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Assistant Professor
Social Work Department
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EDUCATION

Ed.D.	Higher Education Leadership, Azusa Pacific University Dissertation: <i>Understanding retention among college-going foster youth through policy and practice.</i>	2018
PPSC	Pupil Personnel Services Credential, National University	2018
M.S.	Educational Counseling, National University	2008
B.A.	Interdisciplinary Studies, National University	2006

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND SPECIALIZATION

Experiences of foster youth in higher education; college retention; educational equity; underrepresented/underserved students; transitional-age foster youth; students of color

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor , Fresno Pacific University	2018 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PSY 300: Statistics• SW 462: Introduction to Social Science Research Methods• SW 493-496: Integrative/Thesis Courses (Qualitative Methodology)• SOC470: Sociocultural Theory• SW 351: Urban Society and Social Welfare	Fall 2013
Adjunct Instructor , California State University, Fresno	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SW171: Introduction to Qualitative Research	2013 - 2015
Doctoral Research Assistant , Azusa Pacific University <i>Quantitative Research Team with Dr. Young Kim</i>	
Doctoral Research Assistant , Azusa Pacific University <i>Qualitative Research Team with Dr. Alexander Jun</i>	2011 - 2012

DISSERTATION SERVICE

Sarubbi, Molly (2019). *Stories of the 3%: foster care alumni narratives of resilience and postsecondary attainment*. Ph.D Dissertation, University of Denver.

Martin, Sharon (2019). *Activating the active ingredient: How relationships help foster youth attain a diploma*. Ed.D. Dissertation, Azusa Pacific University.

PUBLICATIONS

Gamez, S.I. & Lopez, K. (Accepted). Fostering success: Programs and practices to serve college-going foster youth on campus. In G. Martin and S. Ardoin (Eds.), *Social Class Supports: Examples of Programs and Practices to Serve Poor and Working-Class Students in Higher Education*. Stylus Publishing.

Lopez, K. & Whitman, K.L. (In progress). *It takes a village: Mitigating effects of faculty and staff supporting college-going foster youth*. Children and Youth Services Review.

Lopez, K. (2020, Feb. 12). *Black foster youth lives matter*. [NASPA Socioeconomic & Class Issues in Higher Education Knowledge Community Blog Post]. Retrieved from <https://www.naspa.org/blog/black-foster-youth-lives-matter>

González, J. C. & Lopez, K. (2019, December). *Fresno community-based organizations: A focus on eight diverse and dynamic organizations that focus locally and impact regionally*. Fresno, CA: Central Valley Community Foundation.

Lopez, K. (2018). *Understanding retention among college-going foster youth through policy and practice*. Doctoral dissertation, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.

Lopez, K. & Duran, B. (2016). *Transitional age foster youth—Getting them into and through college*. Fresno, CA: Central Valley Higher Education Consortium.

Kim, Y., Edens, D., Espinoza Parra, O., & Lopez, K. (2015). Sense of belonging among undergraduate students of color at predominantly White religious-based institutions. In B. Jackson Glimps and T. N. Ford (Eds.), *Gender and Diversity Issues in Religious-Based Institutions and Organizations*. IGI Global Publisher.

