

Dr. Maria Martha Chavez Brumell

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Yale University, New Haven, CT. Sociology. 2004.
M. Phil. Yale University, New Haven, CT. Sociology. 1992.
Social Change, Sociology of Medicine, Sociology of Education
M. S. Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS. Education. 1978. Degree Curriculum and Instruction.
Counseling Practicum.
B. A. Kansas State University. Degree in Journalism, Psychology, and Spanish Literature.
H.S. Bishop Ward High School. Kansa City, Kansas. Honors Society.

DISSERTATION

A Home Away from Home: The Function of Community Schools. Institutional Response to
Social Disorder. New Haven, CT 1940-2000.

John Perry Miller Dissertation Research Prize, Yale Graduate School. 2003.

As part of my fieldwork, I established The Community School Program at Fair Haven Middle School in New Haven, CT. The program was adopted under the Crime Bill of 1993 and was implemented in 43 states. My research looked at the data in all states and a case study of New Haven.

CURRENT

CATCH THE NEXT, INC.

President and Chief Executive Officer

2015-present. Oversee all strategy, implementation, and evaluation aspects for Catch the Next, Inc. A leader in delivering sustained educational opportunity, success, and equity through transformational teaching programs and collaborative professional development, cultivating the leaders of today and tomorrow. The CEO develops, executes, and assesses top business strategies to propel company growth. Collaborates with other executives, managers, and employees to identify meaningful solutions. Serves as a leading resource for finance, marketing, and sales operations managers. Adjust essential procedures and policies by collaborating with HR and assessing current industry trends.

More: www.catchthenext.org

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Lecturer

2018-2024

Department of Educational Leadership and Policy.

Teach three seminars for the Graduate School to faculty and administrators implementing CTN's framework for student, faculty, and institutional advancement, emphasizing policy and practice. [Catch the Next | University Extension | The University of Texas at Austin \(utexas.edu\)](#)

Chief Education Officer

2010-2015

We founded the Catch the Next Program in Texas. We are responsible for recruiting community colleges in Texas to start the program in 3 colleges and begin a campaign for college completion and economic development. We are also responsible for the operations and professional development of faculty and administrators in our project in partnership with UC Berkeley and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Accomplishments while at CTN:

Story of Success "Top 5 Women CEOs Redefining Leadership in 2025." Feb. 19, 2025

A Passionate Advocate for Educational Equity. This narrative reflects the journey of one such organization, Catch the Next, Inc., which has emerged as a formidable force in the fight for educational equity.

<https://storyofsuccessmagazine.com/top-5-women-ceos-redefining-leadership-in-2025/>

Business World Eureka's "100 Most Influential Women in Business for their relentless dedication to educational equity and her remarkable achievements in transforming higher education for underserved communities.

"Under her direction, Catch the Next has remained at the forefront of educational reform, continuing to serve first-generation and low-income students nationwide." September 5, 2024.

<https://businessworldeureka.com/the-most-influential-women-shaping-2024s-business-landscape/>

Success Pitchers "America's Top 10 Women of Distinction in 2024" Maria Chavez Brumell: Leading the Charge for Equity in Education

<https://magazines.successpitchers.com/2024/americas-top-10-women-of-distinction-in-2024-march24/#page=48>

Women We Admire: Top Ten Women Leaders, 2023, for being a key contributor to their organizations, driving change and innovation.

https://www.prweb.com/releases/Women_We_Admire_s_Top_50_Women_Leaders_of_Connecticut_for_2023/prweb19094847.htm

John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education. Winner of the 2021 Edgerton Commendation for Innovation in Education by

<https://www.jngi.org/blog/2021/8/19/three-receivenbspthe-edge-commendation-for-innovation-in-undergraduate-education>

Programs that Work Database by Excelencia in Education in 2016, 2017, 2020, 2023, and 2024. Finalist for the Excellence Award for 2021.

<https://www.edexcelencia.org/programs-initiatives/growing-what-works-database/ascender-program>

South by South West In 2019, the CEO was asked to mentor at the (SXSW) South by Southwest, a conference on educational innovation in the upcoming March 2020 convention.

