

BELKYS TORRES, Ph.D.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A results-driven, versatile, accomplished educator and administrator with more than 19 years' progressive leadership experience in the realm of international higher education, including: academic program design, management and assessment; international student services and support; community engagement; global partnership development; equitable student success. Fluent in Spanish.

CREDENTIALS

Management Development Program

June 2022

Harvard Graduate School of Education

Ph.D. in English Literature—Latino/a Studies

May 2013

University of Notre Dame

M.A. in Latino/a Literature

December 2007

University of Notre Dame

M.A. in English Languages and Literatures

May 2004

University of Miami

B.A. in English & Spanish

May 2001

Stetson University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, Pittsburgh, PA

Teaching Associate Professor, Latinx and Gender Studies

January 2023—present

- Developed and taught a new version of ENG 365: Imagining Social Justice with a focus on Hispanic/Latinx literature from 1985 through the present.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, Miami, FL

Lecturer, U.S. Latina/o Studies; Women's and Gender Studies

June 2008 – June 2015

- Developed and taught three new courses in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program: "LAS 101: Introduction to Latino/a Studies"; "LAS 301/WGS350: Telenovelas in/as Latina Literature," and "WGS201: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies."
- Prepared students for collaborative work, public speaking, and advanced research projects.

MIAMI DADE COLLEGE, Kendall, FL

Adjunct Faculty, English Composition

August 2009 – June 2013

- Taught English Composition I & II courses to a non-traditional student population in a Hispanic Serving Institution.
- Adopted varying pedagogical methods (portfolios, peer review, dialectical journals) to encourage continued

revision of written work throughout the semester.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, Notre Dame, IN

Instructor, English Literature and Composition

June 2004 – May 2008

- Designed a course for Latina/o Studies majors and minors, entitled “Migrating Melodramas: Latina/o Literature and Popular Culture” (Spring 2008). Cross-listed with Institute for Latino Studies; Film, Theatre and Television Department; Gender Studies Department.
- Created an American Literature Survey course for non-majors entitled, “Outcasts and Misfits in American Literature” (Fall 2007). Cross-listed with American Studies Department.
- Prepared two new First-Year Composition courses with an emphasis on interdisciplinarity and popular culture: “Language Awareness and Contemporary U.S. Popular Culture” (Fall 2006) and “Language, Cultural Hybridity and Contemporary U.S. Popular Culture” (Spring 2005).

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, Miami, FL

Instructor, English Literature and Composition

August 2002 – May 2004

- Developed and taught two new First-Year Composition courses entitled: “ENG105: Visual Representations of Culture” and “ENG106: Writing about Literature of Exile: The Cuban-American Diaspora.”

HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, Pittsburgh, PA

Associate Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence in Education—Office of the Provost

January 2023—present

Lead the university in developing strategies and practices to realize equity within our undergraduate educational mission.

- Focus on increasing educational equity by identifying and working toward the removal of academic as well as structural barriers to student persistence and completion with an emphasis on those issues that disproportionately impact select student groups.
- Some examples of this work include modification of general education practices across schools/campuses, methods of supporting students who are experiencing academic distress, examining and modifying (as necessary) policies and practices surrounding “gateway” and other oft-repeated and high failure-rate courses, among other issues.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, Pittsburgh, PA

Executive Director of Global Engagement—University Center for International Studies (UCIS)

March 2018—December 2022

Primary liaison between external constituencies and faculty, administrators, staff and students on global engagement programs and initiatives as well as a resource to UCIS center directors and other stakeholders, both within and outside the University. Develop and implement global engagement and operational efforts that advance Pitt’s strategic priorities to “embrace the world.”

