

CURRICULUM VITAE

Valerie Jeannette Rodriguez, Ph.D. LPC, CRC
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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Counseling
The University of Texas – Pan American, Edinburg, TX
Graduation Date: August 2015

Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling
The University of Texas – Pan American, Edinburg, TX
Graduation Date: May 2008 GPA: 4.0

Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitative Services
The University of Texas – Pan American, Edinburg, TX
Graduation Date: December 2006 *Cum Laude* Concentration: Addiction Studies

CERTIFICATIONS & LICENSURES

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor 00109031
Licensed Professional Counselor 65114

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2013 Special Guest Editor: International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals Journal of Life Care Planning
2012-2013 South Texas Advocating Network for People with Disabilities-S.T.A.N.D. Alliance Co-Chair
2011-2013 Managing Editor: International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals Journal of Life Care Planning

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2011-Present The International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals
2011-Present The International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals- Life Care Planners
2015-Present The International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals-Social Security Vocational Experts
2011-2015 The National Council on Rehabilitation Education
2011-2015 Texas Rehabilitation Action Network
2011-2013 The American Counseling Association
2011-2013 The American Rehabilitation Counseling Association

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

Vocational Expert

U.S. Social Security Administration Office of Disability Adjudication & Review, Region VI

09/2014 to Present

- Provide factual and expert testimony based on knowledge of the skill level and physical/mental demands of various vocations, the characteristics of work settings, the existence and incidence of jobs in the national and state competitive labor market, and transferrable skills analysis

Regional Program Specialist IV

Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation Services formerly known as The Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, South Texas

09/2013 to Present

- Provide rehabilitation counselors and managers with information, policy consultation, and programmatic assistance related to best practices concerning Vocational Rehabilitation process and outcomes, quality service delivery and documentation, comparable services and benefits and other resources, local labor market data, quality job development and placement, and other areas;
- Subject matter expert for assistive technology, vehicle modifications, mental health, self-employment, supported self-employment, performance indicators, and programmatic compliance oversight
- Designated point of contact for Community Rehabilitation Providers for policy guidance and assistance;
- Develop and provide appropriate training in VR program areas to include Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Independent Living Services, and Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services;
- Locate, develop, disseminate, and interpret agency policy and procedure;
- Read client case records to provide appropriate guidance and assistance to staff;
- Identify programmatic trends through ongoing case reviews and case consultations;
- Review client purchases for appropriateness utilizing best business practices;
- Remain current in client case services and assist managers in developmental activities;
- Conduct liaison activities with regional field staff, community organizations, consumers, etc., regarding assigned programs as supported with written documentation;
- Develop regional technical assistance objectives through consultation with each area manager;
- Develop an annual regional placement strategy plan for employment initiatives with specific actions and implementation timetables;
- Provide mentor training, participate in special assignments, and provide technical supervision to assigned staff;
- Review self-employment plans and provide recommendation per policy;
- Assist with vacant caseload and/or specialty caseloads
- Design and facilitate the following trainings for vocational rehabilitation counselors, area managers, unit program specialists, and rehabilitation service technicians:
 - Americans with Disabilities Act: Understanding the Basics & Beyond
 - Approaching Employers about DARS Services
 - Best Practices for Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors
 - Call of Duty: VR Case Reviews and MOSAIC Trends Training
 - Case Mapping Training
 - Case Review Training
 - Caseload Management Training (Basic & Advanced)
 - Community Rehabilitation Program Training: Policy & Best Practices
 - Comparable Benefits & Community Services Training
 - CORE Mid-Tenure Counselor Group Ongoing Training
 - Counseling & Guidance Training
 - Criminal Backgrounds and Employment
 - Customer Service Training
 - Extended Evaluations: How to Measure Work Potential & Employability through Trial Work

