

CURRICULUM VITAE

Melissa E. Abeyta, Ed.D.

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EDUCATION

Ed.D.	Educational Leadership, Community College Concentration San Diego State University	05/2020
M.A.	Postsecondary Educational Leadership with a Specialization in Student Affairs San Diego State University	05/2014
B.A.	Communication and Chicana/o Studies San Diego State University	05/2007
A.A.	Transfer Studies Southwestern Community College	05/2005

PROFESSIONAL/TEACHING POSITIONS

Assistant Professor Fall 2021 – Present	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Educational Leadership/ Higher Education Leadership
Faculty Affiliate Summer 2021 – Present	San Diego State University SEMILLAS Research Fellowship Program
Lecturer Fall 2020 – Summer 2021	Antioch University

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Refereed Journal Articles

*Undergraduate student **Master's student ***Doctoral student

1. **Abeyta, M.**, Torres, A., Hernandez, J.***, Duran, O.** (2021). Rising Scholars: A case study of two community colleges serving formerly incarcerated and system-impacted students. *Journal of Applied Research in the Community College*. 28(1), 99-109.
2. **Abeyta, M.** (2020). Formerly incarcerated Latino men navigating California community colleges. *Journal of Applied Research in the Community College*. 27(2). 51-62.

Refereed Book Chapters

1. **Abeyta, M.**, Hernandez, J.***, Torres, A., Duran, O.**(In Progress). Streetwise Epistemology: A framework to explore the knowledge contained within the lived experience of formerly incarcerated and system impacted Latina/a/o/x students. *Latina/o/x community college students: Navigating and negotiating the community college to four-year college/university transfer pipeline*. Information Age Publishing. In J. Del Real Viramontes & M. Vasquez (Eds.)

Manuscript Under Review

1. **Abeyta, M.** (Under Review). “If I could do 12 years in prison, why can’t I do 12 years in college”: Academic pathways for formerly incarcerated students. *Journal Committed to Social Change on Race and Ethnicity*.
2. **Abeyta, M.** (Under Review). The carceral capital of formerly incarcerated Latino men in community colleges. *Critical Qualitative Inquiry*.
3. **Abeyta, M.** (Under Review). The student identities of formerly incarcerated Latino males. *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*.

Manuscript Under Development

1. **Abeyta, M.** & Guerra, B. (under development). An environmental scan of formerly incarcerated and system impacted students in Texas.
2. Vasquez, M.C., **Abeyta, M.**, Gonzalez, Á., Garcia, F.***, Horg-Aaron, C.*** & Duran, O.** (under development). Fostering scholar identities among Latina/o/x community college students through undergraduate research.
3. Vasquez, M.C., **Abeyta, M.**, Gonzalez, Á., Garcia, F.***, Horg-Aaron, C.*** & Duran, O.** (under development). Harvesting semillas: The role of undergraduate research in bridging the graduate education pipeline.
4. **Abeyta, M.**, Hernandez, J.*** (under development). The semillas the grew from concrete. The strength of formerly incarcerated Latinx/a/o students.
5. **Abeyta, M.**, Hernandez, J.*** (under development). “I’m gonna go full force:” The experiences of Latinx/a/o students in higher education.
6. Vasquez, M.C., Gonzalez, Á., & **Abeyta, M.** (under development). “A father could be loving. A father could be caring. A father could be...”: Latino men reconceptualizing masculinity in college.
7. Vasquez, M.C., Gonzalez, Á., & **Abeyta, M.** (under development). Examining community college faculty’s perceptions and practices towards teaching men of color.

Research Briefs, Blogs, and Reports

1. **Abeyta, M.**, Hernandez, J.***, Campos, B., Mercado, A.**, Estrada, J.** (Forthcoming 2021). Partners en Hope. *Latino Coalition for Community Leadership*.
2. Olaniyan, M., **Abeyta, M.**, Coca, V., Magnelia, S., Goldrick-Rab, S., Vasquez, M., Harris III, F. (Forthcoming 2022). *Racial Disparities, COVID-19 Pandemic, and Basic Needs Insecurity*.

3. **Abeyta, M.** (2019). Reflections of a dissertating mami scholar. *NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Latinx/a/o Knowledge Community*.
4. **Abeyta, M.** (2018). Equitable educational opportunities for system impacted Latinx students. *NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Latinx/a/o Knowledge Community*.
5. **Abeyta, M.** (2017). Latinx scholar's corner. *NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Latinx/a/o Knowledge Community*.

