REENA VISWANATH, PH.D

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**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership and Administration December 2020**

*University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC*

Dissertation: *“Identifying the Unique Characteristics of First-Generation College Students Whose Parents Never Attended College.”*

**Master of Arts in Education – Psychology December 2011**

*Pepperdine University, Irvine, CA*

**Bachelor of Science in Psychology August 2009**

*Stony Brook University - The State University of New York, Stony Brook, NY*

**CERTIFICATES/ SPECIALIZATIONS**

**Certificate in Specialization in Leadership and ManagementMarch 2023**

*Harvard Business School Online*

*Certificate in following: Management Essentials, Power and Influence for Positive Impact, and Strategy Execution.*

**LifeBound Inclusive Coaching Certification and Licensure May 2023**

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Assistant Professor (Limited Term) &**

**M.Ed Program Coordinator August 2023-Present**

*University of West Georgia – College of Education – Carrollton, GA*

*Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Speech Language Pathology*

• Apply innovative teaching methods to enhance online doctoral student learning experience.

• Design and instruct HESA 9999-E23 online dissertation course for the Ed.D Higher Education Administration Program

• Collaborate with higher education and student affairs faculty colleagues on departmental initiatives.

• Conduct research and publish scholarship to maintain active research agenda.

• Advise doctoral students during their dissertation writing stages.

• Advise doctoral students through the IRB process.

• Serve on doctoral student’s committees.

• Engage in program administrative functions related to program enhancement and revisions for both master’s and doctoral program.

• Enhance program evaluation and assessment operations for doctoral program.

• Serve the program, department, and college, and university through active committee membership.

• Actively engage in higher education professional associations and journals.

**Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) June 2020-July 2023**

*Augusta University – College of Education and Human Development – Augusta, GA*

*Department of Research, Counseling, and Curriculum*

• Conducted qualitative and quantitative research to formulate and test hypotheses surrounding first-generation college student access and success.

• Provided leadership and vision to sustain dramatic growth of education program by performing program assessment and evaluation for quality and effectiveness.

• Created First-Generation Faculty and Staff Affinity Group and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Task Force.

• Developed strategy to measure student experience and impact of summer bridge program.

• Lead strategy in effective delivery of synchronous and asynchronous teaching to undergraduate and graduate students.

• Collaborated with data department and colleagues to perform program evaluation and assessment.

• Enhanced program evaluation and assessment operations of first year student experience office.

• Drove innovative research and programming through research measure cycles including literature reviews, research design and development, testing, analysis, and iteration.

• Performed analysis on teaching and service to measure success and identify areas for improvement.

• Applied innovative teaching methods to encourage student learning objectives.

• Revised course objectives, course materials, instructional, and assessment strategies

• Collaborated with experts to help guide project and manuscript development and analysis.

**Graduate Research Assistant September 2017-December 2020**

*University of South Carolina – College of Education- Columbia, SC*

*Department of Higher Education Leadership and Policy*

• Principal Investigator in mixed-methods research study on first-generation college students.

• Presented research at national conference.

• Collaborated with research team to execute research study aimed at understanding first generation college students’ experience.

• Conducted qualitative and quantitative data analysis.

• Submitted grant proposal focused on understanding lived experiences of first-generation college students.

• Collaborated with advisor on constructing manuscripts for scholarly review and publication.

• Conducted literature reviews on first-generation college students.

• Guest Lecturer in multiple educational doctoral courses.

**Graduate Research Assistant September 2017-December 2020**

*University of South Carolina – College of Education- Columbia, SC*

*Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, College of Education*

• Developed strategy to measure retention and persistence rates for students in ACI program.

• Created inaugural first-generation college student celebration day at College of Education.

• Collaborated with Dean and Director to ensure program aims are well defined and measurable.

• Led department in re-design, implementation, and analysis.

• Assessed and evaluated program aimed at recruiting and retaining historically marginalized students into the teaching profession.

• Implemented innovative research-based techniques to foster a sense of belonging on campus.

• Collected, analyzed, and presented data during annual department meetings.

• Crafted student stories along with statistical data to illustrate program impact.

• Streamlined data collection processes.

