

# Jonathon Acosta

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## EDUCATION:

**Brown University**, Providence, Rhode Island

**Sociology, Doctor of Philosophy,**

September 2017 - Present

- Studies focus on Latin America, social movements, marginalized group representation in government.
- Affiliated with the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) and the Graduate Program in Development (GPD)

**Brown University**, Providence, Rhode Island

**Urban Education Policy, Master of Arts,**

June 2015 - May 2016

GPA 4.0/4.0

- Economic theory and application in the urban education policy setting.
- Quantitative and qualitative methods for evaluating policy and program effectiveness.
- Internship included developing a rubric and implementation plan for evaluating cultural competence in over 200 staff members of the Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy School district.

**Brown University**, Providence, Rhode Island

**Political Science/Ethnic Studies, Bachelor of Arts,**

September 2007 – May 2011

GPA 3.69/4.0

- Studies focused in policy development, ethnic studies, and social science research.
- Comparative study of different political systems and individual nations around the globe; the philosophical study of political ideas.

**Casa de Las Américas**, Habana, Cuba

**Study abroad, Spanish language immersion,**

September 2009 – December 2009

## AWARDS:

**Graduate Program in Development (GPD) Fellowship**, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, 2018

This competitive fellowship brings together students from history, political science, anthropology, economics, sociology and anthropology to develop fluency in interdisciplinary methods. It emphasizes advanced interdisciplinary training in the area of development and inequality.

**Joukowsky Summer Research Travel Award**, Brown University Graduate School, 2018

This award is granted on a competitive basis to students from the Graduate School who are pursuing scholarly activities outside of Brown during the summer months. Award decisions are based upon academic merit and projected impact on the research trajectory or academic training.

**Tinker Field Research Grant**, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, 2018

The grant supports pre-dissertation fieldwork in Latin America and the Caribbean by Brown doctoral students from all disciplines. The grant will support fieldwork in Bovia on political participation of marginalized groups.

**Community Champion Award**, Rhode Island Latino Public Radio, 2016

Awarded to an individual who plays a part in influencing the next generation of students, professionals, and leaders. Recognizes those who have made strides in the Latino community and left their mark in Rhode Island's educational landscape.

**White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics**, White House, 2015

Features Hispanic teachers who demonstrate that while they are underrepresented, there are many Hispanics who are dedicating themselves to serving their community through teaching.

**Karen T. Romer Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award**, Brown University, 2010

Awarded to students who wish to collaborate with Brown faculty on research and teaching projects during the summer or the academic year.

**IBIS Scholar**, Coral Reef Senior High School IBIS Foundation, 2007

An academic award given to high achieving low income students headed to college from the International Baccalaureate program at Coral Reef Senior High School.

### **TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

Social Policy and Theory; Stratification and Inequality; Sociology of Race; Education Policy; Social Movements; Human Trafficking; Legal Reform.

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

**Independent Study**

September 2015 - May 2016

**Mentored by: Warren Simmons & Michael Grady**, Providence, RI

Under the guidance of the Executive Directors of the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, I was responsible for researching culturally responsive teaching (CRT) and creating a rubric for evaluating K-12 teachers and staff on their cultural responsiveness. The rubric and professional development plan were approved by the Board of the Blackstone Valley Prep Charter School Network and implemented for use on its staff of 200+ people.

**Research Assistant**,

May 2010 – September 2012

**Director of the Pembroke Center: Professor Kay Warren**, Providence, RI

In this job I worked closely with Professor Warren to perform a qualitative analysis of human trafficking prosecutions in the Colombian legal system across legal reforms from the inquisitorial to the adversarial system in the first decade of the 21st century. We did this by reading through trial records from Human Trafficking cases which range in length from 250-1500 pages long.

### **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

**A Struggle We Must Win: Advancing School Integration through Activism, Youth Voice, & Policy Reform, Presenter**

National Coalition on School Diversity, New York, NY

October 2017

Lead presenter for workshop titled "From Segregation to Intentionally Diverse-by-Design: A Commitment to Cultural Competency and Implementation of Culturally Responsive Teaching – Lessons from Blackstone Valley Prep".

**#ComebackCity High Expectations Project (CHEP) High Expectations Conference, Presenter**

Blackstone Valley Prep, Cumberland, RI

May 2016

Co-presenter in a workshop on STEM content delivery with a focus on effective instruction for students of color. The conference was sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

**17th Annual Multicultural Conference: Promising Practices, Presenter**

Rhode Island College, Providence, RI

November 2014

Delivered a workshop on culturally responsive curriculum in STEM titled “Teaching While Brown: Learning Under the Influence”.

**AFFILIATIONS**

**2017- Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Brown University**

**2018- Graduate Program in Development Fellow, Brown University**

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

**Blackstone Valley Prep Middle School 1, Central Falls, RI**

Dean of Culture/ Diversity Committee Chair,

June 2014 – July 2017

- Analogous to a Dean of Students role, I was responsible for creating and monitoring a school wide behavior management system for a school with roughly 350 scholars grades 5 – 8.
- Facilitated and oversaw events that build school and staff culture.
- Oversaw all disciplinary issues/grievances with scholars and made recommendations to Head of School regarding appropriate consequences.
- As, Diversity Committee Chair I was responsible for coordinating and facilitating all work related to culturally responsive teaching and anti-bias training in the school network.

**Jose de Diego Middle School, Miami, FL**

*8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher (Regular Pre-Algebra, Algebra I Honors), August 2011- June 2013*

- Pledged to serve as a teacher in an under resourced and underprivileged community for 2 years.
- Regularly analyzed data and implemented strategies in order to increase learning gains and teaching effectiveness.
- Selected as school’s Rookie Teacher of the Year (2012).

**MEMBERSHIPS and SERVICE:**

**City Council Member, Central Falls, RI**

January 2017 - Present

Elected to the council to represent Ward 1 with 97% of the vote. Sponsored and passed the first municipal “Green and Complete Streets” ordinance in New England.

**Juvenile Hearing Board Member, Central Falls, RI**

August 2017 - Present

This Board is an opportunity to divert youth from the criminal justice system. Youths and family are given a chance to plead guilty and complete the sanctions imposed by the Board with the promise of a clean record upon completion.

**Youth Wrestling Coach, Central Falls, RI**

October 2016 - Present

The Providence County Wrestling Club (PCWC) partners with the national non-profit Beat The Streets (BTS) to provide cost-free year-round wrestling programming and training for under resourced inner city youth. In our first year of operation, we had a State champion wrestler, a New England Women’s second place wrestler, and a New England Women’s champion.

**SKILLS:**

Fluent in Spanish: writing, reading, and speaking.

Computer skills: Dedoose, STATA, Kickboard ®, Aspen Gradebook, MS Office, Adobe Pro