

RURAL AREA MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT



Frances Ehrlich, RAMPED–Director of Social Work Supervision, was honored as Practicum Instructor of the Year by the Texas Practicum Educators Consortium!

The award was presented by Ellie Saucedo and Stephanie Ruiz from UTSA's School of Social Work on behalf of the Texas Practicum Educators Consortium made up of 21 universities. Frances served as the Practicum Instructor for 8 Social Work Residents this semester—5 from UTSA, 2 from OLLU, and 1 from TXST.

Under her guidance, these residents served across five school districts—Karnes City ISD, Kenedy ISD, Pawnee ISD, Pettus ISD, and Runge ISD—providing mental health support to both students and staff.

We're so proud of the impact Frances continues to make in our schools and communities!



District Partners

Karnes City ISD

Kenedy ISD

Pawnee ISD

Pettus ISD

Runge ISD



***RAMPED funding is made available through the U.S. Department of Education's Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant.**

Farwell to our Spring Residents



What can I say, my experience working with the RAMPED staff and the incredible administrators, counselors, paraprofessionals, and ACE members has officially been the joy of my field work. Hands down. I have learned so much about what is required of me and, more importantly, this placement has inspired me to implement art and healing modalities in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to say, “RAMPED, you complete me”. You were the yin to my yang, the butter to my bread, the salt on my margarita and the heART to my creative soul. Thank you and goodbye; this opportunity will reverberate and impact everything that I do going forward. That love is forever.

Michelle Carmen Gomez
MSW Intern, RAMPED Resident



I am so bittersweet to say goodbye to RAMPED. Patricia and Frances have been a constant source of support and information for the past two years. The residents I have had the pleasure to meet have impacted our community in many positive ways. Students and teachers have benefited from the knowledge and information shared with them. I have learned so much also. Differing views on life can only enrich our lives. Exposing my students to divergent points of view and information benefits them, our community, and me. This frees up time so I can handle more emergent situations. I have received only positive responses from my teachers and students.

I have also been able to repay large portions of my student loans using the funds from RAMPED. Having more financial stability has improved my life, which in turn has improved my work capabilities.

Thank you for everything you have done for my students and me. I will keep in touch moving forward, wherever that is. I have learned I like working in a rural school, and I hope to continue doing so.

FeeDee Langrehr
Counseling, RAMPED Resident

My time spent here at RAMPED was my first time diving into the realm of social work. Given that I had no prior experience aside from the schoolwork I have done, this was a great opportunity to expand my knowledge of social work and what it is like. I'm thankful to have had a team like Frances, April and Patricia close by and their willingness to assist us anytime was beyond helpful. Some highlights over the course of my time here at RAMPED were building relationships with students, starting a group, being a mentor, ACE, having supportive staff and interns who were all actively engaged. I have learned a lot here within my time at RAMPED and hope to continue this journey of growth.

Fernando Arambula
MSW Intern, RAMPED Resident

The two semesters I spent in my generalist field placement through the RAMPED grant have been an invaluable and transformative experience. It allowed me to work with children from marginalized backgrounds and create spaces where they could feel seen, heard, and supported. A major highlight was designing and leading guidance group presentations and collaborating with school counselors to provide individualized support for students' mental health. I also deeply valued our end-of-semester meeting with the grant writer Kyle Barrington, always an incredible education on how policy and funding shape service delivery. Most of all, I am grateful for my field instructor, Frances Ehrlich, who was recently recognized as Field Instructor of the Year. Over the past year, she has been more than a supervisor, she's been a mentor, a role model, and one of the most genuinely compassionate people I've ever met. I truly love and respect her, and I'm so grateful to have learned under her care.

America Wilson
MSW Intern, RAMPED Resident

As my practicum experience comes to a close, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the enriching opportunity to serve within the school community. This experience provided me with meaningful insight into the unique needs of students and the critical role that school-based support systems play in fostering their development.

I was truly delighted by the warm support I received from the administration, including the principal, school counselor, the ACE Coordinator and his support staff. Their collaboration and encouragement created an environment where I could learn, grow, and contribute meaningfully.

