

Summary of Selected Professional and Volunteer Activities

Dr. Meléndez's research interests focus on issues of workforce development, community economic development, poverty, labor market disadvantaged, economic development (at the national, regional, and community levels), public policy, and migration. As principal investigator, he has managed over 40 research, outreach or demonstration projects. His research has been supported by numerous funding sources including: the Social Science Research Council and the National Research Council; the US Departments of Labor, Commerce, and Housing and Urban Development; such national funders as Brookings Institution and Ford, Rockefeller, Russell Sage, MacArthur, Fannie Mae, and Mellon Foundations; and such community funders as the Boston Foundation, the New York Community Trust, and the Puerto Rico Community Foundation.

Dr. Meléndez has worked as a consultant on employment, economic development, job creation, and small business for numerous government, community, and philanthropic foundations. His most recent work focuses on workforce development, community strategies, and best practice in community economic development.

Examples of Professional and Consulting Work

- Dr. Meléndez has served on the editorial board or as reviewer for numerous academic journals or publishers including: *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*; *International Migration Review*; *Latin American Perspectives*; *World Development*; *Economic Development Quarterly*; *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*; *Urban Affairs Review*; *Latino(a) Research Review*; *Centro Journal*; *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy*; and the Center for Puerto Rican Studies and University of Florida Press Series on Puerto Rican Studies.
- Dr. Meléndez has served on numerous academic awards review panels including: Gastón Institute, Poverty and Economic Development in Massachusetts, 1991; Inter-University Program for Latino Research, Interdisciplinary Collaboration on Latino Policy Research, 1994; National Academy of Sciences, Pre-Doctoral Fellowships, 1995–2000; National Academy of Sciences, HUD Urban Scholars Post-Doctoral Fellowship, 2004.
- Dr. Meléndez has also worked as a consultant on economic development issues since 1980 and has accumulated vast research and professional experience. For example, he worked as a consultant to the Ford Foundation to assess the foundation's grant-making activities to increase access to opportunities for Latinos in the United States. This assessment reviewed Ford's grant-making activities across programs to identify gaps and areas of exploration in light of changing trends and issues affecting Latinos today. Dr. Meléndez' work focused on the Asset Building and Community Development program units and their work on workforce development, job creation, community development, and housing.
- Dr. Meléndez was a consultant, in conjunction with Community Development Associates, in the assessment of the Southwest Initiative (SWIN) of the National Council of La Raza. This project, with funding from the Ford Foundation, supports capacity-building initiatives among 25 CDCs in California, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. In addition to strengthening organizational capacity, SWIN supports the development of collaborations with industry and government.
- Dr. Meléndez served as a consultant to the Washington-based Center for Community Change and to the Mott Foundation for the development of community-based training systems in Hartford and Sacramento. The objective of this initiative is to support sectoral strategies that

link residents in neighborhoods of extreme poverty to job opportunities in regional labor markets.

- Dr. Meléndez participated in a briefing on workforce development and best practice to executive and program officers of the Ford and MacArthur Foundations. The briefing was based on the findings of a research report prepared for a consortium of Foundations (Ford, MacArthur, and Casey) on community-based training and workforce development programs. He also moderated roundtable discussions involving representatives of the Private Industry Council, City Hall, One-Stop Center, CDCs and CBOs, Community Colleges, and other practitioners engaged in workforce development in several metropolitan areas.
- Dr. Meléndez serves as a consultant to the Casey Foundation's Job Initiative. He served as the moderator of a panel discussion on how CET can collaborate with community-based training programs for the replication of the CET program. The program involved teams from six cities collaborating in a multi-year workforce development project. He is also a member of the initiative's evaluation advisory board.
- Dr. Meléndez assisted in the organization of a two-day conference for the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, on how proposed legislation is likely to affect Latino and community-based training programs. An important component of the discussions involved how best-practice cases could assist practitioners in responding to the new performance standards proposed in the legislation. Participants included community colleges, universities, training program officers, and government officials. A written report was also produced.
- Dr. Meléndez was the moderator of a workshop on fostering community economic development strategies in Bogotá, Colombia. More than twenty national foundations participated in this forum. This training was organized by the Puerto Rico Community Foundation and sponsored by the Ford and MacArthur Foundations.
- Dr. Meléndez was the project director on a comparative study of best practice in community-owned small business development in Puerto Rico. Upon the basis of the findings, he made policy recommendations to the Puerto Rico Community Foundation on how to best support economic development projects. The foundation sponsored several training seminars based on the findings and recommendations of the study.
- Dr. Meléndez was the principal investigator of a demonstration project in which community organizations are involved in the development of networks supporting small business, employment training, housing, and comprehensive neighborhood planning. The Center for Community Economic Development was a collaboration of thirty CDCs and CBOs organizing job creation and other projects. This initiative was funded by HUD, among other sources, and was intended to assist community participation in Boston's Empowerment Zone.
- Dr. Meléndez was also the principal investigator of the Latino Economic Development Center, a state-wide collaboration of ten Latino CDCs and CBOs with small business support services. The objective of this demonstration project was to create a community network that linked Latino small businesses to regional markets, business opportunities, and financial institutions. The initiative was funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Affairs and other funders.