Texas Education Research Center, 2019, an independent longitudinal study found that CTN students get more certificates and associate and bachelor's degrees than the control group of 110,000 students. In addition, CTN students take one-third of student loans compared to the control group, and CTN students get 30 percent of grants and scholarships. This is huge, given that we serve students whose scores indicated they were not college-ready and academically disadvantaged.

<https://les.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED609087.pdf>

In 2018, I created a Transformative Teaching Track program at the request of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to provide professional development to two- and four-year institutions implementing new state policy.

In 2016, the THCB created a video of our program to learn about implementing new state policy (House Bill 2223) and the 60x30 strategy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlZqftuugXo>

In 2014, the THECB wrote an article titled “Transforming Developmental Education in Texas” for the Journal of Developmental Education, Fall 2014. CTN is noted as an exemplary program that leads to student success.

<https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1071607>

Winner of The Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation Challenge: “What is Next in Higher Education?” Winner for academic advising, mentoring, and breaking down institutional silos. 2013.

Excellence recognition: The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) October 2013.

HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

YALE COLLEGE DEAN’S OFFICE. New Haven, CT.

Assistant to the Dean of Yale College

2014-2015

Member of the Central Administration and Council of Deans, overseeing academic and student affairs for the college during a transition period.

Assistant Dean Yale College, Member of the Faculty.

1979

– 1986

As a Central Administration and Council of Deans member, I oversee the college's academic and student affairs. I established the Asian, Chicano, and Native American Cultural Center and the Chicano-Boricua Studies in the American Studies Department, which is now called The Race, Ethnicity, and Migration Program. I also served as Dean within the Career Advisory and Placement Office and directed several academic and non-academic programs.

[Office of the Dean | Yale College](#)

YALE PRESIDENT’S OFFICE

Global Alumni Leader

2016-present

Serve in a group of Global leaders who bimonthly convene via a conference call with the President of Yale, Peter Salovey, on matters related to institutional affairs.

YALE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Graduate School Alumni Advisor to the Dean of the Graduate School.

2016- present

Graduate School Executive Committee Member

2012-2015

Yale Grad School Alumni Fund

present

2010-

YALE ELIHU SOCIETY

Honorary lifetime faculty

1982- present

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, Manhattan, Kansas.

1979

1976-

Assistant Director of Admissions.

She established the first minority admissions program on campus.

We explored new markets for student recruitment to the University. Made decisions regarding the admittance of students to the university, including international students. More: <http://www.k-state.edu/admissions/>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

2018- 2025

See current job

[Catch the Next | University Extension | The University of Texas at Austin \(utexas.edu\)](#)

YALE COLLEGE

1980-1986

Courses taught:

Social and Legal History of Education for Mexican Americans and other minorities in the United States.

Taught Independent Studies Courses in American Studies and Psychology.

Thesis Adviser- Scholar of the House Program to first Latina Rhodes Scholar.

YALE GRADUATE SCHOOL

1997-2004

Introductory to Sociology

Social Problems.

Organizational Theory (School of Organization and Management)

SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY, Fairfield, CT

1998-1999

Lecturer. Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice.

Course:

Introduction to Sociology.

More: www.sacredheart.edu

K-12 EXPERIENCE

NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, New Haven, CT.

1993-1996

Leader, Fair Haven Middle School Community School Program.

- Administered a pilot program in the middle school after-hours open to the children, their families, and the community, focusing on academic enrichment, arts, sports/physical fitness, technology, recreation, adult primary education, and childcare. In addition:
- Worked with middle school parents to help design and conduct some classes and activities.
- Supervised and trained a staff of 35 individuals, including tenured teachers, staff, parents, and community agency representatives.
- Worked with 15 community agencies to develop and implement courses and activities in the program, including some preschool options and adult English as a Second Language and General Equivalency Courses toward the General Equivalency Diploma.
- This experience served as fieldwork for my dissertation.

More: www.nhps.org

NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. New Haven, CT.