I am especially amazed by the organization and dedication of the RAMPED administrators—Patricia Huber and her assistant, April—who spearheaded and guided my experience from beginning to end. Their leadership and attentiveness ensured that my needs were met and that I had the structure and support necessary to thrive.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this practicum was experiencing the growth that comes from building a strong client-counselor relationship. I especially enjoyed interacting with the enthusiastic students in the ACE program, where I had the chance to implement prevention-focused programs aimed at empowerment, awareness, and resilience.

I am sincerely grateful to RAMPED for providing such a well-rounded and impactful practicum experience within the school system. This opportunity has strengthened my passion for counseling and has left me with invaluable lessons and lasting memories.

Sheriffa Dennis

Counseling, RAMPED Resident

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams." - Henry David Thoreau

As my time with Karnes City ISD ends, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each of you. Working alongside such passionate and dedicated peers has been an incredible experience. The connections we've built, the lessons we've learned from the children across multiple campuses, and the wisdom gained from our weekly supervision meetings have shaped me in ways I will always carry forward.

It has been inspiring to witness the care, commitment, and compassion that you bring to your work every day. I have no doubt that each of you will continue to make a lasting impact in the lives of others, and I look forward to seeing the great things you accomplish in the future.

Wishing you all success, fulfillment, and joy on your journey ahead.

Deven Murray

MSW Intern, RAMPED Resident

As my internship with RAMPED comes to a close, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to be part of such a passionate and purpose-driven team. My time here has been incredibly meaningful, both professionally and personally.

Throughout my experience, I've grown as a social work professional and had the privilege of working alongside individuals committed to making a difference in the lives of students. From facilitating group sessions to meeting with students individually, each moment has reinforced my dedication to this field and the values RAMPED stands for.

Thank you to everyone who welcomed me, supported my learning, and encouraged my growth. I leave this experience with new insights, lasting memories, and a renewed commitment to advocacy and empowerment. Wishing all of you continued success and impact in the work you do.

Isaiah Gallegos

MSW Intern, RAMPED Resident



**BEST
WISHES
FROM THE
ENTIRE
TEAM**

I want to extend my sincere thanks for the opportunity to serve as a counseling intern at Karnes ISD during the spring semester. It has truly been a pleasure working with the students and staff. The work being done across the district is nothing short of inspiring, and I feel fortunate to have been part of such a supportive and impactful environment.

I have nothing but great things to say about Karnes ISD and the programs in place. I'm hopeful and excited about the possibility of continuing to work with the district in the upcoming fall semester.

Luis Lezama
Counseling Intern, RAMPED Resident

This has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I enjoyed getting to know the kids, the school's campuses, the other interns, the Ramped staff, all of it, and it's been really hard to let go because of how rewarding it's been. It's all only reaffirmed how much I love working amongst the community, with children, in families, and within mental health. I really just want to make you all proud with my future endeavors, and hope that day comes soon! 😊 Thank you all so much for this experience!

Martha Schauer
MSW Intern, RAMPED Resident



As I conclude my time with the RAMPED Program, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible support and opportunities this grant has provided during my school internship journey.

The resources, mentorship, and encouragement I received through RAMPED have not only helped me complete an important step in my professional development but have also inspired me to reach for even greater strides. Through this experience, I have gained invaluable skills, deepened my passion for the counseling field, and strengthened my commitment to serving my community.

I am proud to share that this journey has led me to become a board member for my local counseling charter, where I now have the honor of helping advocate for mental health and support the next generation of professionals.

Thank you, RAMPED, for believing in me and investing in my future. I will carry the lessons and confidence you have given me into every chapter ahead.

Ashley Cavazos
Counseling Intern, RAMPED Resident



University Partners



School Counseling Program Partners

Lamar University
Our Lady of The Lake University
Texas A&M-Kingsville
Texas A&M-San Antonio
Texas State University
UTSA, TAMU, Walden University
University of Houston - Victoria
Midwestern State University

Social Worker Program Partners

Our Lady of the Lake University
Texas State University
Texas A&M-Kingsville
University of Texas - Arlington
UTSA