Experience
 Hearing Loss: Implications in Vocational Rehabilitation
 How to Facilitate a Job Club (Rural & Urban Versions)
 How to Interpret Agency Policy: RPM
 How to Utilize O*NET, CHOICES, BRIDGES, DOT, and OOC to Best Service DARS Consumers
 How to Work with Resistant Clients
 How to Work with Various Disability Groups
 Job Placement & Supported Employment Services Training
 Liaison Counselor Training
 Mental Health Training
 Mentoring Training
 Partnership Plus Program Training & Program Implementation
 Physical Restoration Services Training
 Query Training (Basic & Advanced)
 Self-Employment Training
 Understanding How to Interpret Psychological & Vocational Evaluations
 Understanding Local Labor Market Trends
 Vehicle Modifications: A Counselor Oriented Guide
 Worker's Compensation Training (Basic & Advanced)
 Social Security Benefits: Incentives & Disincentives to Employment

Unit Program Specialist IV

The Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services McAllen, TX

03/2012 to 09/2013

- Assisted Area Manager in carrying out unit operations and outreach initiatives;
- Provided research, analyzed recommendations for Area Manager decision making;
- Administered agency coaching and mentoring program for staff development while working closely with the Area Manager to ensure that all unit training /development activities were aligned to support agency and unit goals;
- Implemented the Quality Assurance Improvement Process while providing technical assistance to unit staff in interpreting and implementing policies and procedures for carrying out division programs;
- Related effectively with coworkers, providers, customers of Rehabilitation Services and other agencies;
- Ensured program effectiveness through optimal management of resources by managing a VR caseload, providing rehabilitation services for consumers to achieve successful outcomes;
- Determined, selected, approved, and monitored consumer service purchases and maintained community and advocacy relationships in accordance with RPM policy;
- Served as primary unit contact in resolving consumer complaints or legislative inquiries and served as primary back up Area Manager;
- Led unit initiatives such as annual employer symposiums, business luncheons, job fairs, and any other community and business outreach activities;
- Coordinated and co-lead counselor and staff meetings;
- Identified and facilitated unit training based on identified needs;
- Led unit wellness initiatives to assist/ promote employee morale and new counselor retention;
- Mentored and trained new counselors throughout their 9 month probationary period;
- DARSForce/SalesForce license holder-account manager for multiple business accounts to promote effective job matches for employers and DARS job seekers
- Assisted eligible consumers to prepare for, obtain, and maintain competitive employment based on their strengths, limitations, and interests;
- Managed a caseload of 20-40 eligible consumers, provided vocational rehabilitation services and vocational counseling & guidance to help clients address their disabilities and functional limitations, and directly assisted clients with obtaining and maintaining appropriate vocational goals
- Application & Eligibility-Met with numerous applicants and obtained preliminary assessment information, such as work history, transferrable work skills, residual functional limitations, disability history, medical records, and reports to determine program eligibility within 60 days after completion

- of an application for VR services;
- Assessment & Planning- If the applicant was determined eligible, would meet with consumer to discuss potential vocational objectives and services that were both reasonable and necessary to achieve each identified objective;
- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)- developed Individualized Plans for Employment with consumers to document the consumer's chosen vocational objective, chosen service providers based on principles of informed consumer choice, and established services required to support the achievement of the vocational objective;
- Arranged, provided, or purchased services to help consumers achieve their desired employment goals;
- Successful Closure- Consumers are considered to have met the minimum requirements for being successfully rehabilitated when they: have received the services identified on the IPE and the services have had a discernible impact on their employment outcome; have a job that is consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice; are employed at case closure; have remained employed for at least 90 days after substantial services have been completed; consider the employment outcome to be satisfactory, and are performing well on the job.

Certified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

The Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services McAllen, TX
02/2010 to 03/2012