**Student Affairs Coordinator June 2016-September 2017**

*University of South Carolina School of Law - Columbia, SC*

• Co-recruited, selected, and trained student assistants.

• Collaborated with Dean and Director to ensure high-quality student experience was achieved.

• Created role of, and served as, Mental Health Ambassador for Law School.

• Updated office procedures to produce a simple, intuitive, and empathic student experience.

• Created user friendly detailed guides on various institutional procedures.

• Implemented innovative programs based on student feedback to foster a sense of belonging on campus.

• Utilized existing resources to launch Mental Health Initiative on campus.

• Attended multiple professional development programs to gain knowledge on institutional functioning and available resources.

• Provided leadership training and financial management for over 30 student organizations. • Advocated for students by serving as liaison between students, the law school, and university administration.

• Maintained current knowledge on student climate and higher education operation through continuing education, training, monitoring of industry publications, and engaging in conversation with various stakeholders.

**Registrar and Academic Services Coordinator May 2014-June 2016**

*University of South Carolina School of Law - Columbia, SC*

• Ensured high quality customer service within the Office of the Registrar.

• Co-Directed the creation & maintenance of the official academic calendars.

• Analyzed, designed, and enforced principles and rules which ensure optimum match of course offerings with facilities and faculty/student needs and the equitable distribution of campus teaching and learning spaces.

• Prepared courses for registration period by entering highly detailed information to online system.

• Shifted multiple office procedures to online methods to improve efficiency and user experience.

• Managed high level assignments and allocation of registrar resources, including negotiating, and coordinating programs and initiatives that involve staff in other departments.

• Established short-term office goals and long-term operational objectives.

• Worked collaboratively with leaders across departments in creating and recommending standards, best practices, and related policies/procedures.

**Instructor June 2015-December 2015**

*University of South Carolina- Columbia, SC*

• Taught University 101 course focused on helping students successfully transition to campus.

• Implemented research-based activities to promote sense of belonging on campus.

• Collaborated with students and peer mentor to gain insight and refine course content.

• Assisted students in developing critical thinking skills and clarify personal goals.

• Presented course insight and findings to Director for future refinement.

• Ensured high-quality meaningful experience was delivered to students through constant refinement based on student feedback and research.

**Project Coordinator June 2012-April 2014**

*University of South Carolina - Arnold School of Public Health - Columbia, SC*

• Oversaw 2.5 million dollar grant funded study from inception to completion.

• Aligned benchmarks to long term project objectives, purpose, and scope.

• Identified key stakeholders and discussed shared expectations.

• Ensured participants received highest quality experience through informal and formal feedback.

• Collaborated with various stakeholders to discuss integrated project plan.

• Successfully executed longitudinal study by managing team from distractions, proactively identifying issues and facilitate unanticipated issue resolution.

• Lead team through project changes to ensure key milestones.

• Biweekly or monthly lunch meetings with various members to build community.

• Created, implemented, and trained staff on data organization management system.

• Generated and presented project reports for weekly and bi-annual stakeholder meetings.

• Monitored ongoing progress of project by measuring actual performance against scheduled performance.

• Communicated with project members regularly to stay current on project status and minimize potential roadblocks.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

***Editorial Board: Publication Reviewer***

*Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory, and Practice*: 2022 – present

*Journal of First-Generation College Student Success:* 2022 – present

*Journal of First Year Experience and Students in Transition: 2022-present*

***Proposal Reviewer***

NASPA Annual Conference Reviewer: 2024 and 2023

NASPA Racial Equity and Social Change Conference: 2023

NASPA SACSA Region III Conference: 2023

American Educational Research Association: 2023

***Committee Membership / Active Participant***

AACTE - Holmes Program: 2017-2020

AACTE - Holmes Preconference Planning Committee: 2020

University of South Carolina College of Education Inaugural National First-Generation College Student Celebration Committee: 2019

University of South Carolina Critical Race Theory Summer Institute Graduate Student Coordinator: 2019

AACTE Historian Elect for Holmes National Honor Council: 2019 First-Generation College Student Group Steering Committee: 2018-2019

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA)