Hello to our Summer Residents

My name is Dominique Orr and I am a current graduate student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. I earned my Bachelors of Science in Psychology degree from Tarleton State University in 2022. I am from a small town, grew up extremely poor and have been through family abuse and trauma as a child. I am on the counseling track because I want to make a difference in people's lives who may be going through the same feelings, things and experiences I know first-hand. I am in a unique position to really connect with people through life experiences and help them navigate through their journey provided by my wonderful education. I am passionate about ending mental health stigma, being an advocate to everyone whose voice isn't heard and always believing in yourself even when it seems impossible. I am committed to helping children and families become the best versions of themselves they want to be; while navigating all the confusing difficult times in between. I am very compassionate person and I'm always willing to listen if you ever need! In my free time, I have a wonderful little family of boyfriend, and fur babies, I am the owner of my own small candle business and I like to watch new TV shows to relax from my busy life. I hope to get to know you all this summer!



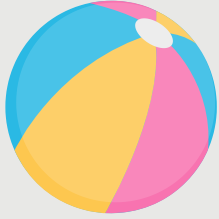
Hello! My name is Maribel Rios, and I am excited to introduce myself to the school community. I'm currently a graduate student in the school counseling program at Texas A&M International University, and I recently began my practicum experience, working with both elementary and middle school students through the RAMPED Program. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Education with a major in English as a Second Language, which has deepened my commitment to supporting diverse learners. My passion lies in helping students thrive personally, academically, and socially by creating a safe and welcoming environment where every student feels heard and valued.

As I begin my time here, I bring a bilingual background and a strong desire to learn about and support the unique needs of our school community. I love integrating creativity and empathy into my approach—whether it's through classroom guidance lessons, one-on-one conversations, or fun, engaging activities that encourage self-expression. I look forward to getting to know more students and families and becoming a trusted resource in their educational journey. Thank you for welcoming me to your school—I am excited to grow and make a difference together!

My name is Jazz Mobley, and I am currently in my fourth semester as a graduate student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. I hold a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Sciences and I have always been passionate about working with families and children. I have particularly been interested in their cognitive, social, and emotional development. This passion led me to pursue a career in counseling, where I can make a meaningful impact on individuals and communities. Advocating for mental health is important to me, as I believe it is the foundation of overall well-being. Mental health affects every aspect of life, from personal relationships to academic and professional success. I am committed to breaking the stigma surrounding mental health and promoting awareness, support, and accessible resources for those in need.

In my free time, I enjoy reading fiction, particularly historical fiction, which is one of my favorite genres. I also love spending time with my friends and traveling, as I deeply value the relationships I have built. Building strong connections and supporting those around me aligns with my belief in the power of community and emotional well-being.





My name is Amanda Garcia, and I'm excited to begin this new chapter as a counseling intern through Texas A&M University-San Antonio. With over 15 years of experience in the field of education, I've had the privilege of supporting students and their families in various capacities, I am now taking the next step in my journey toward becoming a professional counselor. I earned my bachelor's degree from Texas A&M-San Antonio and am currently completing my master's degree in counseling from the same institution. This opportunity allows me to blend my years of hands-on experience with knowledge and skills I am gaining through my graduate studies. Outside of work, I am a mom to three children-two boys and a daughter. I love to travel and explore new places, with Puerto Rico holding a special place in my heart as one of my favorite destinations to visit and reconnect with my roots. I look forward to learning, growing, and making a meaningful impact as I transition into this new role.



Hello! I am Star Macias. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Communications from University of Texas San Antonio. I am currently working to earn my Master of Arts from Texas A&M University- San Antonio in counseling. I have a multi-dimensional background. I was a high school teacher and Speech and Debate coach for 5 years; I have been in the wedding and event planning industry and also have my own business specializing in photography and floral design. I have been passionate about mental health advocacy since I was a very young girl. I have always known this was one of my callings.

I bring strong communication, active listening, and interpersonal skills from my background in education, coaching, and event planning. My experience working with high school students has equipped me with the ability to build rapport, mentor effectively, and foster a supportive environment. Additionally, my work as a business owner has strengthened my organizational, problem solving, and crisis management skills, all of which I am eager to apply in a counseling role to support students' growth, well-being and their natural ability to thrive.'



Returning from Spring Semester is
Lauren Baltensperger and Fernando
Vargas