Podcasts

1. **Abeyta, M.** (Guest) (2021). [Audio podcast forthcoming]. In M. Espino (host). Latinx intelligentsia. <https://latinxintelligentsia.libsyn.com/>

Refereed Scholarly Presentations

1. **Abeyta, M.**, Torres, A., Hernandez, J.***, Duran, O.** (2022). Homies sit in the front: The experiences of formerly incarcerated Latinx/a/o students in higher education. Paper to be presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) in San Diego, CA.
2. **Abeyta, M.**, Torres, A., Hernandez, J.***, Duran, O.** (2022). Las Voces de las Calles: Lived experiences of formerly incarcerated Latina/o/x students. Paper to be presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) in San Diego, CA.
3. Hernandez, R., Hernandez, J.***, **Abeyta, M.**, Gonzalez, Á., & Duran, O. (2022). Familismo in the Latinx/a/o Community. Interactive Symposia to be presented at the NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Conference in Baltimore, MD.
4. Hernandez, R., **Abeyta, M.**, Martinez, B., Duran, L. (2022) Chingonas disrupting societal expectations. Interactive Symposia to be presented at the NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Conference in Baltimore, MD.
5. Vasquez, M.C., **Abeyta, M.**, Gonzalez, Á., Garcia, F.***, Horg-Aaron, C.*** & Duran, O.** (2021, November). Fostering scholar identities among Latina/o/x community college students through undergraduate research. Roundtable presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
6. Vasquez, M.C., **Abeyta, M.**, Gonzalez, Á., Garcia, F.***, Horg-Aaron, C.*** & Duran, O.** (2021, November). Harvesting semillas: The role of undergraduate research in bridging the graduate education pipeline. Paper to be presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
7. **Abeyta, M.**, Torres, A., Hernandez, J.***, Duran, O.** (2021, October). Las Voces de las Calles: Lived experiences of formerly incarcerated Latina/o/x students. Presented at virtual Latinx Connect Conference.
8. Hernandez, R., **Abeyta, M.**, Martinez, B. (2021, October). Chingonas in their own way: Re-defining professionalism. Presented at the virtual Latinx Connect Conference.
9. Rojas, V., Hernandez, J.***, Felix, D., & **Abeyta, M.** (2021, September). Roses that rise from concrete: Developing supports for formerly incarcerated students. Presented at the Council for Opportunity in Education Annual Conference.
 - a. Due to COVID-19, the annual meeting was held in a hybrid format.

10. Yucel, E.***, Ortega, J.***, **Abeyta, M.**, Hernandez, J.*** (2021, April). How community colleges can foster student success for formerly incarcerated students. Interactive Symposia at the Council for the Study of Community Colleges.
 - a. Due to COVID-19, the annual meeting was held virtually.
11. **Abeyta, M.**, Hernandez, J.*** (2021, March). The semillas the grew from concrete. The strength of formerly incarcerated Latinx/a/o students. Presented at the Association for Hispanics in Higher Education.
 - a. Due to COVID-19, the annual meeting was held virtually.
12. **Abeyta, M.**, Hernandez, J.***, Duran, O.**, & Torres, A. (2021, March). Del barrio a la academica: Support for formerly incarcerated and system impacted Latinx students throughout the educational pipeline. Presented at the NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Conference.
 - a. Due to COVID-19, the annual meeting was held virtually.
13. Hernandez, R., **Abeyta, M.**, Martinez, B. & Oseguera, T. (2021, March). Chingonas in their own way: Redefining professionalism. Presented at the NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Conference.
 - a. Due to COVID-19, the annual meeting was held virtually.
14. **Abeyta, M.**, Hernandez, J.***, Duran, O.**, & Torres, A. (2021, March). Together we rise: Forming the knowledge community to illuminate the issues of students that are often overlooked and underserved. Presented at the NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Conference.
 - a. Due to COVID-19, the annual meeting was held virtually.
15. **Abeyta, M.**, Hernandez, J.*** (2021, March). Formerly incarcerated and system impacted families knowledge community pre-conference. Presented at the NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Conference.
 - a. Due to COVID-19, the annual meeting was held virtually.
16. Gonzalez, Á., **Abeyta, M.**, Camacho, L. Catano, Y., Gonzalez, S. (2020, November) We are in a pandemic: Cultural survival platicas as Latinx/a/o scholars. Presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Conference.
 - a. Due to COVID-19, the annual meeting was held virtually.
17. **Abeyta, M.**, Hernandez, J.***, Duran, O.**, & Torres, A. (20210 March). Del barrio a la academica: Support for formerly incarcerated and system impacted Latinx students throughout the educational pipeline. Accepted at the Council for the Study of Community Colleges in Tempe, AZ.
 - a. Due to COVID-19, the annual meeting was cancelled.
18. **Abeyta, M.**, Hernandez, J.***, Duran, O.**, & Torres, A. (2020, March). Together we rise: Forming the knowledge community to illuminate the issues of students that are often overlooked and underserved. Presented at the NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Conference.
 - a. Due to COVID-19, the annual meeting was cancelled.
19. **Abeyta, M.** (2020, March). A phenomenological study of formerly incarcerated Latino men in California community colleges. Presented at the Association for Hispanics in Higher Education in Costa Mesa, CA.

