

Rigel Macarena Piñón
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EDUCATION: **The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley (2016-present)**
Master of Science Degree in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling.

The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley (2012-2015)
Bachelor of Science degree in Rehabilitation Services (magna cum laude)
Minor: Spanish

EMPLOYMENT:

Research Assistant (2017-present)

Employed as a research assistant to Dr. Marini working on three life care planning projects. Duties include database searches, read and summarize relevant materials for manuscript development and compose relevant sections for the papers.

Educational Coach (2017-present)

Contract with Texas Workforce Commission to provide job coaching for individuals with disabilities at the worksite as well as to provide career advisement, demonstrate how the job is performed, supervise individuals, and coordinate partnering services with employers.

Marini & Associates-Forensic Rehabilitation Consultants (2016-present)

Conducts bilingual intake interviews of personal injury claimants, summarize medical records, conduct labor market analyses regarding vocational assessments for future earning capacity loss, and develop life care plans in cases involving future medical care needs and cost sourcing. Provide job placement analyses where requested, and involved in trial testimony as an expert witness.

Project Hire (2014 - Present)

Volunteered 1,080 hours as an educational in a program that aids individuals who are seeking an education attain a certificate and employment with the help of project HIRE. This program is partnered with Workforce solutions, DARS, UTPA and STC with the ultimate goal of helping our students be successful as educational coaches found methods to facilitate their college experience as well as achieving independence and self-advocacy. Case management

including documentation, updating files, as well as attending performance and review meetings. Bilingual: Interpreter for Project HIRE in several events as well as Tex-Prep.

TexPrep - Program Assistant - South Texas College (2015 - 2016)

Supervised high potential students in an accelerated engineering summer program by providing them advisement and curriculum inflammation.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Division for Blind Services (2012-present)

White Cane Day – volunteered in assisting children who were blind by teaching how to use the cane, learn basic braille, and refined social skills.

Silver Braille Enrichment Literacy Program (Silver Bell) – assisted in yearly workshops by providing training and informing the public of the new technology available that is most suitable for the elderly individuals interested in learning braille.

BELL Program – contributed to the annual workshop targeting children from age 7-17 and assisting students to read/learning braille and build their social skills.

National Federation for the Blind (2012-present)

Assisted and coordinated annual national conferences by demonstrating new technology for the blind show and tell and link technology to how persons were blind can live independently in the home and their community as well as the technology in employment.

CASA of Hidalgo (2014 – 2018)

Active volunteer in a program dedicated to help neglected kids by advocating for them in the courthouse and working with a team that consists of caseworkers, lawyers, and the judge in order to find the best and safest place for the child to have a home.

Attended the Texas CASA Imagine state conference on October 2015, and participated on a panel. December 2015 volunteer of the month and active member of the legislative advocacy board.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Pinon, R. M., & Marini, I. (2017). Life care planning in a country with for-profit medicine. *Journal of Life Care Planning*, 15(2), 35-38.

Pinon, R. M., Marini, I., Cantu, T., & Escandon, I. (2018). The implications of mild traumatic brain injury and malingering, knowledge base, and plaintiff expert's opinions in life care planning. *Journal of Life Care Planning*. 16(3), 23-30.

Marini, I., Vang, C., **Pinon, R. M.**, Antol, D., & Cuevas, S. (In progress). Assistive technology opinions regarding the replacement values of durable medical equipment. **(Funded by the Foundation for Life Care Planning Research)**

AWARDS AND HONORS

- International Academy of Life Care Planners – Graduate Research Paper of the Year Award. September 2017, St. Louis, Missouri.
- National Council on Rehabilitation Education – Graduate Student of the Year Award. March 2018, Anaheim, California.

MEMBERSHIPS

- International Academy of Life Care Planners
- American Rehabilitation Counseling Association
- National Council on Rehabilitation Education

COMPUTER AND RELEVANT SKILLS

- HTML, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Video Software
- fully bilingual in English and Spanish in all forms of communication
- knowledgeable of assistive technology for the blind