

# BARRY

## The GRANT Seeker

A quarterly spotlight recognizing excellence in grant development by a Barry University employee

### Silvia P. Reyes—Keepin' Busy!

This issue profiles the dynamic and hardworking Silvia P. Reyes, LMHC, NCC, MFT (Licensed Mental Health Counselor, National Board Certified Counselor and Marriage and Family Therapist). In addition to her many formal obligations including her positions as Grants and Outreach Coordinator for the ADSOE's Counseling Department, Director of C.R.O.P. (College Reach-Out Program) and Adjunct Professor for Barry, Silvia spends countless evenings, weekends and Blackberry hours applying for and managing grants that benefit the University, its students and the myriad of at-risk youth in South Florida that are enriched by her service-related work.

Silvia is currently administering three grant programs that she designed, developed and for which she was ultimately successful in soliciting support.

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) approved an award of nearly \$62,000 to continue the ten-year-old C.R.O.P., a counseling and tutoring initiative servicing 180 students across 13 Miami-Dade County public middle and high schools. C.R.O.P. is the first and only service program in the State of Florida to provide repeated counseling services to students in addition to tutoring services.

Recently, Silvia received a \$10,000 grant from the Harry Kramer Memorial Fund to supplement the work being done with the C.R.O.P. initiative.

Thanks to Silvia's work, the FLDOE awarded a second grant to Barry recently for \$190,095 for a *Mentoring and Student Assistance Initiative*. Having already addressed the provision of individual and group counseling



Silvia Reyes, MHC, NCC, MFT

within the public schools, Barry conceptualized a program wherein students would be matched with mentors. The mentors are Barry undergraduate and graduate students from various departments within the University who are matched with at-risk middle and high school-aged youth based on similar interests and backgrounds.

In addition to the awarded grants for the current fiscal year, Silvia has applied for support from the U.S. Department of Education, the AVON Foundation for Women, and The Children's Trust, and is currently working on numerous other applications to local and national grantors.

Silvia has received many awards, including, most notably, the *Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development's Exemplary Leadership Diversity Award* (2008) and the *Association of Marriage and Family Therapist Andres Nazario Jr. Outstanding Contribution in Diversity Award* (2006) in recognition of her extraordinary efforts and career-long commitment to multiculturalism, diversity and to promoting and enhancing cultural sensitivity among members of the counseling community and the society at large. In addition, as a result of her work and efforts, she has been invited as a guest speaker on numerous television and radio stations.

Yet, somehow, the cumulative hours required to accomplish the aforementioned isn't quite enough to satisfy Silvia's insatiable thirst for service and academic work. She is a currently a Doctoral Candidate in Barry's Counseling Program working on her dissertation (scheduled to be completed by August 2011) focusing on the survivors of political torture.

She is a mother to eight year-old Marcus and has been married to Antonio for nine years. A native of Ecuador, Silvia moved to New York briefly as a young child before arriving in Miami at age ten.

If you ran into Silvia on campus, you would recognize her immediately by the stacks of work she cradles against her chest and the bright and ever-present smile on her face. She has been blessed with a compelling sense of moral responsibility and boundless energy – a combination that ultimately results in beneficial projects and programs for Barry University, its students and the community.

*Barry thanks you*

*It's people like this who move Barry forward. If you are interested in pursuing a grant opportunity or have any questions, please contact the Office of Grant Programs at 305-899-3072.*