

**VANESSA MERCADO, MPH**  
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**OBJECTIVE:** To secure a position with an organization that will embrace my passion to promote community health and social justice by working with children, young adults, and families in inner-city communities

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**QUALIFYING SKILLS:**

- Strong background in community-based academic research
  - Experienced in UCINET & NETDRAW software
  - Experience with youth-centered projects and peer education
  - Data collection and transcription experience
  - Ability to work productively & steadily without supervision
  - Ability to multi-task & work well in a fast-paced environment
  - Experienced in community health assessment
  - Experienced in STATA statistical software
  - Bi-lingual: English, Spanish
  - Photo-voice experience
  - Analytical and critical thinking skills
  - Great collaboration & facilitation skills
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**EDUCATION:**

- 2009 to 2011: San Francisco State University (SFSU), Graduate, San Francisco, CA  
**MPH, Masters of Public Health in Community Health Education, 2011**  
**Coursework:** Biostatistics, Theories of Social and Behavioral Change, Community Organization, Epidemiology, Environmental Health, Community Health Assessment, Program Planning, Public Health Policy, Program Evaluation Design & Research
- 2007 to 2009: University of California Berkeley (UCB), Undergraduate, Berkeley, CA  
**B.A, Public Health emphasis in Community Health and Human Development, 2009**  
**Coursework:** Economics, English, Epidemiology, Public Health, Molecular and Cell Biology, Education, Ethnic Studies, Biostatistics, American Studies, Women Studies, Disabilities Studies, Health Policy and Management, Developmental Psychology
- 2002 to 2007: Contra Costa College (CCC), San Pablo, CA  
**A.A. Sociology with President's Scholar, 2007**  
**A.A. Liberal Studies with President's Scholar, 2006**  
**Coursework:** Human Physiology, Anthropology, Sociology, Biology, Psychology, Criminal Law, Calculus, Physics, Speech, Geography, Health Education, Chemistry, Humanities, History, Counseling, Sociology, Psychology, Nutrition, Political Science

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

- 01/11 to Present **RESEARCH ASSOCIATE/YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP CO-COORDINATOR,** Health Equity Institute, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA  
Assist with research project entitled "The Public Debate on Pregnancy, Parenting and Education: Competing Values Impacting Latino Youth's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights." Work with the research team and in partnership with California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ) to identify research questions, design a mixed methods approach, gather and analyze data and develop a plan for action at the program and policy level. Assist with recruitment of Youth advisory group (YAG); coordinate and facilitate meetings and trainings with YAG.
- 03/10 to 4/11 **RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Independent Research Studies, San Francisco, CA**  
Under the supervision of mentor, Emma Sanchez-Vaznaugh, ScD, conduct research project focused on social and environmental determinants of obesity with emphasis on immigrant populations as well as toxic environmental exposures; reviewing conceptual and empirical evidence, and assessing feasibility of study based on available data sources.

08/10 to 10/10 **RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Center on Social Disparities in Health, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), San Francisco CA**  
Assist with research project investigating Mexican American Perceptions of Active Living and Healthy Eating conducted by primary investigators Lisa Goldman-Rosas, Emma Sanchez-Vaznaugh and Paula Braveman. Transcription of focus groups; data entry of questionnaires; calculated descriptive statistics and create related tables; prepare materials for dissemination in Spanish; Coordinate dissemination activities.

06/08 to 11/08 **RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Survey of Patient Attitudes Regarding Quality (SPARQ) Project, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Baltimore, MD**  
Assist with primary data collection of quantitative data; set up survey equipment; conduct in-clinic recruitment; obtain informed consent and administer survey to new clients; assist clients with completion of computer-based (ACASI) surveys on touchscreen laptop; distribute incentives to clients; upload data daily to the SPARQ project website; communicate electronically via the internet with the project manager.

***VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE:***

08/10 to Present **YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER, iN Touch Project, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA**  
Serve as member for the research project, iN Touch: mobile platforms for observations of daily living for youth with obesity and depression. Give input of various aspect of the project including provide insight for designing and implementing of a program involving mobile technologies for managing health.

10/10 to 02/11: **SFSU STUDENT ADVISOR, Minority Training Program in Cancer Control Research (MTPCCR), University of California at San Francisco (UCSF)**  
Serve as a link between the MTPCCR and SFSU to increase students in a master's level health science program or master's trained professional to apply to the "Careers in Cancer Control Research" Summer Institute Program; Work with SFSU faculty advisor to identify, recruit, and track potential candidates on campus; Recruit individuals one-on-one and in group settings; Provide updates during application process; Provide feedback to enhance program; and provide assistance during the 2011 summer institute.

10/10 to 11/10  
03/10 to 05/10  
10/09 to 12/09 **CO-FACILITATOR, Teen Support Group, Brighter Beginnings, Richmond, CA**  
Facilitate parenting classes around Nurturing Parenting curriculum topics including: nurturing parenting philosophy, growth and development of children, discipline with dignity, empathy and managing feelings, communication, self-worth and empowerment, nurturing routines, making good choices and keeping children safe; Facilitate support group check-in and ice breaker activities; lead discussion and activities around Reducing the Risk curriculum topics including: relationships, anatomy & physiology, abstinence, STI & pregnancy prevention, contraception, refusal skills, and risk behaviors; administer pre-test and post-test; assist in preparation of light meals; set-up room and organize materials.