20. **Abeyta, M.**, Hernandez, J.***, Duran, O.**, & Torres, A. (2020, March). From the hood to getting hooded: Illuminating the educational experience of those impacted by incarceration. Presented at the Association for Hispanics in Higher Education in Costa Mesa, CA.
21. **Abeyta, M.** (2019, November). Formerly incarcerated Latino men navigating California community colleges. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education in Portland, OR.
22. Vasquez, M., **Abeyta, M.**, Vang, M., Estrada, S. & Harris III, F. (2019, November). The experiences of African American community college students with racism in predominately white and affluent communities. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education in Portland, OR.
23. Hernandez, R., **Abeyta, M.**, Martinez, B. & Oseguera, T. (2019, November) Chingonas in their own way: Panel presentation on diverse experiences of Latinas/x within the field. Presented at the NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Conference in Portland, OR.
24. **Abeyta, M.** (2019, April). The student identities of formerly incarcerated Latino males. Roundtable presentation at the Council for the Study of Community Colleges Conference in San Diego, CA.
25. **Abeyta, M.** (2019, March). Serving formerly incarcerated Latinx students in community college. Presented at the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education in Costa Mesa, CA.
26. **Abeyta, M.** (2018, November) Students not suspects: A testimonio of a formerly incarcerated Latino transfer student. Presented at the NASPA Western Regional Conference in Sacramento, CA.
27. Vasquez, M.C., Harris III, F., Estrada, S.**, **Abeyta, M.**, Vang, M. (2018, November). The intersection of masculinity and capital: Understanding how masculinity fosters student success for Latino transfer students. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education in Tampa, FL.
28. **Abeyta, M.** (2018, April). Equitable Educational Opportunities for system impacted Latino males. Roundtable at the Council for the Study of Community Colleges at Addison, TX.
29. **Abeyta, M.** & Vasquez, B. (2017, November). Education not incarceration: Reinvesting in quality of life. Presented at NASPA Western Regional Conference in Honolulu, HI.

Invited Research/Scholarly Presentations

1. **Abeyta, M.** (2021). Academic pathways for formerly incarcerated students. Presented to the Fresno City College Student Equity Symposium.
2. **Abeyta, M.** (2020). Streetwise scholars: Transformative practices for formerly incarcerated students. NASPA Western Regional Conference.
3. **Abeyta, M.** (2020). Formerly incarcerated and system impacted students. Institutional development for equity, access, and success (IDEAS) at Fresno City College.
 - a. Due to COVID-19, the convening was cancelled.

4. **Abeyta, M.** (2020). Sense of belonging for formerly incarcerated students. Organizacion de Latinx of National Community College Hispanic Council.
 - a. Due to COVID-19, the convening was cancelled.
5. **Abeyta, M.** (2019). Understanding and engaging undergraduate Latinx students. Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors Annual Conference.
6. **Abeyta, M.** (2018). Race and the prison pipeline. California State University, San Marcos.
7. **Abeyta, M.** (2018). Equitable educational opportunities for system impacted students. UCLA Community College Studies Conference in Los Angeles, CA.
8. Vasquez, M., **Abeyta, M.**, & Garcia, F. (2018). Masculinity as a form of capital among Latino male transfer community college students. UCLA Community College Studies Conference in Los Angeles, CA.

