Maricela Avalos

MAVALO46@CALSTATELA.EDU

EDUCATION

California State University, Los Angeles – Los Angeles, CA

08/2023 - Present

Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in School Psychology

Saddleback Community College - Mission Viejo, CA

01/2023

Child Development Assistant Teacher Permit

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) - Los Angeles, CA

06/2018

Bachelor's of Arts (B.A.) in History

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

California State University, Los Angeles - Los Angeles, CA

02/2025 - Present

Research Assistant

- Assist with literature reviews and research projects to gain experience in quantitative and qualitative data collection and basic data analysis
- Contribut to drafting research papers and learned the fundamentals of the peer-reviewed publication process

Savanna School District - Anaheim, CA

08/2024 - 05/2025

School Psychology Practicum Student

- Conducted psychoeducational observations and assessments for students with emotional disturbances, autism, speech or specific learning disabilities, and other health impairments by collecting observational data, administering and scoring standardized measures, interpreting results, and preparing comprehensive reports
- Participated in multidisciplinary teams, including IEP, SST, Pre-SIT, SIT, and 504 meetings while collaborating
 with teachers to consult on student behavior, develop intervention plans, and support prevention and school-wide
 programs
- Facilitated individual and group counseling sessions using evidence-based practices to address social-emotional needs and implemented intervention strategies to improve student performance and well-being

Cypress School District - La Palma, CA

11/2023 - 06/2024

Paraeducator

- Worked effectively with teacher and support staff to implement 13 students' programs in their Individual Education Plan (IEP)/504 and/or behavior plan
- Implemented positive reinforcement and learning strategies to assist 13 students aged 3-5 with educational, communication, and behavioral goals
- Supervised, assisted, and facilitated training for 13 students in self-help skills such as feeding, toilet training, and toileting needs

Head Start – Santa Ana, CA

10/2022 - 06/2023

Teacher's Assistant

- Instructionally aided 20 children by facilitating play, learning centers, large and small group instruction, and good nutrition practices during meal times
- Documented observational records of children utilizing anecdotal notes, running records, work samples, photographs, etc
- Prepared daily materials appropriate to the developmental level and learning style of 20 students per lesson plan and Head Start requirements

Think Together – Santa Ana, CA

01/2022 - 08/2022

Early Learning Site Facilitator

• Created and implemented lessons based on HighScope Curriculum for 35 children ages 0-5 in early Literacy, Math, and Socio-Emotional Development in English and Spanish

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- Sustained individualized communication with 38 families by providing support for parental needs and supplying programmatic materials/event announcements related to literacy, math, health, STEM, and wellness
- Formulated the organization's state-wide lesson plan and training curriculum for more than 100 program leaders for Think Together's California Transitional Kindergarten Program

JOYA Scholars - Fullerton, CA

08/2021 - 01/2022

AmeriCorps VIP Fellow/Maple Program Coordinator

900 hours

- Provided individualized academic guidance and resources to 25 students in grades 7-12, as well as their families, in English and Spanish
- Coordinated weekly tutoring sessions (minimum 10 participants daily) between students and volunteers, 2-hour college application sessions for high school seniors (minimum 16 participants weekly), and 1-hour mentoring workshops (minimum 10 participants weekly) to promote academic success and college readiness
- Managed 26 volunteers, 40 students, and 2 Federal Work Study employees throughout the academic semester

Think Together – Santa Ana, CA

08/2020 - 07/2021

Lead AmeriCorps Early Learning Instructor

1700 hours

- Collaborated with 3 co-teachers and the site facilitator to prepare HighScope curriculum and skill-building activities for 45 children ages 0-5 in early literacy, math, and socio-emotional development in English and Spanish across multiple site locations
- Followed a developmentally appropriate schedule for 45 children involving small and large group time, work time, music and movement, large and small motor activities, skill development, and routine transitions
- Maintained an ongoing portfolio assessment for all 45 children, involving daily observations, examples of the child's work, and developmental assessments