- Oversee the daily operations of several units within UCIS, namely the Study Abroad Office, Office of International Services, Nationality Rooms and Cultural Exchange Programs, Global Operations Support, the Pitt Global Hub and Pitt’s Global Risk, Health & Safety Initiative.
- Assist the Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs in developing new and managing current joint international projects, offices and strategic partnerships. Responsible for day-to-day interactions with directors/managers at all Pitt or Pitt Global locations, joint institutes and/or offices at home and abroad.
- Provide key, up-to-date and effective strategic consultation to the Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs/Director of UCIS and senior staff regarding all aspects of Pitt’s global reach and related matters. Collaborate with the Vice

Chancellor for Global Affairs to establish and implement guidelines, processes and procedures that advance initiatives to take Pitt to the world and bring the world to Pitt.

- Coordinate data gathering and informatics projects in close collaboration with the senior staff and oversee alignment with the University's strategic plan.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, Pittsburgh, PA

Associate Director for International Programs—*University Center for International Studies (UCIS)*

September 2015 – March 2018

Design and implement support infrastructure that advances international teaching, research, and service of the highest quality. Our efforts earned Pitt the Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization in 2017.

- Advanced personalized education efforts in global learning and engagement.
- Managed international partnerships/agreements for the University, to effectively design and manage the process and assume the role of proactively seeking to establish relationships that serve the units as well as help the University achieve its goals and increase its reputation in the international realm.
- Administered UCIS grants and awards programs, coordinate grant proposals, and lead tasks oriented to increase and diversify external funding from public and private sources to advance international and global programs and activities.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, Miami, FL

Interim Academic Director, Global Business Studies Program (GBS)—*College of Business Administration*

June 2014 – August 2015

Supervised all administrative, financial, and curricular aspects of a global business academic program with special emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean.

- Cultivated and maintained strategic partnerships with faculty and administrators in varying units across the university, around the city and throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Developed new courses such as "FSS 190—Miami: Transformations in a Global City."
- Designed student-centered workshops, lectures, cultural series, and site visits to complement student experiential learning outside the classroom.
- Created new events, symposia, and workshops to showcase the original research projects of GBS majors.
- Managed annual budget (\$500,000) and develop initiatives for expanding financial support.
- Advised GBS undergraduate majors (40+) and monitor their progress across academics, travel experiences, and internship or service-learning projects.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, Miami, FL

Academic Director, Latin American Studies Programs—*Center for Latin American Studies, College of Arts & Sciences*

August 2013 – July 2015

Supervised all administrative, financial and curricular aspects of three academic programs (LAS major/LAS minor; FILAS Dual Degree Honors Program; M.A. in Latin American Studies).

- Cultivated and maintained strategic partnerships with faculty and administrators in varying units across the university and throughout Latin America.
- Developed new courses for the Latin American Studies Program. For example, "LAS 200—Introduction to Latin@ Studies" and "LAS 505—Internship in LAS: UBuenos Aires."
- Created new study abroad programs, such as UBuenos Aires in Argentina in partnership with Universidad de Belgrano and collaboration with Puentes Abroad, which secures internships for enrolled students.
- Conceptualized, established and promoted two new joint graduate degree programs: Master's in LAS/ Master's in Public Health and JD/ Master's in LAS.
- Advised 40+ students in three distinct academic programs (LAS major/LAS minor; FILAS Dual Degree Honors

Program; M.A. in Latin American Studies).

- Restructured comprehensive assessment of the three LAS degree programs during 5-year accreditation review process with SACS. My redesigned SACS reports are now used by the university's assessment office as examples for all programs in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Managed annual budget and develop initiatives for expanding financial support.
- Designed student-centered experiential learning opportunities, interdisciplinary workshops, lectures, and cultural series to complement student learning outside the classroom.
- Created new events, symposia, and workshops to showcase the original research projects of undergraduate and graduate students, like the "LAS Annual Student Symposium."
- Redesigned the program website to become a more functional platform for prospective and current students alike.
- Chaired the LAS Steering Committee and participate as a member of the College Curriculum Committee.
- Mentored graduate students through the varied phases of research and writing of Master's Thesis.
- Employed, supervised, and facilitated onboarding of 10 student employees and CLAS staff.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, Notre Dame, IN

Assistant Program Coordinator—*Institute for Latino Studies*

August 2005 – May 2008

Collaborated with student organizations, academic departments, and other units throughout the university to co-sponsor projects and events.

