



NELSON PORTILLO

CANDIDATE FOR THE VICEPRESIDENCY OF NORTH AMERICA

BACKGROUND

Currently I am an Assistant Professor of the Practice at Boston College. Most of my research has focused on social issues that affect youth's positive development. My main areas of interest are youth violence, community violence prevention programs, especially youth mentoring initiatives, youth and public policy, and undocumented migration to the United States among Salvadoran youth.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in psychology from UCA, I was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to pursue my graduate studies (MA and PhD) in social psychology at Loyola University Chicago. In 2008, I completed my doctorate and received a best poster award for my doctoral work from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI; Division 9 of the American Psychological Association) during the 2008 Biennial Convention. That same year I started working as a postdoctoral fellow in the Institute for Health Research and Policy (IHRP) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).



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STATEMENT

I am very honoured to be nominated once again for the position of Vice-President for North America of the Interamerican Society of Psychology. I am a long-time member of the Society and a past Vice-President for Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean (2011-2013) and North America (2017-2019).

If elected, my main goal would be to strengthen the relationships between psychologists and other mental health professionals from the Northern hemisphere with our Latin American colleagues. Furthermore, I will try to increase the number of active members in the region and encourage my colleagues to attend the Interamerican and regional congresses as well.

In the past, I have served the Society in many capacities. During my tenure as a Vice-President for Mexico, Central America, I spearheaded a very successful campaign to celebrate the 5th Regional Congress of the Society to El Salvador with the goal of bringing Central American psychologists closer to our colleagues from the rest of the Americas.

Besides my past service to the Society, I believe my professional accomplishments also qualify me for this respected leadership role. I hold a Ph.D. in social psychology from Loyola University Chicago and a Postdoc in Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Currently, I am an assistant professor of the practice in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College.

My Latin American origin and my current academic position in the United States afford me the advantage of knowing how psychologists in the Americas could enjoy a more mutually beneficial relationship.