

E. CAROLINA BENITEZ, PhD, LPC, NCC
ebenitez@gordonconwell.edu

CURRENT APPOINTMENT

July 2018 Assistant Professor, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (MACC)
Clinical Training Coordinator, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (MACC)
July 2018 Director, Camino Community Center – Behavioral Health Clinic
August 2014 Counselor, Private Practice at Hickory Grove Counseling Center

EDUCATION

May 2018 Doctor of Philosophy, Counselor Education and Supervision—University of North Carolina at Charlotte
May 2014 Master of Arts, Clinical Mental Health Counseling—Columbia International University
July 2011 Bachelor of Arts, Spanish—University of North Carolina at Charlotte

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses primarily on Latino mental health concerns, and the development of culturally appropriate strategies for providing mental health services to diverse families, couples, and individuals.

Dissertation: Benitez, E.C. *Contributions of documentation status, spiritual coping, and acculturation on the stress level of adult Hispanic immigrants.*

LICENSURE

2014 – Present Licensed Professional Counselor # 10962, NCBLPC
2016 – Present Certified Relationship Educator for PREP 8.0, Within Our Reach, and A Nuestro Alcance
2012 – Present Certified Prepare/Enrich Facilitator

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

August 2014 – Present Counselor, Private Practice at Hickory Grove Counseling Center (Charlotte, NC)
January 2015 – May 2017 Counselor and Research team member, Camino Community Center and UNCC partnership to develop counseling capacity at community-based free clinic serving low-income Latinos (Charlotte, NC)
May 2013 – May 2014 Counselor Intern, Hickory Grove Counseling Center (Charlotte, NC)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Counseling Association (ACA)—since 2014
National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)—since 2018
Association for Counselor Education and Supervision—since 2018
Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling—since 2018
Chi Sigma Iota (CSI—Counselor Educator Honor Society)—since 2017

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

2018—Present Christian Mission Committee (YMCA of Greater Charlotte), *Member*
2017—Present Latinx Mental Health Summit Committee (UNCC), *Member*
2017—Present Central Church of God—Lake Park Campus, *Sunday School Instruction*
2015 – 2018 Academy for Research on Community Health, Engagement, and Services (ARCHES), *Member*
2017/2018 Co-facilitated Prospective Doctoral Student Interviews (UNCC)
2016 Co-facilitated Prospective Masters Student Interviews (UNCC)
2003 – 2016 Hickory Grove Baptist Church—Latin American Campus, *Sunday School Instruction*

TEACHING

University of North Carolina at Charlotte (Charlotte, NC)

Ph.D. Student

Summer 2016	CSLG 6153: Diagnosis and Treatment in Counseling, <i>Co-instructor</i>
Spring 2017	CSLG 6000: Topics in Counseling: Couples Counseling, <i>Co-instructor</i>
Summer 2017	CSLG 6100: Counseling Theories, <i>Co-instructor</i>
Summer 2017	CLSG 6110: Advanced Counseling Techniques, <i>Co-instructor</i>
Summer 2017	CSLG 6200: Introduction to Theories of Family Counseling, <i>Co-instructor</i>
Fall 2017	UCOL1200: Freshman Seminar, <i>Instructor (Graduate Assistantship)</i>
Spring 2018	UCOL 1300-003: Academic Success Seminar, <i>Instructor (Graduate Assistantship)</i>
Spring 2018	UCOL 1300-004: Academic Success Seminar, <i>Instructor (Graduate Assistantship)</i>
Summer 2018	CSLG 6200: Theories of Family Counseling, <i>Instructor (Adjunct Faculty)</i>

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Charlotte, NC)

Assistant Professor of Counseling

Fall 2018	CO 699: Research Methods and Design, <i>Instructor</i>
Fall 2018	CO 875: Clinical Counseling Practicum/Internship, <i>Instructor</i>
Spring 2019	CO 710: Psychopathology, <i>Instructor</i>
Spring 2019	CO 714: Family Counseling, <i>Instructor</i>
Spring 2019	CO 875: Clinical Counseling Practicum/Internship, <i>Instructor</i>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW (*=data based)