- Gathered, analyzed and reported data gathered at each sponsored lecture, event, workshop, gallery opening or informal gathering (i.e. monthly 'cafecitos').
- Coordinated, promoted, and assessed events sponsored by ILS; Trained and supervised student employees.
- Assumed accountabilities for all logistical matters (i.e. invitations, room and flight reservations, publicity, catering, scheduling) required of each event.

INVITED TALKS

Pitt Admissions Regional Recruitment Events Spring 2025, Spring, 2024, Spring 2023, Panel Moderator

Faculty & Staff Development Workshops--Global Competence Certificate Program

"Global Operations and Engagement During COVID 19," Summer 2020, Spring 2021

"Embracing the World at Pitt," Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023

"International Partners and Agreements," Spring 2020

"Hosting International Academic Visitors & Delegations," August 2019

"Embracing the World at Pitt," University Diversity and Inclusion Retreat, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, May 2018

"Mentoring and Advising Students to Embrace the World," Pitt Advising and Mentorship Summit, Office of the Provost, April 2018

"An Inside Look at the University of Pittsburgh," Pitt Multicultural Student Visit Program, Office of Admissions, February 2018 and October 2017

"Embracing the World: A Global Plan for Pitt," Office of International Services Annual Symposium, October 2017

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Advancing Students' World Readiness: Interdisciplinary Micro-credentials and Digital Technologies," CLASS Conference, 2025

"Advancing Universities' Public Purpose through Civic Learning and Civil Discourse Initiatives," AAC&U Annual Conference, 2025

"Building Capacity for Global Diversity & Inclusive Leadership," NADOHE International Conference, 2022

"Global Learning in the Age of Personalized Education," AIEA, 2020

"Megatrends in International Education: Impacts on Policy and Practice," AIEA, 2020

"New Practices in Assessing Global Learning Outcomes: Gamification and Reflection," PACIE Annual Conference, 2018

"Technology-Assisted Student Global Engagement In/Outside the Classroom," Reinvention Collaborative National Conference, 2019

"Gamification and Reflection in Assessing Global Learning Outcomes," NAFSA Annual Conference, 2019

"What's in a Name? Fostering Inclusion through Welcoming First Impressions" Pitt Annual Diversity Conference, 2019

"Advancing Campus Internationalization: Successful Strategies from Simon Award Winners," NAFSA Annual Conference, 2018

"Technology-Assisted Student Engagement In/Outside the Classroom," AACU General Education & Assessment Conference, 2018

"Developing & Assessing Global Learning Outcomes," Pitt Annual Assessment Conference, Invited Speaker, 2017

"Expert Panel II: Embracing Cultural and Linguistic Diversity," Pitt Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Conference, 2017

PUBLICATIONS • REPORTS

Torres, B., Cozzolino, M., & Lovorn, M. (2022). An innovative approach to assessing student outcomes in internationalized education. *New Directions for Teaching and Learning*, 2022, 123–142. <https://doi.org/10.1002/tl.20487>

"UCIS Annual Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes: AY 16-17." University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh. 2017. http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/main/global_learning_outcomes

"UCIS Annual Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes: AY 15-16." University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh. 2016. http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/main/global_learning_outcomes

Embracing the World: A Global Plan for Pitt, 2016-2020. University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh. 2016. <http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/main/globalinput>

"Hybridity in Popular Culture: The Influence of Telenovelas in Chicana Literature." *Soap Operas and Telenovelas in the Digital Age: Global Industries and New Audiences*. Ed. Diana Isabel Arredondo Ríos and Mari Castañeda. New York: Peter Lang, 2011. 199-216. Print.