Examples of Public, Community, and Professional Volunteer Services

- Dr. Melendez has served on the New York City Commission to Study the Feasibility of Creating Public/Private Partnerships to Develop and Operate Job Centers for Immigrant Day Laborers.
- Dr. Melendez has served on the Board of Directors of various local and national community development organizations, such as the United Neighborhood Houses and the Structural Employment Economic Development Corporation (Seedco).
- Dr. Edwin Meléndez was a member of the Boston School Committee and chair of its Curriculum and Operations sub-committee. The school committee oversees a system serving about 65,000 students with an annual budget of over half a billion dollars in 1997. He has provided leadership for the approval of citywide learning standards and school reform initiatives.
- Dr. Meléndez was appointed by the mayor of Boston to serve as a member of the Community Learning Centers' Blue Ribbon Commission. The commission examined conditions and assessed Boston public school needs for the next decade, and recommended and designed a master plan to respond to such needs. He chaired the subcommittee that estimated demographic projections, future enrollment, and system capacity needs.
- Dr. Meléndez was a member of the Boston Annenberg Governing Board and Executive Committee. This is a five-year initiative to reform and restructure the Boston public schools based on the principles of whole school change. Core funding from the Annenberg Foundation is matched by local private and public sectors in equal proportions. The project also benefits the Boston Teachers Union/Boston Public Schools Center for Leadership Development.
- Dr. Meléndez was a member of the Advisory Committee of the Massachusetts Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation's Capacity Building Initiative. This project is intended to support capacity building of CDCs to conduct strategic planning, design interventions, and operate community economic development programs. The first phase assisted 17 CDCs in implementing housing portfolio diversification, workforce development, and small business development projects.
- Dr. Meléndez was a member of the National Workforce Development Stakeholders Forum of the U.S. Department of Labor. As an active member of this national collaboration, he has represented the academic research sector. Among other activities, the forum has reviewed and made recommendations regarding the Employment and Training Administration's Strategic Plan for FY1998-FY2002. He is also an active member of the Regional (CT, MA, NH, ME) Stakeholders Forum.
- Dr. Meléndez was a member of the review panel for the National Research Council and Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowships. The panel awards 50 to 60 fellowships every year to minority students for graduate studies and dissertation research. Each panel (Social Sciences, Humanities, Sciences, etc.) within the committee evaluates about 40 applications to award 5 to 6 fellowships.
- Dr. Meléndez served as a co-director of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR) from 1992 to 1999 representing the Gastón Institute, and currently represents Centro, a founding member of the consortium. IUPLR has over twenty major Latino research centers as members. The consortium sponsors research competitions, leadership training programs,

and other initiatives. Dr. Meléndez served in an evaluation committee awarding research grants, and organized various conferences and other activities.

- Dr. Meléndez served as a co-chair of the Latino Task Force of the Latin American Studies Association. This task force organizes panels and other activities in the association's congress and serves as a professional network for Latino researchers active in Latin American studies. The task force promotes the scholarly exchange among Latinos in both parts of the hemisphere.
- Dr. Meléndez was a member of the Advisory Board for the Poverty Project of the National Council of La Raza. This project conducted studies on the economic situation of Latinos in the United States and made recommendations to local and federal policy makers. The reports and analyses of this project are widely used by community-based organizations for local advocacy and organizing initiatives.