

## **Inneké L. Vargas**

Sam Houston State University • Department of Psychology and Philosophy

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### **Education**

**Sam Houston State University** • Clinical Psychology, PhD (forensic emphasis) • in progress

**Wichita State University (WSU) • 2020** • BA (honors distinction) • Psychology • summa cum laude  
**Minor** • Criminal Justice

**Certificate** • Community Psychology

**Cohen Honors College Interdisciplinary Track** • Law & Public Policy

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### **Research Experience**

**Women's Health Network (WHN): An Evaluation of a Community Program**

**McNair Scholars Project**

**Principal Investigator:** Inneké L. Vargas

**Research Mentor:** Dr. Amy K. Chesser

**Fall 2019 - Summer 2020**

The WHN was developed to foster health equity for women in the state of Kansas. This project explored the impact of community engagement on a patient-centered model of care.

- Gathered and analyzed qualitative and quantitative survey results using Qualtrics
- Transcribed and coded research records using NVIVO
- Conducted and transcribed semi-structured interviews using Panopto

**Assessing Post-COVID Real Estate Market Trends for Southern California**

**Principal Investigator:** James Chung

**Role:** Paid Research Internship • Project Lead

**Summer 2020**

This highly competitive research internship incorporated semi-structured interview assessments to gauge post-COVID behavioral economics for a real estate development client.

- Self-guided weekly research sprints with discovery reporting based on significant findings
- Proprietary data scrubbing using Google Analytics
- Qualitative and quantitative survey report creation and analysis using Qualtrics

**Assessing the Impact of Racial Categorizations on Mental Health Service Utilization and Outcomes**

**McNair Scholars Project**

**Principal Investigator:** Inneké L. Vargas (**Senior Honors Thesis**)

**Advisor:** Dr. C. Brendan Clark

**Fall 2019 - Summer 2020**

This comparative study was conducted to determine if minority student perceptions of therapeutic rapport differed as a function of race compared to non-minority students at a predominately white institution (PWI)

- Administered modified STTS-R questionnaire using SONA
- Survey creation using Qualtrics
- One-way ANOVA response data comparison using SPSS

**Beyond Bingo: The Impact of Activity Engagement in an all-African American Assisted Living Community**

**Principal Investigator:** Inneké L. Vargas

**Research Mentor:** Dr. Molly M. Perkins

**Summer 2019 - Fall 2019**

This secondary analysis of ethnographic observation investigated how barriers and facilitators of meaningful activity engagement affect the eight domains of palliative care

- Reviewed and coded of over 818 observed hours using NVIVO
- Analytical reporting of health instrument data: MoCA, OARS, grip strength, the Iowa Pain Thermometer, QoL-AD, and FACIT

### The Trajectories of Care in Assisted Living (TLC) Study

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Molly M. Perkins

**Role:** Emory University Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Fellow

**Summer 2019**

The overarching goal of this five-year NIA funded study was to address critical knowledge gaps and identify best practices for end-of-life care in assisted living communities

- Thematic coding using NVIVO
- Ethnographic data collection
- Semi-structured interviewing

### Women Involved Network (WIN for Kansas): Community Collaboration to Create Health Equity

#### McNair Scholars Project

**Principal Investigator:** Inneké L. Vargas

**Research Mentor:** Dr. Amy K. Chesser

**Fall 2018 - Summer 2019**

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the efficacy of a collaborative approach to reducing community-identified health disparities for women in the state of Kansas

- Survey creation and distribution using Qualtrics
- Analyzed quantitative survey results using Qualtrics
- Qualitative data gathered using open forum panel discussions

### Assessing Health Literacy and Stroke Symptomatology in Older Adults

#### McNair Scholars Project

**Principal Investigator:** Inneké L. Vargas

**Research Mentor:** Dr. Amy K. Chesser

**Fall 2017 - Summer 2018**

The purpose of this study was to determine short term retention rates of health literacy interventions regarding stroke signs and symptoms among older adults and their caregivers.