"Más Allá del Inglés: A Bilingual Approach to College Composition," with co-authors Isis Artze-Vega and Elizabeth Doud. *Teaching Writing with Latino/a Students: Lessons Learned at Hispanic Serving Institutions*. Eds. Cristina Kirklighter, et al. SUNY Press, 2007. Print.

DISSERTATION AND THESIS SUPERVISION

Committee Member

Oksana Stalczyński, "Meet Them Where They Are: The Perception of Benefits, Barriers, and the Role of Peer Influence in First-Generation Students' Decision to Study Abroad," December 2024.

Luis Bravo (In Progress)

Sarah Wagner, "A Cohort-Based Model on the Development of Global Perspectives," June 2018.

Director

Carlo Zepeda, "Sexuality and Trauma in Modern El Salvador: An Autoethnography," Spring 2015.

Aleia Walker, "Art Imitating Life: How Heteronormative Values Shape and Encourage the Censorship of Jamaican Dancehall Music," Fall 2014.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

University of Pittsburgh's Mental Health Champion Certificate
May 2024

Equitable Student Success Certificate—Harvard Graduate School of Education
April 2023

Intercultural Development Inventory—Qualified Trainer
March 2021

University of Pittsburgh's Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Program
May 2018

Association for International Education Administrators Senior Adviser Program
February 2017–2018

DAAD Germany Today 2017: Promoting Research and Cooperation in the University Scene
June 2017

Association for International Education Administrators Leadership Academy
May 2017

Indiana University's Institute for Curriculum and Campus Internationalization
May 2016

University of Pittsburgh's Certificate in Organizational Leadership & Ethics
December 2016

MEMBERSHIP • HONORS

American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U)
Spring 2023—present

Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA)
Fall 2015 - 2022

University of Miami Writing Institute Faculty Fellow
Summer 2015

University of Notre Dame Advanced Teaching Scholar
Fall 2013

UNIVERSITY & PUBLIC SERVICE

University of Pittsburgh

Academic-Based Community Engagement Committee
April 2017—May 2021

Advising & Mentorship Summit Planning Committee
January 2018—May 2021

Community Engagement Centers Advisory Council
January 2016—May 2020

Hispanic/Latinx Professional Association, Faculty Liaison
Belkys Torres C.V.—May 8, 2025

City of Pittsburgh

Forest Hills Presbyterian Church
Elder/President of Corporation
July 2022—present

Latino Community Center, Pittsburgh
President, Board of Directors
March 2019—present

Sister Cities Association of Pittsburgh
Board Member
January 2019—June 2022

January 2016—present
 English Department Diversity Committee
 August 2023—present
 Emergency Operations Council
 January 2019—March 2020
 EU GDPR Working Group
 March 2018—August 2021
 Global Risk, Health, Safety & Security Committee, Co-Chair
 January 2019—December 2022
 August 2024—present, OTP Liaison
 Hispanic/Latinx Professional Association, Co-Chair
 August 2019—present
 Latinx Cluster Hire Committee
 May 2019—May 2021
 Latinx Student Association, Adviser
 June 2023—present
 Provost's Open Educational Resources Committee
 August 2024—present
 Reaccreditation Working Group—Embracing Today's World
 October 2020—June 2022
 Resilience Steering Committee
 June 2020—December 2022
 Search Committee Chair
 Director, Educational Outreach Center—2025
 Director, Office of International Services—2018
 Director, Nationality Rooms Program—2021
 Director, Global Experiences Office—2022
 Search Committee Member
 Dean of Students—2021
 Director, Undergraduate Recruitment—2022
 Strategic Planning Committee—Global Subcommittee
 January 2019—October 2020
 University Senate Library Committee, OTP Liaison
 August 2024—present
 Year of Pitt Global Committee, Co-Chair
 April 2018—June 2019
 Year of Discourse and Dialogue Steering Committee
 August 2023—present