Scholarship Related Awards/Honors
Faculty – Professional Fellowships

1. 2021 Invited Faculty Fellow
 Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)/Ascendium Fellow
2. 2021 Invited Faculty Affiliate
 Project M.A.L.E.S., University of Texas at Austin

Graduate – Scholarly Awards

1. 2019 Recipient
 Ron Jacobs Outstanding Research Award, SDSU Community College Leaders Alumni Chapter
2. 2019 Recipient
 Civility for the Community Partner Champion Award, California State University, San Marcos
3. 2019 Protégé
 ASHE’s Council on Ethnic Participation’s Mentor-Protégé Program
4. 2018 Graduate Fellow
 Graduate Student Policy Seminar, Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)
5. 2018 Recipient
 Vasquez Scholarship for Advancing Latinx Student Success, San Diego State University
6. 2018 Honorable Mention
 Project M.A.L.E.S., University of Texas at Austin

Funded Research Grants

1. \$5,000 – AERA Education Research Service Projects (ERSP), Co-Principal Investigator, American Educational Research Association, 2021
2. \$2,000 – Council for the Study of Community Colleges Research Grant, Co-Principal Investigator, Council for the Study of Community Colleges, 2021

3. \$10,000 – University Grant Program, Co-Principal Investigator, San Diego State University, Division of Research and Innovation, 2021

Submitted Grant Proposals

1. The Spencer Foundation, Racial Equity Special Research Grant 2021

Unfunded Research Grants

1. \$5,000 – University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2021-2022 CEP Small Grants

Professional Consulting Services

1. 2021 Community College Equity Assessment Lab
2. 2021 Latino Coalition for Community Leadership

Participation in Professional Association

1. 2018 American Association of Hispanic in Higher Education (AAHHE)
2. 2018 Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)
3. 2018 Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC)
4. 2018 American Education Research Association (AERA)
5. 2013 National Association Student Affairs Administrations in Higher Education (NASPA)

TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS

Courses Taught at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Doctoral

EDRE 8301: Qualitative Research
FA 2021, SP 2022

Courses Taught at Antioch University

Masters

EDUC 6100: Inquiry Development
FA 2020
EDUC 6070: Inquiry and Research
FA 2020

Courses Taught at San Diego State University

Undergraduate

ARP 205: Exploring Leadership
FA 2019
ARP 296: Introduction to Leadership
FA 2019

Invited Guest Lecturers

SP 2021

EDL 511: Critical Qualitative Inquiry Methods on Phenomenology (Doctoral)
Fresno State University

SP 2021

EPL 7386: Formerly Incarcerated Students in Higher Education (Doctoral)
Southern Methodist University

SU 2020

ED 853: Advanced Qualitative Research on Phenomenology (Doctoral)
San Diego State University

Teaching Innovations

1. SU 2021 SEMILLAS Research Fellowship Program
2. SP 2021 SEMILLAS Program Seminar: Research Methods – New Course Design (Undergraduate, Masters, Doctoral)
3. FA 2021 SEMILLAS Program Seminar: Research Methods – New Course Design (Undergraduate, Masters, Doctoral)

Professional Development for Teaching

1. Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) Effective Online Teaching Practices

SERVICE

Service for the Department

1. FA 2021 Doctoral Admissions Program Committee Member
Department of Organization and School Leadership
2. FA 2021 Master's in Higher Education Leadership Committee Member
Department of Organization and School Leadership

Service for the Profession

1. 2020 – Present American Behavioral Scientist, External Journal Reviewer
2. 2020 – Present Community College Journal of Research, External Journal Reviewer
3. 2018 – Present NASPA Formerly Incarcerated Students & System Impacted Families
Knowledge Community Co-Chair

Speaking Engagements

1. 2020 M.A.M.S. (Mothers and Mother Scholars)
Southwestern College
2. 2020 Invited Keynote, TRiO SSS and McNair's Graduation Keynote Speaker

University of Colorado Denver (Virtual)

3. 2020 Formerly Incarcerated Latinx Students
NASPA Latinx/a/o Knowledge Community Consejos y Consuelos
4. 2019 Raices Unidas Graduation Keynote Speaker
San Diego State University

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

1. 2020 – Present Faculty Affiliate
S.E.M.I.L.L.A.S. (Scholarship, Equity & Mentorship vis Intellectual Love & Leadership in the Academy for Success)
2. 2017 – Present Research Associate
Community College Equity Assessment Lab (CCEAL)
3. 2014 – 2018 The Corky McMillin Center for Real Estate Center Manager
College of Business, San Diego State University
4. 2011 – 2014 Program Coordinator
College of Extended Studies, San Diego State University
5. 2007 – 2010 Communication Specialist
Office of Community & Governmental Relations, Southwestern College