- Administered pre and post-intervention health literacy survey
- Data input and analysis using Qualtrics
- Survey report creation using Canva

### Behavioral Economics and Progressive Personality

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. C. Brendan Clark

**Role:** Student Assistant

**Fall 2017**

The purpose of this study was to determine if moral elevation can increase or temporarily change opinions about immigrants, minorities, and established authority

- Administered questionnaires
- Data input and analysis using SPSS

### Publications

- Chesser A, Keene Woods N, Bowen A, **Vargas I. L.**, & Hawley S. (2021). Mental health literacy and women: A systematic review. *The Kansas Nurse*, 96(1), 6-19.
- **Vargas, I.L.**, Keene Woods N., Bennett C., Paluri J., McCray Miller M., Chesser A. (2021). The women's health network: An evaluation of a community based initiative. *Journal of Family Medicine and Disease Prevention*, 7(1), 1-5. 10.23937/2469-5793/1510136.
- Keene Woods, N., **Vargas, I.**, McCray-Miller, M., Drassen Ham, A., & Chesser, A.K. (2021). SARS-CoV2, the COVID-19 pandemic and community perceptions. *Journal of Primary Care & Community Health*, 12, 1-5. 10.1177/2150132721995451.
- **Vargas, I. L.** (2020). The significance of racial categorizations on mental health service outcomes. *McNair Scholars Program Journal of Research Reports*, 25.

- **Vargas, I. L.** (2019). Improving health equity in female adolescence and womanhood in the state of Kansas. *McNair Scholars Program Journal of Research Reports*, 24, 95-98.
- **Vargas, Inneké L.**, Bender Alexis, Kemp Candace, & Perkins Molly. (2019). Beyond bingo: the impact of activity engagements in an all-African American assisted living community. *Innovation in Aging*. 3. S959-S960. 10.1093/geroni/igz038.3480.

### In Progress

- Bauman, A., Martinez, K., Moroney, K., **Vargas, I.**, Clark, C., & Cropsey, K. Examining the association between cognitive testing results and length of time detained. *Journal of Correctional Health Care*. Manuscript ID JCHC-21-02-0009 under review 2/2021.

### Conference Presentations

- Keene Woods, N., McCray-Miller, M., **Vargas, I.**, & Chesser, A. (2021, October). The Importance of Health Literacy Screening to Advance Health Equity. American Public Health Association Conference. Virtual conference.
- **Vargas I.L.**, Clark, C.B. Assessing The Impact of Racial Categorizations on Mental Health Service Utilization and Outcomes. Poster presentation for the Black Doctoral Network Conference; October 29-31, 2020; Virtual Conference.
- Keene Woods, N., McCray-Miller, M., **Vargas, I.L.**, & Chesser, A. Women's Health Network: Health equity through a lifespan approach. American Public Health Association Conference; October 24-28, 2020. San Francisco, CA.
- **Vargas I. L.**, McCray-Miller M, Keene Woods N., & Chesser A. Women's Health Network: An Evaluation of a Community Program. Poster presentation for The North American Menopause Society; September 28, 2020; Virtual Conference.
- **Vargas I.L.**, Clark, C.B. Assessing The Impact of Racial Categorizations on Mental Health Service Utilization and Outcomes. Oral presentation for the MKN Heartland McNair Research Conference; September 26, 2020; Virtual Conference.
- **Vargas I.L.**, Clark, C.B. Assessing The Impact of Racial Categorizations on Mental Health Service Utilization and Outcomes. Oral and poster presentation for McNair Scholar Symposium; July 28, 2020; Wichita KS.
- **Vargas I. L.**, McCray-Miller M, Keene Woods N., & Chesser A. Women's Health Network: An Evaluation of a Community Program. Poster presentation for the Institute for Healthcare Advancement Virtual Conference; July 20-24, 2020; Costa Mesa, CA.
- **Vargas I. L.**, McCray-Miller M, Keene Woods N., & Chesser A. Women's Health Network: An Evaluation of a Community Program. Oral presentation for the 2020 Gender & Sexuality Conference; March 13, 2020; Wichita, KS.
- **Vargas I. L.**, McCray-Miller M, Keene Woods N., & Chesser A. Women's Health Network: An Evaluation of a Community Program. Poster presentation for the Undergraduate Research Day at the Capital; March 4, 2020; Topeka, KS.
- **Vargas, I. L.**, Bender, A. A., Kemp, C. L., Perkins, M. M., Beyond Bingo: The Impact of Activity Engagement in an all-African American Assisted Living Community. Poster Presentation for Gerontological Society of America International Conference; November 13-17, 2019; Austin, TX.
- **Vargas I. L.**, McCray-Miller M, Keene Woods N., & Chesser A. Women's Health Network: An Evaluation of a Community Program. Poster presentation for the Kansas Public Health Association; September 25, 2019; Topeka, KS.