- Performed Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor duties in support of the DARS mission, goals, vision, and core values; Applied E3 principle to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) service delivery: Excellent service, every customer, every time;
- Applied critical thinking skills and sound decision making in performance of routine VR work in the following program area: Vocational Rehabilitation, including transition from high school to adult VR services;
- Developed and maintained relationships with community referral sources, community rehabilitation providers, businesses, employers, and schools;
- Worked jointly with consumers to develop plans of services designed to reach the consumers' identified employment goals based on their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities and interests, and matching based on current local job market;
- Ensured timely, cost-effective provision of services and consumer progress toward achievement of their goals while utilizing a best-value approach to service delivery and utilizing informed consumer choice as a theoretical framework to allow for optimal consumer-driven advocacy;
- Performed other duties as assigned and required to meet the mission and goals of local DARS agency needs to include, but not limited to: Co-Chair for AADA Job Fair; Participation in various committees to include 2009 EOY event; Specialty backup counselor to Deaf and hard of hearing caseload; Subject matter expert for mental health cases;
- Assisted eligible consumers to prepare for, obtain, and maintain competitive employment based on their strengths, limitations, and interests;
- Managed a caseload of 80-100 eligible consumers and provided Vocational Rehabilitation Services and vocational counseling & guidance to help them address their disabilities and functional limitations and obtaining/maintaining their career of choice
- Application & Eligibility-Met with numerous applicants and obtained preliminary assessment information such as work history, transferrable work skills, residual functional limitations, disability history, medical records, and reports to determine program eligibility within 60 days after completion of an application for VR services;
- Assessment & Planning- If the applicant was determined eligible, met with consumer to discuss potential vocational objectives and services that were both reasonable and necessary to achieve each identified objective;
- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)- developed Individualized Plans for Employment with consumers to document the consumer's chosen vocational objective, required services to support the objective, and other relevant information;
- Arranged, provided, or purchased services that would help the consumer achieve their desired employment goal;
- Successful Closure- Consumers are considered to have met the minimum requirements for being

rehabilitated when they have received services stated on the IPE and the services have had a discernible impact on their employment outcome; have a job that is consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice; are employed at case closure; have remained employed for at least 90 days after substantial services have been completed; and consider the employment outcome to be satisfactory, and are performing well on the job.

Managing Editor

International Association of Life Care Planners

Journal of Life Care Planning Glenview, IL

09/2011 to 02/2013

- Involved in the overall management of the journal under the Editor, including the selection of staff (associate editors, review board members, advisors, etc.), and for timely and relevant content from issue to issue;
- Developed procedures for managing the influx of articles, the peer review process, deciding the relevancy of manuscripts and what will be included in the final copy for each issue;
- Developed a plan for future issues as a primary mechanism to insure that the journal will be delivered on a timely basis (four times per year);
- Insured that the journal will remain timely and relevant;
- Solicited, invited, and developed articles and content for current and future issues;
- Strictly adhered to APA standards in manuscript development (style, tables, references, format, etc.);
- Took charge of peer review and management of articles and content;
- Worked with current and prospective authors throughout development of a manuscript for publication;
- Proofread and edited all manuscripts for technical and scientific content and accuracy, style, form, and clarity in accordance with the peer-reviewers' comments and established publication guidelines;
- Coordinated and lead periodic Editorial Board meetings and initiated communications with Editorial Board members;
- Provided ongoing promotion and positive representation of the journal;
- Marketed journal at professional meetings & conferences

Faculty Lecturer

The University of Texas – Pan American Edinburg, TX

08/2010 to 08/2015

- Developed and implemented new methods of teaching to reflect changes in research regarding Vocational Rehabilitation/Rehabilitative Services;
- Designed, prepared, and developed teaching materials;
- Delivered lectures, seminars and tutorials; Assessed students' coursework;
- Developed examinations;
- Supported students through a mentoring/advisory role;
- Undertook personal research projects and actively contributed to the institution's research profile;
- Conducted research and prepared it for publication;
- Represented the institution at professional conferences and seminars;
- Implemented my personally developed Adlerian-based mentoring model
- Utilized BlackBoard Learning Systems for enhanced pedagogical experience;
- Courses taught: Introduction to Rehabilitation, Case Management, Job Placement, and Family & Disability

Licensed Professional Counselor

Abundant Grace Counseling Center Edinburg, TX

05/2010 to 01/2011

- Provided mental health counseling & coping strategies for individuals of all ages with various mental health issues and physical disabilities including, but not limited to: Blindness, Major Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Personality Disorders, Back Impairments, and Substance Abuse;
- Conducted individual play therapy sessions with children ages 3 to 12;
- Involved the use of children's toys and leisure activities to symbolize the child's thoughts and feelings via Play Therapy sessions;

- Helped children, teens, and adults to understand the issues that were preventing them from full functioning and contributing to internal conflict;
- Conducted individual as well as family counseling, specializing in the unique youth-parent relationship