1988-1992

Substitute Teacher While in Graduate School.

Substituted in elementary and secondary schools across the city of New Haven, CT. More: www.nhps.org

For additional work on K-12, please look at my work with Public Agenda with Bridgeport, CT high school, Nebraska school districts, and San Jose, California. For Preschool experience, please look at my consulting work with Life Haven, a Homeless shelter for children and families, a preschool program, and LULAC Head Start under sample consulting contracts.

LULAC HEAD START, New Haven, CT

1981-1983

Principal Investigator, Acting Director.

- Conducted research to develop a proposal and organized community leaders in the LULAC Council 700 to create a preschool program for poor Latino 3—to 5-year-old children in New Haven. The program was funded for a quarter of a million dollars, and in 2016, the agency was a 10-million-dollar operation with multiple sites.
- Developed a program plan for a comprehensive child development program that addresses education, nutrition, physical and mental health, social services, and parent involvement.
- Addressed all contract compliance issues with the City of New Haven, CT, State of CT, and Federal Office of Health and Human Services.
- Hired and trained 33 community members as staff. Developed a career development system for professionals and Paraprofessional development.
- Developed administrative procedures manual and trained faculty for quality assurance purposes.
- Opened up staff facility at the Yale Asian American Cultural Center and later started the plan for two preschool facilities in two of New Haven's neighborhoods: The Hill and Fair Haven, CT

EXPERIENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC AGENDA FOUNDATION. New York City, NY

2004-2009

Senior Engagement Research Associate.

Conducted qualitative research on various social policies affecting communities across the nation, convened stakeholders affected by those issues, and facilitated strategic planning to address their concerns through three major initiatives: Achieving the Dream (community colleges), Kauffman Math Engineering and Technology Project (k-12) and the Kellogg Foundation's Latino Engagement Initiative (K-12). In addition, conversations were convened between New City police officers and the Latino community, the Governor's office of Nebraska on school desegregation, and the San Jose Independent School district. More: www.publicagenda.org

The Achieving the Dream Initiative (ATD)

Project Director.

I have worked with 83 colleges across 23 states to create a culture of evidence and engagement to address educational disparities among groups in this nation. In particular, I served as a Coach to community colleges to conduct qualitative research on their student populations. More: www.achievingthedream.org

The Kauffman Foundation METS Initiative

Leader Latino engagement

She has researched STEM resources in the Kansas and Missouri Public Schools and conducted engagement workshops with school officials and the community to promote the disciplines in the two states. 2009. More: www.kauffman.org

The Kellogg Foundation Latino Engagement Initiative

Lead Latino Engagement.

We conducted qualitative research with parents of Nebraska school districts regarding the re-segregation policy in public schools. I worked with the Greater Bridgeport Leadership Network. I directed implementing a youth civic engagement program on school safety at Warren Harding High School in the city of Bridgeport, CT. In 2010. Participated in a "Learning Year" national initiative focusing on children, particularly preschoolers. 2009-10. more: www.wkkf.org

SAVE THE CHILDREN FOUNDATION. Westport, CT

Special Assistant to the Vice President of US Programs.

1998-2003

- Directed research for the 243 communities Save the Children served in the following regions of the USA: Appalachia, the Indian Reservations of the West, the Mississippi River Delta, and six urban towns: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Albuquerque, Cincinnati, New York, and Bridgeport.
- Worked with 243 communities in the US, providing after-school care to children and youth living in poverty.
- Established the Save the Children field office in the California Central Valley.
- Responsible for community organizing, mobilization, facility acquisition, program implementation, grant compliance, and the hiring and training of personnel in each town joining the initiative from the California Central Valley. www.savethechildren.org

Guyer Fellow.

1997

We served as Principal investigator for the Campaign for America's Forgotten Children in America's 101 poorest places.

EXPERIENCE NOT FOR PROFIT MANAGEMENT

LATINO YOUTH CENTER, New Haven, CT

1983-1988 &

1995-1997

Consultant -Acting CEO.