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

**COLLEGE, DEPARTMENT, & UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

**University of West Georgia**

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Committee Member: 2023-

College of Education Faculty Development, Mentoring, and Retention (FDMR) Committee Member: 2023-

**Augusta University**

First-Generation Affinity Group

National First-Generation College Student Celebration - Augusta University: Invited Faculty Speaker: November 2022

Future Georgia Educators Day - Faculty Panel: 2022

AAUP Faculty of Color Task Force: 2022-2023

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Task Force: 2022-2023

Ed.S Program Steering Committee: 2022-2023

Augusta University Days of Service: 2022

Undergraduate Research Symposium Judge: 2021

**FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

NASPA Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Leadership Academy: 2023 (*Upcoming*)

Obama Foundation Leaders USA Program: 2023\*

NASPA Emerging Leaders Academy Award: 2023

National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity Faculty Success Program: 2022 GlobalMindEd First-Generation Student Scholarship: 2019

AACTE Holmes Scholar Fellowship Recipient: 2017

University of South Carolina Discover 3-Minute Thesis Heat Winner and Finalist: *"Exploring the effects of a cohort-based program on URM student's first year academic success."*: 2019

*\*denotes applied and not funded*

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**HESA 9214: Analysis of Higher Education Literature**

*Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Speech Language Pathology – University of West Georgia*

**HESA 9211: Organizational Theory**

*Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Speech Language Pathology – University of West Georgia*

**HESA 9999 – E23: Dissertation Course**

*Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Speech Language Pathology – University of West Georgia*

**EDUC 2110: Investigating Critical and Contemporary Issues in Education** *Department of Research, Counseling, and Curriculum - Augusta University*

**EDUC 6021: Intro to Educational Research**

*Department of Research, Counseling, and Curriculum - Augusta University*

**EDUC 7004: Philosophy of Education**

*Department of Research, Counseling, and Curriculum - Augusta University*

**EDUC 7021: Educational Research**

*Department of Research, Counseling, and Curriculum - Augusta University*

*\*denotes courses that were designed.*

**GRANTS AWARDED**

2023 Faculty Development Grant: Augusta University.

Amount: $5,000

Augusta University Education Innovation Fund (EIF) Grant: Learning by Doing.

Amount: $1,000

Augusta University College of Education and Human Development Internal Grants Program.

Amount: $750

**GRANTS SUBMITTED**

2023 NASPA Channing Briggs Small Research Grant: *Supporting Our Future by Supporting First Generation Faculty of Color in Academia*

Amount: $5,000

2022 NASPA National First-Generation College Student Day Celebration Grant

Amount: $500

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

Patel-Viswanath, R. & Bryson, B.S. (Fall 2024). ‘An Intersectional, Asset-Based Approach to Advising First-Generation College Students of Color.” *Differentiated Academic Advising Strategies for Students Beyond the Margins*. Rowman and Littlefield. \*

*\*denotes accepted and currently in final edits stage.*

**PRESENTATIONS, ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS, & WORKSHOPS**

Patel-Viswanath, R. (November 2023). *“How You Define First-Generation College Student Matters.”* Supporting First-Generation Students in Higher Education Conference - Ogelthorpe University. Brookhaven, GA.

Patel-Viswanath, R. (June 2023). *Culturally Inclusive Coaching Within Higher Education Workshop*. GlobalMinded Conference. Denver, CO.

Patel-Viswanath, R. (June 2023). *Supporting Diverse Student Success: Interventions, Strategies, and Measurement.* GlobalMinded Conference. Denver, CO.

Patel-Viswanath, R. (April 2023). *“I Was a High-Achieving First-Generation College Student: Let’s Talk About That!”* NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Annual Conference, Boston, MA

Patel-Viswanath, R., Bon, S. (April 2023). *“I’m First-Generation, Low-Income, and Historically Marginalized. Like Actually First-Generation.”* NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Annual Conference, Boston, MA.

Patel-Viswanath, R., Bon, S. (January 2023). *“I’m First-Generation, Low-Income, and Historically Marginalized. Like Actually First-Generation.”* NASPA Georgia Drive-In Conference – Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA.

