2022: Adren Warling

Preparing Future Faculty Fellowship

2023

UTEP, Institute for Scholarship, Pedagogy, Innovation, and Research Excellence (InSPIRE)

INVITED GUEST SPEAKER

History of Public Health on the U.S./Mexico Border

January 14, 2026

UTEP, Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

CERTIFICATIONS

Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES)

2024-Present

National Commission for Health Education Credentialing

Seizure Recognition and First Aid Certification

2023–Present

Epilepsy Foundation

Responsible Conduct of Research **2019–Present**
CITI Program

Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) **2018–2024**
National Commission for Health Education Credentialing

Human Subjects Research **2018–Present**
CITI Program

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) **2002–2004**
Bel Air High School- Medical Magnet Program

COMPLETED WORKSHOPS/COURSES

Mixed Methods Essentials **August 8, 2025**
Mixed Methods Program, University of Michigan

AWARDS & HONORS

- Love of Learning Scholarship, Phi Kappa Phi **2023**
 - 21st Century Student Scholarship, SOPHE **2020**
 - Outstanding Community Service Award, UTEP DPHS **2020**
 - ESG National Chapter Recognition Award, **2019–2020**
 - ESG/NCHEC Outstanding Undergraduate (UTEP) **2019**
 - Student Organization of the Year, UTEP **2019**
 - UTEP Gold Standard Organization **2018–2019**
 - Collegiate RSO of the Year (CHS) **2018–2019**
 - Honor Society Category of the Year, UTEP **2019**
 - Outstanding Service Award in Health Promotion, UTEP **2018**
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STUDENT & PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Public Health Association **2022–Present**
Member

Phi Kappa Phi 2020–Present
Member

UTEP Graduate Student Assembly 2020–2022
MPH Representative

Society for Public Health Education 2019–Present
Member

Paso del Norte SOPHE 2022–Present
Member, 2024-present
President, 2021-2024
President-Elect 2020–2021

Eta Sigma Gamma 2017–2018
President
Vice-President

SERVICE

Viva la Salud Planning Committee, Student Member Fall 2025-Spring 2026
UTEP, College of Health Sciences

Dean Search Committee, Student Member Fall 2024
UTEP, College of Health Sciences

NCHEC Ambassador 2023-present
National Commission for Health Education Credentialing

Manuscript Peer-Reviewer, ad hoc reviewer 2020-present
Health Promotion Practice