***Benitez, E. C.**, Gutierrez, D. (under review). Familias Fuertes: Strength-based Approaches to working with Latino Immigrant Families. In *Intercultural Perspectives in Family Counseling*. New York, NY: Taylor and Francis, June, 2017

*Gutierrez, D., Revens, K., **Benitez, E. C.**, Interiano, C. G., & DeHaven, M. (under review). The development of a community-based counseling training clinic for Latinos. Submitted to *Counselor Education and Supervision*, June, 2017

*Gutierrez, D. Revens, K., **Benitez, E. C.**, Interiano, C. G., & DeHaven, M. (under review). Evaluating marriage and relationship education service location for Latinx couples. Submitted to the *Family Journal*, December, 2017

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

*Gutierrez, D., **Benitez, E. C.**, Cruz-Ortega, L.G. (2018). *Latino Mental Health: Helping Clients Conquer the Stigma* (Working title). Invited article for Counseling Today (In progress).

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

INTERNATIONAL

***Benitez, E. C.** (May, 2019) *Examining the Impact of Documentation Status, Spiritual Coping, and Acculturation on the Stress Level of Adult Hispanic Immigrants Living in the United States*. Education session to be presented at the International Association for Counseling Conference (IAC). Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.

NATIONAL

Benitez, E. C., Interiano, C. G. (April, 2018). *Let's Talk Politics: The Impact of Global Events and Social Media on Mental Health*. Poster session presented at the American Counseling Association Conference (ACA). Atlanta, GA.

Benitez, E. C. (July, 2017). *Latino Spirituality: Implications for Counseling*. Education session presented at the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling Conference (ASERVIC). Richmond, VA.

*Gutierrez, D., **Benitez, E. C.**, Cruz-Ortega, L.G. (April, 2017). *Latino Mental Health: Problems and Solutions*. Education session presented at the American Counseling Association Conference (ACA). San Francisco, CA.

REGIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL

Maclin, V., **Benitez, E. C.** (February, 2019). *Counseling Latinos and Blacks: Considerations of Religion, Race, and Culture*. Education session to be presented at the North Carolina Counseling Association Conference (NCCA). Durham, NC.

*Revens, K., **Benitez, E. C.**, Gutierrez, D., Suclupe, R., Peterman, A., DeHaven, M. (March, 2017). *Tu No Estas Solo Program Evaluation*. Presented at the Graduate Research Symposium at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Charlotte, NC.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Benitez, E. C. (May, 2018). *Familias Fuertes: Una Conversación Comunitaria*. Presented at 2nd Annual Latinx Mental Health Summit, “Acogiendo Familias, Conectando Comunidades”. Charlotte, NC.

Benitez, E. C. (November, 2017). *Latinos and Mental Health: The Integration of Faith and Counseling*. Presented at 1st Annual Latino Clergy Conference, “The Role of the Faith Community in Building a Health Community”. Charlotte, NC.

Merrill, E., **Benitez, E.C.** (October, 2016). *Without a Home: Counseling those in Crisis*. Presented at the 9th Annual Dr. Bob Barret Distinguished Lecture Series on Multicultural Issues in Counseling. Charlotte, NC.

*Gutierrez, D., **Benitez, E.C.** (October, 2016). *Latino Mental Health: Problems and Solutions*. Presented at the 9th Annual Dr. Bob Barret Distinguished Lecture Series on Multicultural Issues in Counseling. Charlotte, NC.

GRANTS

Gutierrez, D., Principal Investigator., & Shayou, L., Carson, R. G., Barden, S., Co-Investigators., **Benitez, E. C.** Research team member. *Fortaleciendo Familias: Marriage Enrichment for Latinos*. R15, \$462,292, National Institute of Health, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Under review: June 25, 2016, Not funded.