- McCray-Miller M., Keene Woods N., **Vargas I. L.**, Chesser A. Women Health Network: Engagement and Health Equity. Oral presentation for the Kansas Public Health Association; September 24, 2019; Topeka, KS.
- **Vargas, I. L.**, Keene Woods, N., McCray-Miller, M., Chesser A., Women Involved Network (WIN for Kansas): Community Collaboration to Create Health Equity. Poster presentation for Heartland Conference; September 20-22, 2019; Kansas City, MO.
- **Vargas, I. L.**, Bender, A. A., Kemp, C. L., Perkins, M. M., Beyond Bingo: The Importance of Meaningful Activity Engagement in Assisted Living. Poster Presentation for Emory University Summer Undergraduate Research Experience; August 1, 2019; Atlanta, GA.
- **Vargas, I. L.**, Keene Woods, N., McCray-Miller, M., Chesser A., Women Involved Network (WIN for Kansas): Community Collaboration to Create Health Equity. Oral presentation for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum (URCAF) conference; April 19, 2019; Wichita KS.
- **Vargas, I. L.**, Keene Woods, N., McCray-Miller, M., Chesser A., Women Involved Network (WIN for Kansas): Community Collaboration to Create Health Equity. Oral presentation for Southern Nazarene University Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium; March 29, 2019; Bethany, OK.
- **Vargas, I. L.**, Keene Woods, N., McCray-Miller, M., Chesser A., Women Involved Network (WIN for Kansas): Community Collaboration to Create Health Equity. Oral presentation for Women's Summit; March 7, 2019; Wichita, KS
- **Vargas I. L.**, Chesser A., Dusenbury W., Hill T., Rogers N. Assessing Health Literacy and Stroke Symptomatology in Older Adults. Oral presentation for McNair Scholar Symposium; July 27, 2018; Wichita KS
- Chesser A., Dusenbury W., **Vargas I. L.**, Hill T., Rogers N., Assessing Health Literacy and Stroke Symptomatology in Older Adults. Oral presentation for the International Conference on Aging Annual Meeting; July 17 – 18, 2018; Atlanta GA.
- **Vargas I. L.**, Chesser A., Dusenbury W., Assessing Health Literacy and Stroke Symptomatology in Older Adults. Oral presentation for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (URCAF) conference; April 6, 2018; Wichita KS.
- **Vargas I. L.**, Chesser A., Dusenbury W., Assessing Health Literacy and Stroke Symptomatology in Older Adults. Oral presentation for National McNair Student Research Conference; October 19-21, 2018; Chicago, IL.
- **Vargas I. L.**, Chesser A., Dusenbury W. Assessing Health Literacy and Stroke Symptomatology in Older Adults. Oral presentation for Heartland Conference; September 21-23, 2018; Kansas City, MO.

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### Professional Experience

AmeriCorps • Wichita, KS • June - August 2021

*Summer VISTA*

- Community Engagement Center (CEI) *IMPACT* Center
- Support Group Services Database management
- Research and aggregation of SUD groups in Kansas
- Training program template creation

Reach Advisors • Wichita, KS • Feb - June 2021

*Research Assistant*

- Consulting and Data Analysis for client: Opportunity at Work
- Burning Glass database report analysis
- Article research on college education and comparative workplace success

Community Engagement Institute (CEI) • Wichita, KS • March - June 2021

*Research Assistant*

- Early school readiness data research
- State of Kansas school readiness data gathering
- Maternal and child mortality data research

Central Plains Area Agency on Aging (CPAAA) - WSU Applied Learning Program • Wichita, KS • 2020 - June 2021

*Quality Assurance Specialist*

- Developing aging adult needs assessment
- Assisting with compiling and distributing needs assessment
- Analyzing and reporting findings for the area plan, strategic planning, and program planning
- Supporting analysis of strategic plan progress
- Compiling reports and supporting information to delineate findings

ZIFTIN • Wichita, KS • 2019 - Current

*Founder*

- Research connection program
- Currently in development
- Post-beta licensed sales to universities and colleges planned

Wichita State University • Wichita, KS • 2017 - 2021

*Research Assistant, Dr. Amy K. Chesser - PCORI grant project, \$250,000*

- Qualtrics survey data entry and analysis
- Consenting participants per IRB specifications
- Organizing large-scale network and board meetings
- Creating quarterly and annual infographic and written report deliverables to grant funder - PCORI
- Participant Clincard incentive registration and distribution
- Website creation, email communication, and social media manager

City of Wichita • Wichita, KS • 2016 - 2019

*Call Center Information Specialist*

- Manage and resolve citizen concerns
- Maintain transaction records
- Document call information in accordance with operating procedures and city ordinances