DeRuosi, P. & Lopez, K. (2009, April 3). Helping former foster youth in college. *Fresno Bee, Op-Ed*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Lopez, K. and Gamez, S.I., (2020, February). *A faith-based perspective: Serving college-going foster youth on campus*. Riverside, CA: National Association of Christian Social Workers State Conference.
- Lopez, K., Amechi, M. H., Whitman, K. L., Hoffman, A., Bennett, J., Sarubbi, M., and Gamez, S.I., (2018, November). *Understanding family privilege: Fostering inclusive postsecondary environments for alumni of foster care*. Tampa, FL: 2018 Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education.
- Hoffman, A., Lopez, K., Bennett, J., & Tinker, B. (2018, March). *Fostering inclusion: The implementation of a faculty/staff mentor program for college-going foster youth*. Philadelphia, PA: 2018 National Association of Student Personnel Administration.
- Whitman, K., & Lopez, K. (2017, November). *Towards leveling the playing field: Insights on the college-going experiences of foster care alumni*. Houston, TX: 2017 Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education.
- Lopez, K., Whitman, K., & Velez Young-Alfaro, M. (2017, November). *Foster care alumni and family privilege: Perspectives and practices inside college programs*. Houston, TX: 2017 Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education.
- Gamez, S., Lopez, K., & Chambers, D. (2017, October). *Mindful practice: Taking care of you*. Los Angeles, CA: 2017 Blueprint Conference.
- Lopez, K., & Hunt, J. (2017, October). *Implementing a mentoring program for students from foster care or unaccompanied youth*. Los Angeles, CA: 2017 Blueprint Conference.
- Espinoza Parra, O., Thomas, B., & Lopez, K. (2017, November). *The Miseducation of the other: Reflections on the spiritual conflict encountered by doctoral students at faith-based institutions*. Los Angeles, CA: 2017 NASPA Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Convergence.
- Amechi, M. H., Gross, J., Gupton, J., Lopez, K., & Whitman, K. (2016, November). *A forum on critical issues affecting foster youth in higher education: Cultivating a scholarly agenda and community of scholars*. Columbus, OH: 2016 Annual conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education.
- Kim, Y., Edens, D., Lopez, K. & Espinoza Parra, O. (2015, April). *Sense of belonging among students of color at faith-based colleges and universities: A comparison with white counterparts*. Chicago, IL: 2015 Annual Conference of the American Educational Research Association.

Lopez, K. & Childs, L. (2014, November). *Innovative and effective strategies to promote student success and sense of belonging*. Anaheim, CA: 2014 Western Regional Conference of the National Association of Student Personnel Administration.

Murray, D., Whitman, K., & Lopez, K. (2013, November). *College-going African-American students from foster care: A Qualitative study of the factors that hinder and facilitate resiliency*. St. Louis, MO: 2013 Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education.

Lopez, K. & Whitman, K. (2012, October). *The importance of sense of belonging among former foster youth in college*. Sacramento, CA: The 5th Annual California foster youth education summit: Cradle to college.

INVITED SPEAKER OR PRESENTATIONS

Lopez, K. (2020, January). Featured Speaker. *Educational equity: Using a trauma informed approach to create a safe educational setting for foster youth students*. San Diego County Office of Education in San Diego, CA.

Lopez, K. (2019, June). Featured Speaker. *Educational Equity for Foster Youth of Color*. Jim Casey Youth Initiative Convening, Washington, DC.

Lopez, K. (2019, June) Panelist. *The Privilege of "Family": An Education Equity Conversation*. Jim Casey Youth Initiative Convening, Washington, DC.

Lopez, K. (2019, May). Guest Speaker. *Understanding and Supporting College Students who Experience Homelessness and Food Insecurity*. Reedley College in Reedley, CA.

Lopez, K. (2019, May). Guest Speaker. *Writing Our Own Stories*. Guardian Scholars Program Foster Care Awareness Month. University of California, Davis in Davis, CA.

Lopez, K. (2019, April). Panelist. *Self-Care for Social Work Practitioners*. Social Work Title VI-E Symposium. California State University, Fresno in Fresno, CA.

Lopez, K. (2019, January). Panelist. *Self-Care for Foster and Adoptive Parents and Professionals*. Orphan Care Summit in Fresno, CA.

Lopez, K. (2018, November). TEDx Speaker. *The Trauma of Being Black in Foster Care*. TEDx Fresno State in Fresno, CA.

Lopez, K. (2018, September). Featured speaker. *Removed: Supporting foster youth in an educational setting*. Excellence Through Equity Conference in Riverside, CA.

Lopez, K. (2018, September). Guest Speaker. *President's Scholars Honors Banquet* at Fresno Pacific University in Fresno, CA.

Lopez, K. (2014, May). Keynote Speaker. *Taft College CalWorks and EOP&S End of Year Awards*, Taft Community College in Taft, CA.

Lopez, K. (2013, April). Trainer. *Developing a sense of belonging as a retention strategy for foster youth in college*. Fresno, CA: California College Pathways: Retention Strategies (Part 2) Simulcast at CSU, Fresno.

