

Diana Melendez

Diana I. Melendez is a Ph.D. candidate in the Marriage and Family Counseling Program in the College of Education at the University of Florida. She earned her Ed. S. and M. Ed. (2005) at the University of Florida where she developed and established a parent engagement model while working with the UF Alliance Partnership.

As a College Readiness Liaison, Melendez has served as a host, guide and interpreter for hundreds of parents who have brought their children to UF for exploratory visits. She developed the Alliances Ninth Grade College Readiness Initiative, an outreach initiative that has brought hundreds of students for an overnight stay at UF, introducing them to the world of higher education. Her efforts have directly contributed to the successes of the College of Educations and the University of Florida minority recruitment efforts.

She earned her first M. Ed. (2000) in Puerto Rico where she developed a community based parenting school program open to the families of middle school students.

Melendez has used her education in counseling to serve at the local, national and international level as a counselor for challenged families and individuals. Along the way, Melendez has produced scholarship parental involvement and school-university partnerships, and presented that research at scholarly gatherings at the national level.

Her professional interests include college access, culturally responsive education, family empowerment and parent engagement in education at the middle and high school level.