

MARLAINE M. MONROIG
Nomination Statement

Since my undergraduate years as a McNair scholar I have had the privilege of attending many conferences. Yet, it wasn't until I attended NLPA last year that I truly felt like I belonged. Maybe it was the warmth of the welcoming reception filled with parranda music, the way everyone hugged and kissed or and the connections I quickly made with fellow attendees, but I knew right away NLPA was an organization I could see myself growing in and being a part of for a long time. Attending my first NLPA conference was a highlight of my first year as PhD student. As I soon prepare to enter my second year of my PhD program in Counseling Psychology at the University of Georgia, I find myself ready to take on leadership roles and increase my involvement outside of my program. To be able to do this with NLPA would be an amazing opportunity to use my skills and help an organization that I highly regard. At the start of my doctoral program I learned about the history of and it would be a privilege to be able to be a part of the continued growth and success of an organization that is so important to many Latino/a's in the field.

My background and experiences have inspired me to give back to my Latina/o community. Prior to graduate school I was the President of my sorority. Unlike many "mainstream" sororities it was the first Latina sorority in the nation and on my college campus. It was small but a big familia that I saw as important given a small Latina population in one of the biggest PWI's in the nation. It was an honor to lead the organization and in return gained invaluable leadership skills, connections throughout the nation and a continued desire to stay connected and support the Latina/o community. Since then, I've been involved in various ways to bring attention to issues facing Latina/o community. As the Director of Grants and Research for Girl Scouts I created the Girl Scouts Diversity Committee. As a McNair scholar I chose to do a summer program in Chicago working with Latina/o urban youth and mentoring. As a master's student I chose to work with unidentified unaccompanied minors and sexually exploited children who were predominantly Latina/o. As a doctoral student I currently work doing counseling work with Latina/o populations in various settings.

As the NLPA student representative I will use my networking and leadership skills to ensure I successfully perform my duties as official liaison and developer of a student committee. I realize the involvement of aspiring psychologists and psychologists in training with NLPA is crucial in guaranteeing the future success of the organization and therefore it will be important that they feel their needs and concerns are heard and feel there is support and programming in place. My experiences have instilled in me the confidence to believe in myself and in my potential to highly contribute to the advancement of NLPA. Attending NLPA was the highlight of my first doctoral year and I hope my involvement as a representative will be a highlight for the next two years.