Lopez, K. (2011, Sept). Panelist. The Central Valley Women's Conference in Fresno, CA.

Lopez, K. (2011, March). Trainer. *Tulare County Foster Parent Training on the Educational Rights of Children and Youth in Foster Care*, Visalia, CA.

Lopez, K. (2011, February). Guest Speaker. *Foster youth: At-risk population*. Fresno, CA: SWRK 123: Social Work Policy at CSU, Fresno.

Lopez, K. (2008, November). Guest Speaker. *First steps: Starting a foster youth program at your college*. Santa Clara, CA: Creating a Blueprint Conference.

Lopez, K. (2008, October). *Transitioning youth: Resiliency factors of youth in the child welfare system*. Fresno, CA: Masters in Social Work Integrative Seminar Title IV-E at CSU, Fresno.

Lopez, K. (2008, October). Guest Speaker. *Students' communication on a college campus*. Fresno, CA: COMM 168: Communication in Organizations at CSU, Fresno.

Lopez, K. (2008, April). Panelist. *Success Initiative Region 5*, Fresno City College in Fresno, CA.

Lopez, K. (2008, Feb). Keynote. *Experience in College as a former foster youth*, Bakersfield College Weill Institute in Bakersfield, CA.

Lopez, K. (2007, December). Guest Speaker. *Preparing foster youth for college*. WESTOP Central California Chapter, Professional Development Seminar at West Hills College in Lemoore, CA.

Lopez, K. (2007, May). Panelist. *The Foster Care Project*, Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA,

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

California State University, Fresno

Coordinator, Renaissance Scholars Program

2008 - 2018

- Plan, manage, coordinate, and evaluates all phases of the program, including supervision of professional and student staff
- Monitor and manage the program budget in conjunction with university foundation office; collaborate with university advancement to cultivate donors, raise funds, and write grant proposals
- Forge strategic partnerships with internal and external stakeholders; represent the program in regional and national organizations, and the community at large
- Serve as a consultant to the broader campus community on resources and services available to current and former foster youth related to postsecondary education
- Stay informed on university policies and procedures
- Meet with students individually or in groups
- Counsel students seeking resolution to problems that directly or indirectly impact their academic performance
- Provide academic and personal interventions strategies for students in distress; collaborate with community colleges and local organizations to recruit prospective students
- Track the progress of students and their use of services, retention and persistence to graduation
- Facilitate presentations, trainings, and workshops for students and agencies serving foster youth.

Behavioral Intervention Team Case Manager/Coordinator, Health Center (June-Dec) 2015

- Plan, develop, and implement the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) within the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
- Coordinate BIT communication
- Chair Students of Concern Team called CARE
- Maintain and manage records, data collection and analyze data for reports
- Plan and initiate critical action plan necessary to implement administrative or group decisions
- Collaborate with key stakeholders to meet the academic and personal needs of students
- Case manage, advise, and counsel students to determine appropriate course of action with problems that are sensitive in nature
- Present information and respond to various groups including managers, faculty, staff, students, media and community

Academic Counselor, Educational Opportunity Program

2006 - 2008

- Provide counseling and advising services to assigned caseload
- Supervise graduate interns
- Assist with program planning, organization, and development
- Develop and implement a support program for former foster youth at the university.

Graduate Counselor Intern, Educational Opportunity Program

Fall 2006

- Provide counseling and advising services to assigned caseload
- Supervise student assistants
- Assist with planning and organization of student activities