- Conducted research and wrote proposals focusing on Adult Education, Vocational Training, English as a Second Language Instruction, and Welfare Work opportunities for Single Mothers in restaurant management, Nurse's Aid, and home health care providers.
- Developed proposals for educational enrichment for middle and high school students in the arts, technology, physical fitness, and recreation.
- Developed proposals for substance abuse prevention for middle and high school students.
- Secured funding from the State of CT for building the Latino Youth Development Center, which is designed to provide an after-school experience to schoolchildren and their families in the Hill neighborhood of New Haven, CT.
- Organized a Youth and Family Development Network of Community Agencies funded by the United Way and the State Department of Social Services, focusing on the education of schoolchildren and the education and career development of parents.
- Conducted agency audits for five years.

CONSULTING

BRUMELL CHAVEZ ASSOCIATES. West Haven, CT

1980- present

Principal. Director of Research and Development. The firm provides the following Services:

- **Research.** The firm conducts policy research, needs assessments, investigations of potential client funding sources, and evaluations of program outcomes.
- **Program Design.** Based on an organization's needs assessments and stakeholder input, the firm helps design service delivery models that align with organizational objectives.
- **Development.** The firm helps develop or implement fundraising strategies to create a diversified funding stream from foundations, corporations, the state, the city, the federal government, major donors, sponsors, and endowments.
- **Facilitation Services.** The firm moderates dialogues to improve relations between opposing groups such as police units and neighborhoods, colleges and communities, school districts and their constituencies, boards of directors and their staff, students and faculty, faculty and administrators, and facilitates strategic planning or meetings.

SAMPLE CONSULTING CONTRACTS

Kansas Health Foundation. 2010 -2011-2012 Review proposals and provide funding recommendations for safety net health programs in the region. . www.kansashealth.org/

St. Francis Hospital Hartford, CT. Pediatrics Department. Conducted qualitative research with youth. <http://www.stfranciscare.org/>

The Yale Child Study Center. Yale Medical School. New Haven, CT

Worked with the Dallas School System on capacity development to implement the Comer Project for School Change. <http://medicine.yale.edu/childstudy/comer/index.aspx>

Sisters Journey, Inc., Hamden, CT, is a nonprofit support group for Black women with breast cancer. I taught the Board of Directors their legal, fiduciary, programmatic, ethical, and stewardship responsibilities. In addition, I guided the strategic planning and programmatic capacity building. I also researched the 'Health Disparities of Black Women' and the promising protocols for women with breast cancer. www.sistersjourney.org.

African American Clinicians, Consultants, and Trainers. New Haven, CT

I provided individual counseling to youth in a clinical setting and worked with nonprofit boards to build their capacity as governing bodies.

A&J Personnel. New Haven, CT Collaborated on developing a Welfare to Work Nursing Program.

New Haven Professional School for the Health Sciences. New Haven, CT

Work with client to acquire license and accreditation from the State of CT Department of Higher Education to run a Nursing School. www.homehealthcareagencies.com

Empower New Haven, Inc. New Haven, CT. Worked with nonprofit grantees that are part of the federal Empowerment Zone neighborhoods to increase their institutional capacity by overseeing all aspects of strategy and implementation of programs. . www.empowernewhaven.org

Catholic Charities. Hartford, CT. Wrote proposals for positive youth development activities to keep children off the streets and away from crime in high-risk neighborhoods. . www.ccaoh.org

Centro San Jose Center. New Haven, CT Guided program development to coincide with the organization's strategic plan. Conducted proposal writing for after-school programs.

http://www.ccaoh.org/childDev_FamCent_Centro.html

Life Haven, Inc. is a nonprofit homeless shelter in New Haven, CT for women and children. I conducted board of directors training and strategic planning, worked with staff on capacity building and proposal writing, and guided the childcare center licensing and national accreditation process.

