



**Dr. Rafael Fuentes** is a beacon of influence, a seasoned professional, and a true advocate for mental health and diversity in the Tampa Bay community. With an impressive length of employment spanning 13 years, his journey is one of tireless dedication and transformative impact.

As a Notary in the state of Florida since 2007, Dr. Fuentes has provided essential legal services to his community. His dedication to mental health care is evident through his roles as a Registered Mental Health Counselor Intern from 2006 to 2022 and as a Board-Certified Clinical Sexologist by the American Board of Sexologist from 2012 to 2016. His expertise was further recognized through the Human Services - Board Certified Practitioner designation (#1384).

Dr. Fuentes's influence extends to academia and professional development. He has been a Master trainer in Ex-CELL (English as a Second Language) Vocabulary and a Clinical Education Supervisor accredited by the State of Florida. His contributions also encompass remarkable achievements in research, including a notable journal publication focusing on evidence-based interventions for Latina cancer survivors.

His community engagement is profound and extensive, from facilitating research projects and serving as a keynote speaker at conferences to participating in panel discussions and hosting workshops on mental health and wellness. His involvement in organizations like the Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc., and his role as a board member for the Franciscan Center demonstrate his commitment to shaping a better future.

Dr. Fuentes's exemplary efforts have earned him numerous awards and recognitions, including being named Professor of the Year at Ana G Mendez University and earning recognition as an Exemplary Faculty for Champions of Diversity Awards. Notably, he was honored as a Florida Latino Líder by Latin Times and as the Mentor of the Year for HOPE Scholars at HCC.

Hailing from Salinas, Puerto Rico, Dr. Fuentes's journey embodies the pursuit of the American Dream. A first-generation student, he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Puerto Rico and went on to achieve a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from Springfield College and a doctorate in Clinical Sexology from The American Academy of Clinical Sexologists.

In his role at Hillsborough Community College, Dale Mabry Campus, Dr. Fuentes empowers students to succeed academically and personally. His expertise in multicultural issues, his dedication to diverse communities, and his impact as a mental health professional showcase his commitment to enhancing the lives of those he serves. Dr. Rafael Fuentes's legacy is one of inspiration, compassion, and unyielding dedication to bettering his community through the power of mental health care and education.