GRANT AWARDS

\$2,000 (Awarded)	2019
FPU Provost Research Grant	
<i>Research Project: Experiences of college-going foster youth attending Christian Universities</i>	
\$2,500 (Awarded)	2019
Central California Women's Conference	
<i>One-year grant to provide tangible items to meet the basic needs of college-going foster youth in California's Central Valley</i>	
\$10,000 (Awarded)	2016
Walter S. Johnson Foundation Special Projects	
<i>One-year grant to implement a regional consortium to support foster and homeless youth called Central Valley Higher Education Foster Youth Consortium</i>	
\$5,000 (Awarded)	2016
Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation	
<i>One-year grant to revitalize Wawona Middle School's garden area.</i>	
\$350 (Awarded)	2016
Azusa Pacific University	
<i>Travel grant for a conference presentation at Association of Higher Education Studies Conference in Columbus, OH.</i>	
\$10,000 (Awarded)	2016
Walter S. Johnson Foundation Special Projects	
<i>One-year grant for Central Valley Higher Education Consortium to fund foster youth research report</i>	
\$2,000 (Awarded)	2016
Jan & Bud Richter Center	
<i>Grant to pilot a service project. Access to Higher Education - an event for middle school youth from foster care encouraging a pathway to college.</i>	
\$100,000 (Awarded)	2014
The California Wellness Foundation	
<i>Two-year grant for a full-time program specialist position for the Renaissance Scholars Program at California State University, Fresno</i>	

\$4,000 (Awarded)	2014
In & Out Burger Foundation	
<i>Grant to subsidize a paid summer internship program for major/career exploration and professional development for students in Renaissance Scholars Program at California State University, Fresno</i>	
\$75,000 (Awarded)	2014
The California Wellness Foundation	
<i>One-year grant for a full-time academic counselor position for the Renaissance Scholars Program at California State University, Fresno</i>	
\$400 (Awarded)	2013
Azusa Pacific University	
<i>Travel grant for a conference presentation at Association of Higher Education Studies Conference in St. Louis, MO</i>	
\$1,500 (Awarded)	2011
Parents Association	
<i>Grant to host a Thanksgiving and Holiday Celebration for foster youth attending California State University, Fresno</i>	
\$5,000 (Awarded)	2011
In and Out Burger Foundation	
<i>Grant to subsidize a paid summer internship program for major/career exploration and professional development for students in Renaissance Scholars Program at California State University, Fresno</i>	
\$125,000 (Awarded)	2011
The Walter S. Johnson Foundation	
<i>Two-year grant for Renaissance Scholars Program at California State University, Fresno for staff, marketing and outreach activities and student activities</i>	
\$100,000 (Awarded)	2011
The California Wellness Foundation	
<i>Two-year grant for a full-time academic counselor position for the Renaissance Scholars Program at California State University, Fresno</i>	
\$5,000 (Awarded)	2010
In and Out Burger Foundation	
<i>Grant to subsidize a paid summer internship program for major/career exploration and professional development for students in Renaissance Scholars Program at California State University, Fresno</i>	

\$20,000 (Awarded)	2010
ScholarShare Investment Board	
<i>Pilot project to investigate the viability of implementing ScholarShare College Investments for foster youth statewide</i>	
\$2,000 (Awarded)	2009
DOSA Parents Association	
<i>Grant to host a Thanksgiving and Holiday Celebration for foster youth attending California State University, Fresno</i>	
\$5,000 (Awarded)	2009
In and Out Burger Foundation	
<i>Grant to subsidize a paid summer internship program for major/career exploration and professional development for students in Renaissance Scholars Program at California State University, Fresno</i>	
\$180,000 (Awarded)	2008
The California Wellness Foundation	
<i>Three-year grant for direct student services such as student stipends, housing costs and basic needs costs for foster youth in the Renaissance Scholars Program at California State University, Fresno</i>	
\$300,000 (Awarded)	2008
The Walter S. Johnson Foundation	
<i>Three-year grant for the implementation of the Renaissance Scholars Program at California State University, Fresno for staff, marketing and outreach activities and student activities</i>	
\$25,000 (Awarded)	2007
The Walter S. Johnson Foundation	
<i>Planning grant to investigate to viability of implementing a foster youth support program at California State University, Fresno and to cover travel cost to learn about best practices at other universities</i>	

SERVICE

National

Reviewer , Christian Higher Education: An International Journal of Research Theory, and Practice	2019
Reviewer , Association for the Study of Higher Education 43 rd Annual Conference	2018
Reviewer , Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education 100th Annual Conference (NASPA)	2017

Leadership Team, Foster and Homeless Youth Sub-committee within Socioeconomic and Class Issues in Higher Education Knowledge Community (SCIHE) 2015 - 2018
Reviewer, Association for the Study of Higher Education 39th Annual Conference 2013