CT School for Survival. New Haven, CT. Nonprofit Martial Arts organization focusing on African American males. I worked on the organization's incorporation/tax-exempt status. Assisted with proposal writing focusing on 'Positive Youth Development/ Physical Fitness' via the Martial Arts. . www.ctsurvival.org

The State of CT Department of Corrections. Worked on developing the "Parenting through the Distance" initiative for preschool children. <http://www.ct.gov/corrections>

State Department of Children Youth and Families. Foster Care Division. A panel of community leaders addressed issues raised in a lawsuit against the department by a Latino family regarding policies that remove children from homes and often terminate parental rights. <http://www.ct.gov/dcf>

State of CT Office of Legislative Services. Latino Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

Conducted research on the state of affairs for Latinos in the State and worked with the Commissioners to evaluate their mission and develop a strategic action plan. www.cga.ct.gov/lprac

PUBLICATIONS

- Journal of Ideas and Pedagogy, May 2017 -Present. Editor
- Lerma Diane, Castillo Rafael, Chavez Maria. *Catching Dreams, a book of Mentor Stories*. Palo Alto College, San Antonio Texas. 2013.
- *Public Engagement and America's Growing Latino Populations*. Center for Advances in Public Engagement (CAPE.) Working Paper with Lara Bareback, Alison Kadlec, and Isaac Rowlett. Summer 2009.
- *Providing Facilities and Support to Digitally Isolated Communities*. Center for Advances in Public Engagement (CAPE.) Working paper with Scott Bittle. Public Agenda. Summer, 2008.
- *Setting Standards in San Jose, California*. A case study of the San Jose Independent School District's Community Engagement Model. Public Agenda. 2006.
- *Children's Rights: Equal Rights. Diversity, Difference and the Issue of Discrimination*. London, England. 2000. Authored US chapter for the International Save the Children Alliance.
- *The State of the World's Mothers 2000*. Index of the well-being of mothers for 106 Nations. Save the Children Federation, Westport, CT. 2000. Coauthored US segment.
- *America's Forgotten Children. Report to the Nation on Rural Poverty*. Save the Children Federation, Westport, CT. 2002. Research on 101 poorest places/counties and California ethnographic work. In collaboration with Milton and Sherman. 2000.

SELECTED INVITED SESSIONS IN CONFERENCES AND MEETING

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, HB2223 implementation, March 2019.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, HB2223 implementation seminar, October 2018.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, HB2223 implementation. Feb.2, 2018. St. Phillips College, San Antonio, Texas.

Yale University Law School. Women are empowering women in Education. Feb 3, 2018. New Haven, CT.

US Department of Education, Minority Serving Institutions Convening, Nov. 14, 2017. Washington D.C.

Excelencia in Education finalist for student achievement. October 2017.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. "Impact of an integrated model for student success." April 2017.

Round Rock, Texas.

Yale University Latino Graduation speaker. April 2017.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. "Integrated Reading and Writing Policy and Practice. Nov. 18, 2016.

Catch the Next, Fall Institute. " Why Texas Needs a Campaign for College Completion. " October 26, 2016

College Academic Support Programs in Texas (CASP). CTN Dream Catchers-Puente Program at Palo Alto College.

Texas Community College Faculty Association. "Dream Catchers Pathway to Student Success." Feb.16, 2016.

Yale University, Lambda Upsilon Lambda. The butterfly effect: Beyond the Ivy Tower. Nov. 14, 2015

Yale University Graduate School. Beyond the Ph.D., Global career market. May 4, 2015

American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education. AHEM. Latino Student Success Institute. Leveraging Latino Student Assets and High Impact Practices to foster equity and student success. March 12, 2015.

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Catch the Next- Puente Partnership for Student Success. Collaborating with Michael Flores, President of Palo Alto College, and Julia Vergara, UC Berkeley, Puente Project. October 27, 2013

Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation. Presentation on Texas College Success Program. March 12, 2015.

Education Commission of States. Developmental Education Challenges. May 30, 2013.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Catch the Next-Puente Partnership. October 23, 2014.

National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development. "Bridging the Gap Between Policy and Practice: The Catch the Next –Puente Pathway. May 27, 2014.

National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development. "Building Partnerships for Student Success. May 30, 2013.