Certified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

The Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services San Antonio
12/2007 to 02/2010

- Performed Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor duties in support of the DARS mission, goals, vision, and core values;
- Applied E3 principle to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) service delivery: Excellent service, every customer, every time;
- Applied critical thinking skills and sound decision making in performance of routine VR work in the following program area: Vocational Rehabilitation, including transition from high school to adult VR services;
- Developed and maintained relationships with community referral sources, community rehabilitation providers, businesses, employers, and schools;
- Worked jointly with consumers to develop plans of services (IPEs) designed to reach the consumers' identified employment goals based on their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities and interests, and matching based on current local job market;
- Ensured timely, cost-effective provision of services and consumer progress toward achievement of their goals while utilizing a best-value approach to service delivery and utilizing informed consumer choice as a theoretical framework to allow for optimal consumer-driven advocacy;
- Performed duties required to meet the mission and goals of local DARS agency needs to include, but not limited to: Co-Chair for AADA Job Fair;
- Participation in various committees to include 2009 EOY event;
- Specialty backup counselor to Deaf and hard of hearing caseload;
- Subject matter expert for mental health cases;
- Assisted eligible consumers to prepare for, obtain, and maintain competitive employment based on their strengths, limitations, and interests;
- Managed a caseload of 80-100 eligible consumers and provided Vocational Rehabilitation Services and vocational counseling & guidance to help them address their disabilities and functional limitations and obtaining/maintaining their career of choice;
- Application & Eligibility-Met with numerous applicants and obtained preliminary assessment information, such as work history, transferrable work skills, residual functional limitations, disability history, medical records, and reports to determine program eligibility within 60 days after completion of an application for VR services;
- Assessment & Planning- If the applicant was determined eligible, would meet with consumer to discuss potential vocational objectives and services that were both reasonable and necessary to achieve each identified objective;
- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)- developed Individualized Plans for Employment with consumers to document the consumer's chosen vocational objective, required services to support the objective, and other relevant information: Arranged, provided, or purchased services that would help the consumer achieve their desired employment goal;
- Successful Closure- Consumers are considered to have met the minimum requirements for being rehabilitated when they have received services stated on the IPE and the services have had a discernible impact on their employment outcome; have a job that is consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice; are employed at case closure; have remained employed for at least 90 days after substantial services have been completed; and consider the employment outcome to be satisfactory, and are performing well on the job.

Life Care Planner & Vocational Damages Consultant

Marini & Associates San Antonio, TX & McAllen, TX
08/2006 to Present

- Forensic Rehabilitation Consultants
- Conducted intake assessments, medical records summations, generated intake summary reports, comprehensive life care plan development, assessed personal and worker injuries, vocational damage

assessment, & determined injured worker earning capacity loss; Company involved in verdict decisions totaling over \$175 million;

- Marini & Associate's testimony has never been disqualified or Daubert challenged;
- Life care planners in largest malpractice verdict in AR tort history;
- Life care planners and vocational experts in one of the top 20 Texas jury verdict awards in 2009;
- Experience with cases involving head injury, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, low back injuries, amputation, blindness, and brachial plexus injuries

Substitute Teacher

Mission C.I.S.D. Mission, TX

09/2007 to 05/2008

- Taught various subjects to middle school and high school students specifically within the special education department;
- Distributed class assignments;
- Explained and assisted students with homework and in-class assignments
- Followed curriculum guidelines;
- Kept records of attendance;
- Lectured and demonstrated course content while maintaining class discipline

Graduate Research Assistant

The University of Texas – Pan American Edinburg, TX

02/2007 to 12/2007

- Collected & retrieved field data via in-person and telephone surveys from various establishments across the Rio Grande Valley regarding job opportunities for individuals with specific disabilities (i.e. individuals with one amputated arm/prosthetic arm)
- Analyzed and interpreted information with SPSS software;
- Assisted with the advancement of research for the Rehabilitative Services graduate level program;
- Contributed to research study regarding empirically validating employer perceptions regarding jobs performed using one arm as well as back impairments

Content Mastery Instructional Assistant

Ann Richards Middle School Mission, TX

08/2006 to 02/2007

- Tutored & mentored individuals in the Special Education Content Mastery Program with all problem subject area coursework;
- Compiled and kept thorough record of all students' allotted Content Mastery time based on pertinent information necessary for state documentation;
- Created word documents and spread sheets to implement new filing system for the Content Mastery program;
- Created weekly, mid-week, and monthly spreadsheets for each of the 140 students' corresponding teacher, team leader, and administrator

Case Manager Assistant

Reaching Maximum Independence San Antonio, TX

07/2005 to 09/2005

- Assisted clients with Intellectual & Development Disabilities in applying for and maintaining various government and community supports;
- Organized weekly staff/client meetings
- Developed an organizational system for client records;
- Assisted with counseling and guidance for clients;
- Made client contacts;
- Organized company parties;
- Formatted and developed client forms with Microsoft & Excel programs;
- Organized and filed client records

Tutor & Mentor

AmeriCorps Youth Harvest Mission, TX
10/2003 to 07/2004

- Ensured quality care and educational assistance for school age children;
- Tutored and mentored students with in-class and homework assignments;
- Engaged students in arts and crafts sessions;
- Oversaw drug awareness and prevention classes;
- Attended and supervised weekly field trips and fitness hour;
- Participated in community service projects

NATIONAL REFEREED PUBLICATIONS & BOOK CHAPTERS

Horsman, E., Rodriguez, V. J., & Marini, I. (2009). Cultural distrust: The elephant in the room. In I. Marini and M. A. Stebnicki (Ed.). *Professional Counselor's Desk Reference*. New York: Springer

Horsman, E., Rodriguez, V. J., & Marini, I. (2016). Cultural distrust: The elephant in the room. In I. Marini and M. A. Stebnicki (2nd Ed.). *Professional Counselor's Desk Reference*. New York: Springer

Marini, I., Rodriguez, V. J., Preston, B., Miller, R. J., Payan, S. (2008). Employer Validation of Jobs Performed with One Arm. *Journal of Forensic Vocational Analysis*, 11(2), 37-48.

Marini, I., Payan, S., Miller, R. J., Rodriguez, V. J., & Preston, B., (2008). Employer Validation of Jobs Performed with a Sit/Stand Option. *The Rehabilitation Professional*, 16(3), 171-178.

Rodriguez, V.J. Glover-Graf, N.M, & Blanco, E.L. (2013). Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin. *Conversations with God: Prayer and bargaining in adjustment to disability*. DOI: 10.1177/0034355213477477

Rodriguez, V.J. & Marini, I. (2011). Vocational Damages in Life Care Planning. *Journal of Life Care Planning*, 11(2), 420-429.

Rodriguez, V.J. (2015). *Factors impacting vocational rehabilitation outcomes: An analysis of state-federal service provision* (Order No. 3728872). . (1734046396). Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com/docview/1734046396?accountid=7333>

NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND & STATE INVITED AND/OR REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

Empirical Validation of Employer Perceptions of Jobs that can be Performed Using One Arm. International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals – Forensics Section. Las Vegas, NV; November 1-3, 2007.

Rodriguez, V.J., & Blanco, E.L. (2012). 12th Annual NCRE Spring Conference Call for Poster Presentations. *Conversations with God: Bargaining in the Adjustment to Disability*.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL RECOGNITION & AWARDS

Rodriguez, V.J., & Blanco, E.L. (2011). First place winner in the University of Texas Pan American call for Poster Presentations- Doctoral Category. *Conversations with God: Bargaining in the Adjustment to Disability*.

National Council on Rehabilitation Education – 2013 Doctoral Student of the Year Award

Scaffolding Customer Service Award 2013 DARS Regional End of Year Conference

TRAININGS ATTENDED

- 2016 WIOA Regional Training and Overview
- 2016 Vehicle Modification Basic Overview
- 2016 Vehicle Modification Policy and Implementation
- 2016 Workforce Solutions Services
- 2016 Business Resource Training
- 2013-2016 Society of Human Resource Managers Monthly Training
- 2014-2016 Social Security Benefits Subject Matter Resource Staff Training
- 2014 Working with Clients with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities
- 2014 Working with Clients with Bipolar Disorder
- 2014 Best Practices in Disability Recruiting
- 2014 Access Training
- 2013 Audiological Impact in Vocational Rehabilitation
- 2013 DSM V Training
- 2013 Understanding Bipolar Disorder (New DSM V References)
- 2013 Statewide Manager's Training (Back to the Basics of VR)
- 2013 Texas Rehabilitation Action Network Multiple Trainings
- 2013 Pardon our Progress: We are Raising the Bar (Effective Vocational Rehabilitation)
- 2013 Everyday E3: Excellent Service, Every Customer, Every Time- Customer Service
- 2013 Society of Human Resource Managers Monthly Training
- 2013 DRS Mental Health Training
- 2013 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conference
- 2012-2013 Monthly Unit Program Specialists Training
- 2012-2013 DARS Quarterly Regional Managers Training
- 2012 Love Languages Training
- 2012 Texas Rehabilitation Action Network Multiple Trainings
- 2012 Advanced Worker's Compensation
- 2011 Texas Association of Vocational Adjustment Coordinators Conference
- 2011 Texas Development Leadership Academy: The Rehabilitation Coach
- 2011 Texas Development Leadership Academy: Building a Rehabilitation Team
- 2011 Palmer Drug Abuse Program 2nd Annual Substance Abuse & Behavioral Health
- 2011 National Council on Rehabilitation Education Conference
- 2011 Ethical Issues in Multicultural Counseling Seminar
- 2011 Advanced Worker's Compensation
- 2010 Working Together Effectively
- 2010 Texas Development Leadership Academy: Tools of Rehabilitation Leadership
- 2010 Texas Development Leadership Academy: Personal Values in Rehabilitation Leadership
- 2010 Texas Development Leadership Academy: Managing Change in Rehab Organizations
- 2010 Personal Preferences & Leadership
- 2010 Managing Professional & Organizational Change
- 2010 Managing Performance
- 2010 Management & Leadership Excellence
- 2010 M.A.T.R.S Treatment Planning
- 2010 Governor's Center for Management & Development Program
- 2010 Can We Talk: Communication in the Workplace
- 2010 2nd Annual EARN Forum Conference
- 2009 Liaison Counselor Training
- 2009 Compassion Fatigue-The "Chapter 11" of Counseling
- 2008 Winning Together
- 2008 Outcome Based Job Placement 2009 – 8th Annual Brain Injury Symposium
- 2008 Neuropsychological Evaluations
- 2008 CO New Counselor Training
- 2008 Basic Workers Compensation
- 2008 A Practitioner's Guide to Hearing Loss
- 2007 Time Management Training
- 2007 Substitute Teacher Certification
- 2007 Stress Away Training
- 2007 Sexual Harassment Training
- 2007 Self Defense and Nutrition Training
- 2007 Financial Management
- 2007 Conflict Resolution
- 2007 Classroom Management Training
- 2006 HIV/AIDS & STD Awareness

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

- 2010-2016 Various Church & Community Service Projects
- 2008-2014 Volunteered to shadow and observe numerous social security hearings at third level appeal levels under the supervision of Vocational Expert Dr. Irmo Marini (as available)
- 2011 The Family Church: Feed the Hungry Event
- 2010 The Workforce Commission & DARS Job Fair Volunteer
- 2010 The Workforce Commission & DARS Job Fair Coordinator
- 2010 Annual Employer Symposium Coordinator
- 2009 Alamo Area Disability Alliance Job Fair Volunteer
- 2009 Alamo Area Disability Alliance Job Fair Coordinator
- 2008 Alamo Area Disability Alliance Job Fair Volunteer
- 2008 Alamo Area Disability Alliance Job Fair Coordinator
- 2007 Santa Ana Park Cleanup Volunteer
- 2007 Park Cleanup Volunteer
- 2006 Over 100 hours volunteered at Palmer Drug Abuse Program
- 2006 American Heart Association event volunteer
- 2005-2007 Over 900 community service hours
- 2004 Martin Luther King Vigil Volunteer
- 2004 Dr. Seuss Day Read to Children Volunteer
- 2004 Weed & Seed Go Green Volunteer
- 2004 Special Olympics Volunteer
- 2004 Happy Hats Volunteer
- 2003-2005 Food Bank of the RGV Volunteer
- 2003-2004 Tutoring and mentoring children at the Boys & Girls Club of Mission

HONORS

- AmeriCorps Youth Harvest Member
- Graduate National Dean's List
- Graduate National Honors Society
- Graduate RSA Scholar
- Graduate UTPA Dean's List
- Mission Merit Recipient
- National Hispanic Institute Member
- Undergraduate National Dean's List
- Undergraduate STHEF Scholar
- Undergraduate Texas Grant Recipient
- Undergraduate Texas Scholar
- University Scholar

COMPETENCIES

- Assessment & Analysis of Past Relevant Work
- Assessment & Analysis of Residual Functional Capacities (Mental & Physical)
- Assessment & Analysis of Various Disabilities
- Addictions Counseling
- Adlerian Counseling
- Advocacy
- Assistive Technology Evaluation
- Calculating Vocational Earning Capacity Loss
- Career Counseling
- Case Management
- Caseload Management
- Case Note Documentation
- Coaching and Consulting
- Counseling
- Culturally Sensitive Competence
- Knowledge of Career Planning Guides
- Knowledge of the Dictionary of Occupational Titles
- Knowledge of DSM V
- Knowledge of Exertional Categories of Work
- Knowledge of Hypothetical Questions in Social Security Hearings
- Knowledge of Major Body Systems
- Knowledge of Skill Levels and Transferability of Skills
- Knowledge of SSA Rules
- Knowledge of Selected Characteristics of Occupations
- Knowledge of SSA Grid Rules and Social Security Rulings
- Functional Limitation Analysis
- Group Counseling
- Guide Employers in ADA
- Intake Interviewing
- Interviewing Skills
- Job Analysis
- Job Coaching
- Job Matching and Referrals
- Job Modification & Accommodation
- Job Placement
- Knowledge of the Number of Existing Jobs &

- How to Access Current Data
- Knowledge of Labor Market Trends in the National Economy
- Knowledge of Working Conditions
- Knowledgeable regarding Medical Terminology
- Labor Market Survey
- Life Care Plan Development
- Marketing
- Mentoring
- Networking
- Physical & Mental Demands of Various Jobs
- Program Evaluation
- Public Speaking
- Service Coordination
- Task Analysis
- Transferable Skills Analysis
- Treatment Planning
- Vocational Evaluation
- Vocational Counseling & Guidance
- Vocational Damage Assessment
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling

OTHER SPECIAL COMPETENCIES & SKILLS

- Bilingual in Spanish and English
- National & International Public Speaking
- Project Planning and Execution
- Journal & Publication Editorial Skills
- Typing Speed GWAM 90
- Rapport Building
- Time Management
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Exceptional Organizational Skills
- Written and Oral Communication
- Leadership & Time Management Skills
- Active Learning and Decision Making
- Initiative and Perseverance
- Prioritization of Projects
- Critical Thinking Abilities
- Excellent Customer Service
- Mentoring Skills
- Active Empathic Listening Skills

KNOWLEDGE OF SOFTWARE, PROGRAMS, OFFICE EQUIPMENT, & RELEVANT WEBSITES

- Knowledge of Job Browser Software
- Knowledge of OASYS Software
- Competency in Developing, Running, and Interpreting Access Queries
- Competency in RehabWorks Production
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, & PowerPoint
- Interpretation & Implementation of VR Rehabilitation Policy Manual (RPM)
- Facsimile Machine, Printer, & Scanner
- Personal Digital Assistant
- Desktop & Laptop Computers
- Calculator
- MIFI & Wireless Devices
- E-mail
- Outlook
- Professional Online Networking
- O*net Online
- Choices
- Bridges
- Workintexas.com
- Indeed.com
- Monster.com
- Job Accommodation Network AskJan.org
- Beyond.com
- Careerbuilder.com
- Jobcentral.com
- LinkedIn.com
- Careeronestop.org
- Bls.gov
- Bls.gov/OOH
- Dol.gov
- Occupationalinfo.org