Viswanath, R. (October 2022). *“Asset-Based Pedagogy to Promote First-Generation College Students Academic Performance*.” Presentation at Oktoberbest: A Symposium on Teaching at University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

Anders, A., & Patel-Viswanath, R. (April 2022) *"Let's Talk About It: AsianCrit."* Invited Guest Lecturer for CRT Course at University of South Columbia College of Education, Columbia, SC.

Flood, L., Moreno, R., Viswanath, R., Rychly, R., & Linville, D. (February 2022) *"What is an Ed.S for? Examining the Purpose and Potential of the Specialist Degree."* Presentation at 2022 Critical Questions in Education Conference, Charleston, SC.

Viswanath, R., (February 2022) *"The First-Generation Student Is In: The Invisible Identity In Your Classroom."* Presentation at 2022 Impacting Student Learning Conference, Augusta University, Augusta, GA.

Anders, A., Cook, D., & Patel-Viswanath, R. (October 2021). *"Critical Race Theory, CRT & Education, Asian Crit, DisCrit, LatCrit, Tribal Crit."* Presentation at 2021 Educational Inquiry for Equity and Justice Symposium at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

Patel-Viswanath, R. & Yao, C.W. (2020). *Intersections of International and First-Generation Status: A Case for Collaborative Institutional Effort.* Diversity Abroad:Global Impact Exchange.

Patel-Viswanath, R. (February 2020). *"The Doctoral Journey, Beyond First Year.”* Panel member at American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Holmes Scholar Pre-Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Patel-Viswanath, R., Bryan, M.,& Jackson, M. (February 2020). *"Preparing URM Teachers at a PWI: An Exploratory Case Study of a Cohort-Based Program.”* Presentation at 2020 American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Holmes Scholar Pre-Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Patel-Viswanath, R., Jackson, M., Bryan, M. (February 2020). *"How the College of Education at the University of South Carolina is Helping Solve the Teacher Crisis in the State.”* Presentation at American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Holmes Scholar Pre-Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Patel-Viswanath, R., Bryan, M., Jackson, M. (April 2019). *"Exploring the Effects of a Cohort-Based Program on URM Student's First-Year Academic Success."* Presentation during University of South Carolina Discover 3-Minute Thesis Competition, Columbia, S.C.

Platt, S., & Patel-Viswanath, R. (2019). Guest Lecturer: Organization, Leadership, and   
Finance Course at University of South Columbia College of Education, Columbia, SC.

Patel-Viswanath, R. (2020 & 2019) Reflection on Critical Race Theory Course and Action Research Project. Student panel member during Critical Race Theory course at University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

Patel-Viswanath, R. (2019) Reflection on Critical Race Theory Course and Action Research Project. Student panel member during Critical Race Theory course at University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

Patel-Viswanath, R., & Bon, S. (June 2019). *“Faking It Until They Do or Do Not Make It: Examining the Imposter Phenomenon as a Post-Secondary Completion Barrier for First-Generation College Students."* Presentation at GlobalMindEd Conference, Denver, CO.

Bon, S., Patel-Viswanath, R., Bryan, M., Platt, S. (November 2018). *"Giving Voice to a Silent Dream Killer: Examining the Imposter Phenomenon as a Post-Secondary Completion Barrier for First-Generation Students."* Presentation at The Association for the Study of Higher Education Conference, Tampa, FL.

**ACCEPTED PRESENTATIONS IN PROGRESS**

April 2024: *“A Possible Solution to the ABD Phenomenon: UWG’s Innovative Approach to Doctoral Dissertation Hours*.” 2024 University System of Georgia Teaching & Learning Conference. Athens, GA.

**MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS**

Patel-Viswanath, R. (2023). *The Silent Phenomenon Experienced by an Invisible Identity: The Imposter Phenomenon Among First-Generation College Student.*

Patel-Viswanath, R. (2023). *“I Was a High-Achieving First-Generation College Student: Let’s Talk About That!”*

Patel-Viswanath, R., & Bon, S. (2023) *“I’m First-Generation, Low-Income, and Historically Marginalized. Like Actually First-Generation.”*

Patel-Viswanath, R., & Bon, S. (2023) *"Giving Voice to a Silent Dream Killer: Examining the Imposter Phenomenon as a Post-Secondary Completion Barrier for First-Generation Students."*