

VIRGINIA DIAZ-MENDOZA

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

SEEK Department

The City University of New York

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York, NY 10019

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EDUCATION

- PhD The Graduate Center – CUNY, 2020
Criminal Justice / Specialization: Policy, Oversight & Administration
- Dissertation: Diaz-Mendoza, V. (2020). Doing discipline different: Evaluating the implementation of restorative justice as an alternative to punitive discipline in New York City public schools. CUNY Academic Works.
- MPA John Jay College of Criminal Justice – CUNY, 2013
- Policy Analysis: Policy Initiatives to Support the Academic Success of Black Males in College
- MA City College of New York – CUNY, 2002
- Major: General Psychology
- BA Herbert H. Lehman College – CUNY, 1998
- Major: Psychology Minor: Sociology

CURRENT POSITION

Tenure Track Assistant Professor / Counseling Faculty
SEEK Department, John Jay College of Criminal Justice - CUNY
New York Licensed Mental Health Counselor #003939-01

AFFILIATIONS

Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education
National Association for Community and Restorative Justice

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Transformative Learning in the Humanities at CUNY – Andrew W. Mellon Faculty Fellow (2021 – 2022)

COURSES TAUGHT

FRC101 – Freshman Colloquium

COMS192 – Blueprint for College Success

SSC100 – Social Justice in Education

EDU100 – Understanding Public Education in the United States

EDU280 – Special Topics in Education and Justice: Harm & Healing in Schools

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Embodied Social Justice Training Program – The Embody Lab – August 2021

Complex Trauma Certification – PESI – March 2021

Mindfulness, Healing, & Transformation Certification – PESI – April 2018

Restorative Justice Practitioner – Mastery Level Trained by Kay Pranis & Elizabeth Clemants at Planning Change – April 2018

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

9/02 – Present

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY

Percy Ellis Sutton SEEK Department

Licensed Mental Health Counselor/ Counseling Faculty

- Provide both individual and group counseling for a caseload of 100+ students
- Teach courses to first year students that support transition and adjustment to college
- Conduct research to assess and address the needs of disadvantaged students
- Plan activities that promote sense of community among college students
- Encourage positive youth development and involvement in social justice advocacy

10/01 – 8/02

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY

City University of New York Counseling Assistant Program

Assistant to SEEK Counseling Coordinator

- Delivered counseling services to students under supervision of counseling coordinator
- Assisted SEEK Academic Review Committee by collecting, reviewing, and analyzing data significant to counseling academic probation students

2/98 – 8/02

Herbert H. Lehman College, Bronx, NY

SEEK Department

Counseling Assistant

- Assisted counselors in meeting the needs of students in the program
- Provided support services to assist students with academic and personal issues
- Informed students of resources offered by the program to maximize the use of counseling and tutoring services

Supplemental Instruction Supervisor

- Assisted tutoring coordinator in training supplemental instruction leaders to effectively provide academic support services and promote student success
- Prepared evaluation reports of supplemental instruction activities at the end of each semester for the purpose of outcomes assessment

Supplemental Instruction Leader

- Led supplemental instruction for students enrolled in introductory psychology courses in group setting / Review Sessions
- Met periodically with professor to discuss important issues related to the course and student performance
- Responsibilities included taking attendance, creating lesson plans, teaching effective study skills, and providing research assistance

Summer 1998

New York Psychiatric Institute, New York, NY

Volunteer/ Children and Adolescent Day Unit

- Led and co-led educational and recreational groups for patients
- Encouraged patients to participate in scheduled activities
- Attended team meetings, case conferences and assisted with the units general functioning

PUBLICATIONS

Son, M., Diaz-Mendoza, V., Alford, S., King-Toler, E., Cuesta, G., & Hayman, L. (2022). Echoing: A practice of liberation through transformative education. *Journal of Contemplative Inquiry*.

Diaz-Mendoza, V. (Accepted May 2021). Developing highly effective student leaders: A strengths-based framework for high achieving economically challenged urban undergraduates. *About Campus*.

Dualeh, D., Diaz-Mendoza, V., Son, M., & Luperon, C. (2018). The implementation of P.O.W.E.R (Pushing Our Will to Experience Resilience): An intervention to address retention and graduation rates among men of color. *Journal of College and Character*.

GRANTS

Diaz-Mendoza, V. (2022). [Creating Opportunities for Students at the Margins: Faculty Mentored Research about Peer Mentoring](#). PSC-CUNY Traditional B Grant.

Cuesta, G., Diaz-Mendoza, V. & Son, M. (2019). Moving towards an embodied knowledge of justice in general education: Praxis in the Education and Justice 100 level course. Minding the Gap Program Improvement Grant. John Jay College of Criminal Justice, NY.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Diaz-Mendoza, V., Endsley, C., & Green, A. (2021, November). Embodied wisdom as anti-racist, anti-oppressive, culturally affirming curriculum and pedagogy. Resourcing, Reconnection, and Reemergence: Centering Contemplative Practices in our Work and in our Healing. Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education Conference.

