

## KAREN ARCOS

(949) 824-8378

[karcos1@uci.edu](mailto:karcos1@uci.edu)

913 Verano Pl Irvine, CA 92617

### EDUCATION

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**University of California, Irvine** 06/20-Present  
PhD in Psychology (Cognitive Neuroscience)

**National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow** Present

- Recognizes and supports two thousand outstanding graduate students nationwide for a research-based doctoral program in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines

**University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA** 05/15  
B.A., Psychology and Spanish Minor  
Dean's List (Cumulative GPA 3.73/4.0)

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**University of California Irvine, Irvine, CA** 09/15-Present  
Visual Perception and Neuroimaging Lab  
Principal Investigator: Emily Grossman, Ph.D.  

- Design a short-term memory and a working memory experiment to clarify whether the blind continue exhibiting superior memory relative to the sighted

**University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA** 11/13-05/15  
**Research Assistant**, Psychology Department,  
Principal Investigator: Kimberle Kelly, Ph.D.  

- Analyze inferential statistics regarding actual vs predicted teacher performance to ultimately increase student standardized test performance in Chemistry and Astronomy

**Research Assistant**, Culture and Mental Health Lab, 03/13-05/14  
Principal Investigator: Steven Lopez, Ph.D.  

- Evaluated acculturation and socialization's impact on Mexican-Americans with Schizophrenia and their families to identify contextual factors that may affect them

### PRESENTATIONS

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**CSULA Charter College of Education, Los Angeles, CA** 09/16  

- Presented to teachers of the visually impaired in *Assistive Technology for Individuals with Visual Impairments* course; discussed firsthand academic experiences accessing digital texts as a person with a visual impairment

**American Evaluation Association** 11/15

Chicago, IL

- "What Teachers Know: Relationships of teacher competencies around content knowledge, metacognition, and student prior knowledge to student performance in science"

**USC Undergraduate Symposium for Scholarly and Creative Works** 04/15

Los Angeles, CA

- "Teachers Think Too: The Relationship of Teacher Metacognition to Student Learning"

**USC Latino Student Empowerment Conference** 01/15

Los Angeles, CA

- "Teachers Think Too: The Relationship of Teacher Metacognition to Student Learning"

**USC McNair Scholars Summer Institute Symposium, Los Angeles, CA** 07/14

- "Teachers Think Too: The Effect of Metacognition on Teacher Performance"

**Western Psychological Association Convention, Portland, OR** 04/14

- "Exploring Acculturation's Role in Mexican-origin Families Caring for Relatives with Schizophrenia"

**USC Rossier School of Education, Los Angeles, CA** 11/14

- Presented to graduate students in *Student Disability Issues in Higher Education* course; discussed firsthand academic and daily life experiences as a person with a visual impairment

## **EMPLOYMENT**

**University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA** 06/15-08/15

*Research Assistant*, Gould School of Law,  
Principal Investigator: Heidi Rummel, J.D.

- Coded twenty-five youth offender parole hearing transcripts as part of the Post-Conviction Justice Project
- Research investigated the effectiveness of California Senate Bill 260 on releasing youth offenders from state prisons

## **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

**Survive or Thrive Support Group, Los Angeles, CA** 03/12-Present

*Group Leader*

- Co-founded a support group by and for students with disabilities and their families
- Organize workshops and social events; mentor participants; and address parental concerns to change society's expectations of people with disabilities

**Blind Childrens Center, Los Angeles, CA** 01/03-Present

*Junior Mentor*

- Discuss experiences with parents of children who are visually impaired, mentor children on the use of specialized equipment, and fundraise via internet and in-person requests

**QuestBridge, Palo Alto, CA**

*Quest Ambassador* 08/16-09/16

- Telephoned fifty-six high school seniors nationwide to inform them about the QuesttBridge National College Match program for high-achieving, low-income students
- Discussed personal experiences as a former matched applicant and answered program, application, and eligibility questions

*Essay Coach* 05/16

- Read personal statements from five high school juniors of low-income background.
- Provided written grammatical and personalized feedback

*Quest Ambassador* 09/15

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*Essay Coach* 05/15

Read personal statements from ten high school juniors of low-income background.

- Provided written grammatical and personalized feedback

*College Counselor* 05/14-12/14

- Advised one minority high school student to facilitate the college application process
- Incorporated personal experiences into monthly dialogues, informed student about additional financial resources, and corrected written statements

**Lime Connect Fellow, New York, NY** 07/13-05/14

- Leadership and Development program for students with disabilities

**University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA** 08/13-05/14

*Residential Student Government Recognition Chair, Parkside Apartments*

- Wrote monthly statements at the regional or national level to recognize Residential Education faculty, organizations, and students
- Organized and implemented events for residents

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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**University of California, Irvine (UCI), Irvine, CA** 03/16

*Gordon Hein Scholarship*

- One legally blind student of strong academic standing receiving support toward graduate study

**University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, CA** 05/15

*Discovery Scholar Prize*

- One of ten undergraduates receiving recognition and support toward graduate study for contributions in research or creative work

*Order of Troy*

- Honors graduating students for outstanding leadership, volunteerism, and commitment to USC and the community

**University of Rochester, Rochester, NY**

09/14

*Graduate Visitation program participant*

- One of fifteen McNair scholars selected nationwide for a fully-funded visit of both the campus and its Brain and Cognitive Sciences Ph.D. program faculty.

**USC Latino Alumni Association**

*Dr. John R. Hubbard Recognition Award nominee*

11/2014

- Recognizes an outstanding Latino undergraduate senior for academic excellence, community service, and extracurricular involvement

**USC**

*McNair Scholar*

2013-2014

*Psychology Honors Program*

2014-2015

*QuestBridge National College Match Award*

2010

**USC Latino Alumni Association**

*Academic Achievement Award*

2012-Present

**SKILLS**

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- Spanish bilingual and bicultural fluency
- Read and write English and Spanish Braille, as well as convert both to print

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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- Western Psychological Association 2014-15
- Psi Chi Honors Society 2013-Present