Ad Astra Financial Group • Wichita, KS • 2012 - 2015

*Support Supervisor*

- Managed, trained, and mentored a staff of 6 Support Specialists
- Processed consumer disputes, complaints, and bankruptcy notifications per FDCPA regulations
- Provided HR support: new employee paperwork, benefit enrollment
- Responsible for million dollar invoice processing including company-wide end of month reconciliation
- Created and implemented critical process improvements resulting in monies and time saved

Callcap Inc • Wichita, KS • 2010 - 2012

*Curriculum Coordination Director*

- Created and maintained a learning management system instrumental in increasing profit margins
- Collaborated with IT department for end user experience research and development
- Resolved network access issues for customer interface

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### Fellowships & Internships

**Community Engagement Institute (CEI) • Spring 2021 • Early School Readiness Research • Paid Internship**  
**WSU • Summer 2020 • Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP), NSF funded • Paid Fellowship**  
**Reach Advisors • Summer 2020 & Spring 2021 • Consumer & Employer Behavior Research • Paid Internship**  
**Emory University • Summer 2019 • Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) • Paid Fellowship**

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## Scholastic Achievements

- Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College Scholar
- Ronald E. McNair Scholar
- Departmental Honors Distinction - highest honor bestowed on a Psychology student

### **Grants:**

- Wichita State New Ventures, \$1,000
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, \$1,200
- AmeriCorps VISTA Graduate Education Grant \$1,342.86
- Cohen Honors College Research Enhancement Grant, \$1,619
- Kansas Comprehensive Grant, \$1,800
- Shocker Innovation Corps Grant, \$2,150
- McNair Scholars Grant, \$6,100
- Federal Pell Grant, \$11,688

### **Scholarships:**

- Title IX Scholarship, \$250
- Liberal Arts and Sciences College Campaign Fund Scholarship, \$448
- Rowena Irani Psychology Scholarship, \$500
- McDonalds Honors Scholarship, \$940
- Earl and Alice McCaslin Scholarship, \$1,000
- HALA Scholarship, \$1,500
- Henry & Gerry A. Pronko Scholarship, \$1,971
- Bernard Osher Returning Adult Scholarship, \$6,225

### **Awards:**

- WSU Outstanding Senior of the Year 2020
- WSU Adult Learner of the Year, Inaugural Recipient, 2020
- McNair Scholar Highest GPA, 2017/18, 2019/20
- McNair Scholar Leadership Award, 2017/18

### **Features:**

- WSU News: Meet a Shocker Profile Feature
  - Distinguished Scholar Invitational Keynote Speaker
  - Office of Applied Learning Student Feature
  - WSU Foundation Student Feature
  - WSU Phenomenal Woman of the Year Nominee
  - Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program (Den Haag, Netherlands Summer Program) Finalist
  - New York Times editorial feature on Reach Advisors internship work
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## Extracurriculars

Student Government Association • Wichita State • Summer - Fall 2020

- Returning Adult Senator, Government Relations Committee

TechStars Startup Weekend • Colombia, MO • October 18-20, 2019

- Overall winner: Execution & Design - ZIFTIN

Mortar Board • Wichita State • 2019 - Current

- National College Senior Honor society

Alpha Sigma Lambda • Wichita State Iota Chapter • 2018 - Current

- Non-traditional student honors society
- Maintaining outstanding scholastic achievement standards and leadership characteristics

Fairmount College Student Activities Council • Wichita State • 2018 - 2020

- President (2020)
- Vice-President (2018-2019)
- Conduit between students and college dean
- Supplies for Fines; school supply donation initiative to remit parking fines and aid students in need
- Organizing and hosting college town hall meeting

Psi Chi International Honor Society • Lifetime Membership - Wichita State Chapter • 2017 - 2020

- Vice-President (2020)
- President (2018-2020)
- Recruitment Chair (2017-2018)
- Organizing meetings and keynote speakers
- Facilitating research opportunities for club members

### Volunteer Opportunities

Library of Congress • By the People • Virtual Volunteer • 2020 - Current

- Transcription: Walt Whitman prose campaign

Parkinson's Walk • Wichita, KS • 2019

- Course Monitor

Trio Summer Program • Wichita, KS • 2018

- Summer enrichment program serving underprivileged youth
- Math tutor assistant
- Analog to digital data record file conversion

Rivercross Hospice • Wichita, KS • 2017 - 2020

- Comfort care and emotional support for hospice patients
- Respite care for patient families

Via Cristi Medical Mission at Home • Wichita, KS • 2017

- Patient registrar and guide

Midwest Dance Mechanix • Wichita, KS • 2016 - 2021

- Booster concession sales to fund underprivileged company dancer