Diaz-Mendoza, V. (2018, May). Using empowerment evaluation to improve and sustain restorative justice initiatives. Restorative Practices & Transformative Justice Conference, New York, NY.

Diaz-Mendoza, V. (2017, May). Responsibly creating communities of care through quality implementation. Transformative Practices & Restorative Justice Conference, City University of New York, NY.

Diaz-Mendoza, V. (2017, June). Creativity and fidelity in evaluating restorative justice: Connecting research, theory, and practice. Moving from the Margins to the Center, National Conference on Community and Restorative Justice, Oakland, CA.

Diaz-Mendoza, V. & Dualeh, D. (2017, April). The POWER of sharing personal narratives: Intentional programming for the retention and graduation of male students of color on college campuses. Highlighting the Narrative: Giving Voices to Research. Annual Diversity in Research and Practice Conference at Teachers College Columbia University. New York, NY.

Diaz-Mendoza, V. (2016, October). Addressing the school-to-prison pipeline with practices that promote restorative justice and educational equity. Restoring Community. 21st International Institute for Restorative Practices World Conference, Bethlehem, PA.

Diaz-Mendoza, V. (2016, May). Disrupting the school to prison pipeline with restorative justice practices that promote educational equity. Transformative Practices & Restorative Justice Conference, City University of New York, NY.

Ali, O. & Diaz-Mendoza, V. (2014, October). You Excel, We Excel: Promoting academic excellence and student engagement. Successfully Overcoming Challenges in the New Millennium. Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society 10th National Conference, Pensacola Beach, FL.

Son, M., Franks, C., Bessaha, M., Alford, C., Diaz-Mendoza, V., Johnny, W., Jagielnicka, J., Afzal, A., Luperon, C. & Dixon, Z. (2013, April). Social justice and creative engagement: Syllabus as dialogue. Access and Opportunities: Keeping America's Promise. Tri-State Consortium of Opportunity Programs, Elizabeth, NJ.

Diaz-Mendoza, V., Afzal, A., Luperon, C., Dixon, Z., Monroy-Caceres, H. & Rodriguez, E. (2012, December). Onboarding the new kids on the block: Surviving the streets of SEEK. Creative Engagement: Bridging Possibilities Between Students, Campus, and Community. CUNY Office of Special Programs, Sharing What Works Conference Series, New York, NY.

King-Toler, E., Bessaha, M. L., Diaz-Mendoza, V., Son, M., and Franks, C. (2011, March). Using social media to engage college students. Assessing Our Past and Planning Our Future in a Changing World. Tri-State Consortium of Opportunity Programs in Higher Education 11th Biennial Conference, Tarrytown, NY.

Aboulafia, P. & Diaz-Mendoza, V. (2010, Fall). Literacy empowerment through meaningful grammar: Motivation and emotion as it relates to learning. Contemporary Needs of Students in Higher Education. CUNY Office of Special Programs, Sharing What Works Conference Series, New York, NY.

King-Toler, E., Diaz, V. & Son, M. (2006, November). Translating street smarts to classroom smart: Helping urban college students on academic probation make the grade. Promoting Excellence Through Creative Student Engagement. CUNY Office of Special Programs, Sharing What Works Conference Series, New York, NY.

Son, M. & Diaz, V. (2006, March). Sociocultural implications for working with Dominican students: What do we need to know? Ensuring Advisor Success. National Academic Advising Association 22nd Annual NACADA Region One Conference, Hartford, CT.

Williams, C., Solis, C., Coleman, T., Diaz, V. & Alford, S.M. (2003, April). An examination of the impact of counseling on academic probation students in Special Programs. Crossing the Great Divide: Fostering Educational Excellence. Tri-State Consortium, Seventh Biennial Conference Albany, NY.

UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Undergraduate Curriculum & Academic Standards Committee – John Jay College
(2017 – Present)

SEEK Department Curriculum Committee – John Jay College (2012 – Present)

SEEK Department Personnel and Budget Committee – John Jay College (2011- Present)

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Faculty Advisor - Alpha Xi Chapter, Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society
(2009 – 2020)

Restorative Justice Conference Planning Committee – Lehman College (Spring 2017)

Faculty Senate & College Council – John Jay College (2005 – 2011)

SEEK Department Academic Review Committee – John Jay College (2002 – 2011)

ADA/ 504 Compliance Committee – John Jay College (2007 – 2008)

Commission to Assess La Policia Nacional, Dominican Republic - John Jay College
(Winter 2005)