

RIGEL MACARENA PIÑÓN

Rigel.pinon01@utrgv.edu
3408 San Gabriel
Mission, TX 78572
(956) 278-1112

EDUCATION: **The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley (2016-2018)**
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. Duties include database searches, read and summarize relevant materials for manuscript development and compose relevant sections for the papers.

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

Conducts intake interviews of personal injury claimants, summarize medical records, perform labor market analyses for job numbers regarding job options based on transferable skills for future earning capacity loss and develop life care plans. Provide job placement recommendations based on medical functional limitations using vocational resources – DOT, COJ, and SOC regarding physical demands. Assist/observe Dr. Marini in providing SSA testimony.

Job Coach (2016-2018)

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.

Project Hire (2014 - 2018)

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 TexPrep.
- **TexPrep - Program Assistant- South Texas College (2015 - 2016)**
Supervised high potential students in an accelerated engineering summer program.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Pinon, R. M., Marini, I., & Antol, D. L. (In press). An analysis of the everyday lived experiences of persons with physical disabilities: Implications for rehabilitation counselors. Directions in Rehabilitation Counseling.

Pinon, R. M., & Daniel, K. (In press). The impact of social media on women's mental health. Directions in Psychiatry.

Marini, I., Vang, C., Antol, D.L., Mora, E., Quijino, P., Pinon, R.M., & Cuevas, S. (2019). Redux: Empirical Validation of Durable Medical Equipment Values in Life Care Plans. Journal of Life Care Planning. 17(2) 5-17.

Marini, I., Daniel, K. L., Pinon, R. M., & Riddick-McClelland, N. (2018). The impact of secondary gain on employment for persons with mild traumatic brain injury. The Rehabilitation Professional. 26(3), 153-162.

Marini, I., Preston, B., Pinon, R. M., & Antol, D. (2018). Off task and lost work productivity: Why, how much, and implications for vocational experts. The Rehabilitation Professional. 26(2), 101-108.

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(1), 29-34.

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.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Owen, T., Marini, I., Antol, D. L., & Pinon, R. M. (2019). Assessment in Private sector rehabilitation. In D.R. Strauser, T. N. Tansey, & F. Chan (Ed.), Assessment in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, (pp. 309-336), New York: Springer.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

Division for Blind Services (2012 – Present)

White Cane Day – Volunteered in assisting kids who were blind and helped them enjoy some activities such as cane training, basic braille, and social skills.

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

BELL Program – Yearly Workshop primarily targeting kids from 7 years of age to 17 mainly where I was able to help provide the necessary skills in order for the students to read braille and build social skills.

National Federation of 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 who are 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.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL REFEREED OR INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- **Content Analysis of Letters to the Editor regarding Persons with Physical Disabilities.** National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Counselors. Atlanta GA on July 18, 2019. (Co-presented with Danielle Antol and Irmo Marini)
- **Social Media: Effects on the Mental Health of Minority Women.** National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Counselors. Atlanta GA on July 18, 2019. (Co-presented with Kerra Daniel)
- **Project HIRE (Helping Individuals Reach Employment.)** National Association of Challenges and obstacles in Labor Inclusion. Reynosa, Tamaulipas Mexico on November 2018.

TEACHING/GUEST LECTURES

Undergraduate

- Multicultural course – guest lecture on Asian culture for Danielle Antol (fall 2019)
- Practicum course – guest lecture for Dr. Rocha (fall 2019)
- Assessment course – co-teach lecture for Ms. Gutierrez (fall 2019)
- Multicultural course – guest lecture on persons with disabilities as a minority group for Danielle Antol (fall 2019)
- Assistive Technology – entire course lecturer (spring 2020)

Graduate

- Psychosocial Aspects – guest lecture on Family Adjustment to Disability for Dr. Marini (fall 2018)
- Counseling Theories – Feminism for Dr. Marini (spring 2018)

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.
- American Rehabilitation Counseling Association- Masters Student of the Year Award. April 2018, Atlanta, Georgia.

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