American Association of Community Colleges. Improving the Educational Attainment in Texas. April 22, 2013. With Dr. William Serrata, President of El Paso Community College, Dr. Shirley Reed, President of South Texas College, and John Sicheloff, CTN CEO.

Yale Luce Center. The Dream Act, Friday, September 28, 2012

South Texas College. College Readiness Summit. "College Access for Latino and Traditionally Underserved Students a Proven Model for Success: The Puente Program. Feb. 21, 2011.

Other presentations have been made in the previous decades to institutions such as:

The Achieving the Dream Initiative; Association of Women Deans New England Chapter;

American Sociological Association; North East Sociological Association; Society for the Study of Social Problems;

American Council on Education.

SELECTED AWARDS

John Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education. Edge Commendation for Innovation in Education, 2021.

Albert Nelson Marquis Life Time Achievement Award 2019.

Yale Graduate School, Executive Committee. Outstanding Service. 2012, 2015.

State of Texas Senate Proclamation 477 for “exceptional work in helping to empower Latinos through educational success.” 2014.

National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, UT Austin. Master Presenter, 2013 and 2014.

Who’s Who in American Women. 2006, and 2007.

Who’s Who in America, 2001.

Save the Children Federation. Guyer Fellowship Award, 1997.

Save the Children Federation. President’s Achievement Award for Strategic Planning, July 2002.

State of Connecticut Senate and House of Representatives. Citation for Professional Accomplishment. 1992.

Kellogg Foundation and the State of Connecticut Department of Higher Education. Institute for Educational Leadership Education Policy Fellow. 1982.

Connecticut Department of Higher Education and American Council on Education.
Educational Leadership Fellowship, 1985-1986. (Community College Presidential Internship.)

Elm—Ivy Award for improving town-gown relations, given by Yale University's President and the City of New Haven, CT's mayor 1983.

The University of Texas at Austin Faculty Affiliate. School of Education. 1982

SUMMARY

Applied Social scientists are driven by a social mission and a desire to find innovative ways to solve social problems that the market or the public sector has neglected. Education has been the core ingredient of all her efforts, from kindergarten to higher education.

Ability to organize complex groups of people and achieve outstanding results quickly. Well-developed interpersonal and negotiation skills. A track record of building successful partnerships within and outside of academia and managing relationships with the nonprofit, governmental, corporate, and philanthropic sectors. Ability to relate to diverse groups of people.

Key accomplishments:

- Founding director of the Catch the Next Texas College Success Program. Crossing Bridges, Catching Dreams, or CTN-Puente Project, is a program in partnership with the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Texas at Austin, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. 2011.
- Established a Scholar Mentor/ University Faculty Peer Mentoring Program in 2012 to create a learning community focused on developing faculty, administrators, and institutions to improve individual and institutional performance and effectiveness.
- Established the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board CTN Fellows Program for selected Community College faculty in Texas to serve as trainers to other faculty across the state in their particular disciplines. 2014
- Winner of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Academic Advising Challenge: What is Next in Higher Education, September 2013. One of three winners for the Mentoring Program and one of nine for the academic advising model.
- Received State of Texas Senate Proclamation, April 2014, for “exceptional work in helping to empower Latinos through educational success.
- The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognized it in 2014, 2017, and 2018 for improving student outcomes in Texas.
- Established LULAC Head Start preschool program (Fay Miller Day Care Center and Mill River Day Care Center), a ten-million-dollar operation in 2016.
- Coordinated establishing The Asian Chicano Cultural Center at Yale University and served as its first Director from 1980 to 1986.
- Established The Chicano Boricua Studies concentration under American Studies at Yale University, which evolved into the Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Major.
- Secured a multi-million grant to build a Latino Youth Center in New Haven, CT, for which I served as Chief Executive Officer.
- Established five Community Learning Centers in the following cities in the Central Valley of California: Mendota, Planada, Farmersville, Cutler, and Earlimart through Save the Children Federation.
- Established a Minority Recruitment Program at Kansas State University. 1976.