Think Together – Santa Ana, CA

08/2019 - 08/2020

AmeriCorps Early Learning Instructor

1700 hours

- Collaborated with 3 co-teachers and 1 supervisor to prepare HighScope curriculum and skill-building activities for 60 children ages 0-5 in early literacy, math, and socio-emotional development in English and Spanish
- Maintained classroom management by reinforcing expectations, routines, and personal boundaries to promote conflict resolution and foster a positive learning environment for 60 children
- Consulted 60 parents on parenting techniques, development assessments, and productive modeling techniques in English and Spanish to strengthen parent-child attachment

Youth Policy Institute - Los Angeles, CA

09/2018 - 06/2019

AmeriCorps College and Career Ambassador

1700 hours

- Facilitated 1:1 college and career advising, tutoring, and mentoring sessions in English and Spanish for 50 underserved, first-generation 12th-grade students at a Title 1 school
- Managed a caseload of 50 students to provide 1:1, 30-minute advising sessions to create an Individualized Student Success Plan (ISSP) for students to identify post-secondary goals
- Led and co-facilitated group workshops on the CC/CSU/UC/Private application process, personal statements, career skills, and FAFSA/Dream Act applications for 100 students

NextGenVest – Online

03/2018 - 07/2018

Junior Money Mentor Intern

800 hours

- Developed customized information about financial aid, scholarships, college applications, and financial literacy for more than 200 high school and college students nationwide, using NextGenVest technology
- Created an empathetic approach to conversing with more than 200 students affected by financial hardships
- Partnered with 30 staff members to ensure maximum program efficiency

MEChA de UCLA Coatequitl Internship Program – Los Angeles, CA

03/2018 - 06/2018

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- Facilitated a workshop for 20 first-generation students on effective study habits to cultivate academic success
- Monitored MEChA Calmécac's 12 peer counselors' session count to ensure program efficiency and accountability

MEChA de UCLA Coatequitl Internship Program – Los Angeles, CA

09/2017 - 12/2017

Intern

160 hours

- Enhanced critical thinking skills through an introduction to intersectional inequalities faced by underrepresented communities in higher education
- Connected personal and community history with current events by engaging in open discussion by asking open-ended questions to give voice to individual experiences and differing opinions

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

National Association for School Psychologists - Online

11/2023 - 06/2024

NASP Student Leader

• Educated students in the program about current NASP-related updates, events, and benefits of NASP membership through Cal State Los Angeles's School Psychology (SPSA) newsletter

MEChA de UCLA Calpulli Program - Los Angeles,

CA 09/2017 - 06/2018

Peer Femtor

100 hours

 Mentored 1 first-generation student by providing emotional and academic support to ease their transition from high school to a four-year university

UCLA Transfer Symposium – Los Angeles, CA

02/2018

Advocate

25 hours

• Engaged in a 3-day panel between 5 transfer student leaders and 10 students to locate bureaucratic policies limiting student success to organizing and setting goals for improvement for 5,000 transfer students

UCLA Women and Youth Supporting Each Other – Los Angeles, CA

01/2017 - 06/2017

Femtor

240 hours

- Presented topics about self-identity, empowerment, & women's health to 25 low-income female middle school students at a Los Angeles charter school with a team of 5 volunteers
- Produced curriculum with a team of 5 volunteers, gauged by the needs of the classroom from the previous week, to facilitate open-ended questions through large group discussions

PROFICIENT SKILLS

Languages – Native fluency in English and Spanish

Technology - Microsoft Office, Google Suite, Remind, Adobe Suite, Canva, Sharepoint, SalesForce

Certifications – Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED, TEFL/TESOL certified

Assessment Tools – DRDP, GOLD®, ECERS-3TM, and Learning Genie

Trainings – High-Impact Literacy Instruction for ELL Students, Preschool Curriculum Framework: Language & Literacy Developmental Writing, CSEFEL Pyramid Model, Family Partnership and Culture, Trauma Informed Care, The 3 R's of Early Childhood, Integrated Nature of Learning