01/10 to 03/10 **COMMITTEE MEMBER, Masters of Public Health (MPH) Admissions Committee, San Francisco State University, San Francisco CA**  
As a representative of the Public Health Organization of Graduate students (PHOGS) duties include: review applicants' files and complete applicant scoring sheets; email scores and admission decision to assistant graduate coordinator; attend weekly meeting to come to consensus about which applicants will be recommended to the Graduate division for admission into the 2010 MPH cohort.

- 05/08 to 05/09      **PEER EDUCATOR, Sexual Health Education Program, University of California at Berkeley (UCB), Berkeley CA**  
 Promote sexual health through education on birth control methods, sexually transmitted infections, and safer sex strategies; empower students to feel comfortable with their bodies and make informed decisions about their sexuality; educate using the public health model that emphasizes prevention and well-being; reach students through workshops and presentations at living center and student groups, one-on-one peer education, and special events including National Condom Day and World AIDS Day; recruiting other peer educators.
- 2/03 to 05/06      **GROUP MEMBER, Empowerment Through Action (ETA), San Pablo, CA**  
 Participation in youth oriented social justice and health advocacy initiatives; Attend city council meetings and assist in creating a city ordinance mandating tobacco licenses for retailers; attend youth conferences and summits relating to alcohol and other drug issues; create a photo-voice project related to under-aged drinking; participate in a community comparison to produce awareness the strategic advertisement used by alcohol and tobacco companies to target youth and low-income communities.

***EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:***

- 12/08 to Present:      **ASSESSMENT CENTER TECHNICIAN, Contra Costa College, San Pablo, CA**  
 Administer English, Math, ESL, and ATB placement test to students; Assist with the 2010 Assessment Validation Report; Assist with 2010 Transfer Center Program Review; Assist with 2011 Matriculation Program Review; Create Transfer Center survey and Articulation survey using Survey Monkey; Input test scores into Microsoft Access and Colleague Datatel computer database; complete Ability To Benefit certification; assist students with online registration, obtaining class schedules, online orientation, and retrieving financial aid awards. Create Transfer Center and Assessment Center web pages using Microsoft SharePoint software.
- 09/10 to 12/10      **SENIOR OFFICE ASSISTANT, CalWORKs Office, Contra Costa College, San Pablo CA**  
 Process initial intake forms for prospective CalWORKs student; set-up and maintain student records; Manage student appointments; maintain bookkeeping of financial expenditures related to books & supplies, parking permits, child care, supplies, and work study; process student time cards; Assist in the preparation of the annual college job fair; post informational and special event flyers; Use Microsoft Office and using Colleague Datatel computer system.
- 01/07 to 06/07      **RECEPTIONIST, Western Dental, Berkeley, CA**  
 Set-up and maintain dental records; assist patients with completing forms; create new patient packets; file x-rays and dental files; take payments; answer telephones; book and cancel appointments for dental treatment; call patients to follow-up on their treatment; verify patients insurance eligibility
- 4/04 to 7/04      **PEER EDUCATOR, Pregnancy Prevention Project, Bay Area Community Resources, Richmond, CA**  
 Conduct in-school presentation on birth control methods and sexually transmitted infections; raise awareness among the youth about sexual health and promote safer sex strategies; attend community meeting on teen sexuality issues.

**PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS:**

- 2011 "Accelerating Inter-Agency Collaboration and Outcome Measurement in Online Environments" Annual Conference of the American Evaluation Association (AEA), November 2011, Anaheim, CA.
- 2011 "Breaking down the barriers: Increasing access to preventative oral health care for underinsured Latino children" Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Public Health Association (APHA), October 2011, Washington, DC.

**CONFERENCES & TRAININGS:**

- 2011 AEA Annual Conference "Evaluation 2011: Values and Valuing in Evaluation" Anaheim, CA
- 2011 APHA Annual Meeting and Exposition "Healthy Communities Promote Healthy Minds & Bodies" Washington D.C.
- 2011 National Sexuality Resource Center (NSRC) Summer Institute Symposium
- 2010 Participation in the UCSF *Careers in Cancer Control Research* Summer Institute Program

**MEMBERSHIPS/PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

- 07/11 to present **MEMBER, American Public Health Association (APHA)**
- 08/06 to 5/07 **ACTIVE GROUP MEMBER, Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) Honor Society, Contra Costa College, CA**
- 08/06 to 5/07 **ACTIVE GROUP MEMBER, Sociology Club, Contra Costa College, CA**

**AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- 2011 Distinguished Achievement Award for Academic Excellence recipient, College of Health & Human Service, San Francisco State University
- 2011 Graduate Student Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Masters of Public Health Program recipient, Department of Health Education, San Francisco State University
- 2011 Health Equity Institute Student Scholar, Certification of Recognition, Health Equity Institute, San Francisco State University
- 2010-2011 Graduate Equity Fellow, San Francisco State University
- 2011, 2010, 2008 National Institute of Health (NIH) Human Subjects Research Certification
- 2010 Outstanding Recent Graduate Award recipient, Contra Costa College
- 2010 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certified
- 2006-2007 W.E.B. Du Bois Sociological Leadership Award
- 2006-2007 Contra Costa College, Dean's List Fall 2006, Spring 2007
- 2006 Certified Level I tutor
- 2005-2006 Recipient of the Agile Learner Award
- 2005 Invitation to Congressional Student Leadership Conference
- 2005 Invitation to National Students Leadership Conference
- 2005 Invitation to Global Young Leaders Conference
- 2005 Merit nomination for Who's Who Among American High School Students
- 2005 Membership invitation to National Society of High School Scholars
- 2005 Participation in Women's Math and Science Conference at UC Berkeley
- 2004 Invitation to National Young Leaders Conference

- REFERENCES:** Available upon request