Regional

Board Member, Vision 22 2020
Board Member, Central California Asian Pacific Women 2019-Present
Board Member, City Without Orphans 2018-Present
Mentor, Renaissance Scholars Program 2018
Chair, Central Valley Higher Education Foster Youth Consortium 2016
Team Member, CSU Chancellor Foster Youth Work Group 2016
Featured story, Focus Forward Magazine 2014
Committee Member, Willow International Foster Youth College Event 2014
Volunteer Coordinator, The Fosters premiere screening at CSU, Fresno 2013
Doctoral Student Representative at Large, Azusa Pacific University 2012-2013
Committee Member, Summit, Center for Leadership, Equity, & Research 2012
Advisory Board, Fresno County: Foster Youth Educational Services 2008-2018

University Service

Fresno Pacific University

Faculty Representative, Advancement Committee 2020
Search Committee, Kinesiology Department 2020
Search Committee, Bible/Theology Studies 2020

California State University, Fresno

Club Advisor, Zeta Phi Beta 2018
Mentor, Humanics Program 2017
Advisory Committee, CalMHSAs Suicide Prevention Grant 2012
Committee Member, Foster Youth Symposium, Social Work Title IV-E 2012
Leadership Coach, Co-Curricular Leadership Certificate 2012
Mentor, Edge Program (African-American students) 2011
Club Advisor, Achieving Something Above Perfection 2010
Advisory Board Member, Parents Association 2009-2012
Treasurer, Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) 2008-2013
Volunteer, African-American Student Recognition Ceremony 2008-2018

Member , Latino/a Faculty and Staff Association (LFSA)	2008-2010
Member , Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA)	2007-2016
Chair , Search committee, Academic Counselor	2007

HONORS AND RECOGNITION

Fresno Black Magical Woman Award , Fresno Vibe	2020
Fresno Heroes Unmasked , Bitwise Industries and Meza Productions	2019
Outstanding Faculty/Staff Rosa Parks Award , California State University, Fresno	2018
College Hero Award Nomination , John Burton for Youth Foundation	2017
Child Advocacy Award , Comprehensive Youth Services	2014
Outstanding Edge Mentor , California State University, Fresno	2012
Diversity and Social Justice Advocate Award , Azusa Pacific University	2010
Hallmark Award Nomination , California State University, Fresno	2009
Outstanding Adviser Nomination , California State University, Fresno	2008-2010

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Webinar , Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiatives	2020
Training , Community Resilience Initiative Course 2	2020
Train the Trainer , Community Resilience Initiative Course 1	2019
Training , Community Resilience Initiative Course 1	2019
Webinar , Using trauma informed care approach in the design and delivery of on-campus support programs for foster care alumni	2017
Webinar , Black Men and Mental Health	2015
Training , Nvivo 10: Qualitative Analysis Software	2014
Webinar , Medical Coverage until age 26 for Former Foster Youth	2014
Webinar , Salient Factors Related to Postsecondary Retention and the Value of College Degree for Foster Care Alumni	2014
Webinar , Beyond the Classroom: Strengthening Ties between Classroom	2014
Webinar , Let Your Light Shine: Media Engagement Strategies for Foster Youth Support Programs	2013
Webinar , UC Davis Guardian Professional Program: Retention Strategies	2013
Webinar , 10 Things Higher Education Professionals Need to Know about AB12	2012
Webinar , Undocumented Students: An Overview of Policies, Myths and Best Practices	2011
Conference , 2 nd Annual Human Trafficking Conference, Valley Children's Hospital, Madera, CA	2011
Webinar , Release of the FY 08-09 THP-Plus Annual Report & Implementation Status of Federal Fostering Connections	2009
Webinar , Closing the Financial Aid Gap for Foster Youth	2009

Conference , 3 rd Annual Diversity Conference: Cultivating Community	2008
Workshop , National Coalition Building Institute	2008
Certificate of Completion , StrengthQuest Educator Seminar	2008
Certificate of Completion , Cross Cultural Lecture Series	2008
Certificate , Endless Dreams Trainer, Casey Foundation	2008
Certification , California Best Educational Skills	2004

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Education Research and Administration (AERA)
Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)
Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA)