

# Bernard M. Preston

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## EDUCATION

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PAN-AMERICAN**  
Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling

Edinburg, TX  
*December 2003*

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PAN-AMERICAN**  
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

Edinburg, TX  
*December 2001*

**PIKES PEAK COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
Associate in General Studies

Colorado Springs, CO  
June 1999

## **LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS**

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (#73353)  
Certified Life Care Planner (#0978)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**U.S Social Security Administration's/ODAR, Region 3, 4, 5 &9**  
Vocational Expert

Las Vegas, NV  
2010- Present

**Marini & Associates**  
Forensic Rehabilitation Consultant

Las Vegas, NV  
September 2004-Present

Perform interviews and evaluations for life care plans; analyzes medical records and case history; collect data through interview and personal contact; identify current medical / rehabilitative care and outline necessary medical and rehabilitative lifetime care needs; coordinate proposed care needs with physicians, therapists, and other medical care providers; obtain costs of needs to prepare life care plan report. Perform vocational evaluations, provide testimony on issues of lifetime care needs, and wage earning capacity.

**State of Nevada/Rehabilitation Division**  
Job Placement Specialist

Las Vegas, NV  
June 2008- Present

Coordinate and develop employment and on the job training opportunities for person with disabilities through the State of NV: Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation. Provide one on one job development based upon the participant's needs such as, searching, applying, and interviewing for job; resume development, and post employment follow up. Assists and educate employers about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities as well as identify possible accommodation needed for participants to be successful in the workplace.

**City of Las Vegas/Parks and Recreation**  
Sr. Inclusion Specialist

Las Vegas, NV  
January 2007-Present

Manage a wide variety of social, recreational, therapeutic and community activities for children, adults, and veterans with disabilities; supervise, develop, and implement therapeutic recreation activities based on needs and interests, such as fishing, adaptive golf, fitness, aquatic programs and other activities or programs designed to meet specific physical or psychological needs for individuals with disabilities; train and direct staff in the technical functions of developing inclusive or adaptive recreation programming; Conduct vocational evaluations on students to determine their vocational potential as well as assist them in pursuing and identifying appropriate career goals; develop program plans and conduct evaluations of new and ongoing programs; assist in the development, planning and promotion of therapeutic recreation special events or programs such as, Disability awareness trainings, Sensitivity trainings, and Career fairs; Supervises recreation leaders, part-time staff, instructors, and volunteers.

**State of Nevada/Rehabilitation Division**

Vocational Rehabilitation Coordinator II

Las Vegas, NV

*April 2004- December 2006*

Conducted vocational rehabilitation counseling, informational interviews and case management services for young adults with disabilities transitioning from school to work as well as adults entering or reentering workforce; obtained, reviewed, and interpreted medical, psychological, social, educational (Individualized Education Plan) and vocational data to determine participant's eligibility for services; utilized the principles of informed choice to assist the eligible individual to evaluate his/her strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities and capabilities for the purpose of jointly establishing an effective Individualized Plan for Employment; administered and managed a budget of 250,000 annually; matched individual needs to available services; recommend appropriate programs, and treatment interviews based on evaluation of needs; developed employment opportunities and worked in collaborations with community rehabilitation programs /private vendors for participants who were able to work in the competitive industry; thoroughly document all activities and decisions in accordance with state and federal laws, regulations, policies and procedures; supervised job developers activities, transition coordinators and rehabilitation services technicians.

**Dept of Assistive& Rehab Services /Texas Commission for the Blind**

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

McAllen, TX

*May 2003-December2003*

Worked with blind/visually impaired consumers for the purpose of determining, providing, and coordinating vocational rehabilitative services; made eligibility decisions, developed Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE), and evaluated progress towards reaching an employment outcome; provided career counseling, adaptive skills training, communication training, medical management training, therapeutic recreation, leisure management training, and community living skills training to consumers to establish employment objectives to commensurate with their abilities, skills, and interests; provided post employment services and assistance in addressing subsequent consumer vocational concerns such as adaptive equipment or additional training requirements; administered case service expenditures and delivery of services; participated in training activities conducted for staff development.

**The University of Texas Pan-American/Dept of Rehabilitation**

Research Assistant

Edinburg, TX

*August 2002-September 2003*

Provided technical support under the direction of the Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation; conducted research on assistive technology and gerontology for educational services; assisted with data (qualitative and quantitative), collection, coding, entry, and verification; identified and maintained relationships with community agency representatives; compiled information for publishing in national rehabilitation journals; reviewed rehabilitation material for consideration in research; worked in grant funded assistive technology lab demonstrating and working with devices/software such as, high-speed scanners, JAWS, Dragon Naturally Speaking, and Open Book.

**The University of Texas Pan-American/Counseling & Advisement**

Peer Advisor

Edinburg, TX

*February 2002-January 2003*

Under the immediate supervision of the Professional Counselor and Academic Counselor, assisted students with educational planning with regards to general education course requirements by completing student class schedules; provided career counseling to assist students in career goal setting, occupational searches, resume preparation, and other strategies leading towards employment objective; calculated student grade point averages, educated students in time management skills and coping skills.

**The University of Texas Pan-American/ Student Outreach Services**

Orientation Leader

Edinburg, TX

*January 2001- January 2002*

Provided guidance to incoming freshman; assisted students with class schedules; supported the orientation office in providing information about university programs over the telephone; conducted campus tours and performed skits during new student/ transfer student orientation.

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

- Mentor : Planned course instruction in Social Psychology and Introductions to Sociology to a student attaining a bachelor degree in Human Services in an adult degree programs; developed effective evaluation tools to assure that course content and objectives were met; utilize a variety of teaching styles and methods to accommodate diverse learning styles of student. Location: Prescott AZ- Las Vegas, NV (8/2004-8/2005)

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

- International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals
- Nevada Council of the Blind
- Blind Connect

## **HONORS**

- Supervisory Development College Certificate –City of Las Vegas (2010)
- Post Graduate Certification: Life Care Planning-Kaplan University (2008)
- National Certificate of Achievement in Employment Services-San Diego State Univ (2008).
- Rehabilitation Scholarship Award (09/2001-12/2003).
- Andrus Foundation Fellowship Program & National Council of Aging (2001).
- NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Team (08/1999-12/2000)

## **NATIONAL INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- Redux of Employer Validation of Jobs that can be Performed with a Sit/Stand Option. International Association of Rehabilitation of Professionals –Forensics Section. New Orleans, LA; October 23, 2015.
- Questionable Jobs, Changing Classification, and Significant Numbers- American Board of Vocational Experts. Las Vegas, NV; March 22-25, 2012.
- Empirical Validation of Employer Perceptions of Jobs that can be performed with a Sit/Stand Option. International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals – Forensics Section. Las Vegas, NV; November 1-3, 2007.
- 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.

## **NATIONAL REFERRED PUBLICATIONS**

- Marini, I., Preston, B., & Antol, D. (2015). Redux of Employer Validation of Jobs with a Sit/Stand Option. Journal of Forensic Vocational Analysis, 16 (1), 29-38.
- Marini, I., & Preston. B., (2012) Questionable Jobs, Changing Classification, and Significant Numbers-The Rehabilitation Professional. Volume 20 (3), 167-176.
- 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. Volume 16 (3), 171-178.
- 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.

## **GRANT/CONTRACT FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION**

- Preston, B (2017-2018) “Land & Water Conservation Fund” Project Director. Funding Source: Nevada State Parks & National Park Service. (\$99,378). Project Name: The Justice Myron E. Levitt & Jaycee Community Park Inclusive Playground.
- Preston, B (2016-2017) “Adaptive Sport Grant” Project Director. Funding Source: Nevada Department of Veterans Services (\$10,000).
- Preston, B (2014-2015) “Adaptive Sport Grant” Project Director. Funding Source: Nevada Department of Veterans Services (\$52,000).
- Preston, B (2014) “Youth service learning min grant” Project Director. Funding Source: Nevada Volunteer of America (\$1,000).
- Preston, B (2013 to 2014) “Implementing Arthritis Interventions in Local Park and Recreation Agencies” Project Director. Funding Source: National Recreation & Park Association (\$4,000).
- Preston, B (2012) Return & Restore Physical Activity of Injured Service Members and Veterans. Project Director. Funding Source: National Recreation & Park Association (\$5,000).

- Preston, B (2011) Return & Restore Physical Activity of Injured Service Members and Veterans. Project Director. Funding Source: National Recreation & Park Association (\$5,000).
- Preston, B (2010) Promote Physical Activity of Injured Service Members. Project Director. Funding Source: National Recreation & Park Association (\$6,500).

**REFERENCES:** Available upon request.