



## **MFP Alumni Elias Provencio-Vasquez, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAANP Named New Dean for University of Colorado-Denver College of Nursing**

It is our great pleasure to announce a new dean for our College of Nursing. Elias Provencio-Vasquez, PhD, currently dean of nursing at the University of Texas at El Paso, will be joining us on September 1.

Our national search for this role focused on finding an individual with the expertise, vision and values to lead the 120-year-old CU College of Nursing into the future. Dr. Provencio-Vasquez brings these qualities and more. His tremendous range of experience spans four decades and has included roles in nursing practice, teaching, research, academic administration, and community outreach.

During his eight-year tenure as dean of the UTEP School of Nursing, Dr. Provencio-Vasquez led the school in doubling enrollment; launched an ambitious research agenda, including the establishment of a Biobehavioral Research Laboratory; oversaw the implementation of new degree programs including a Doctor of Nursing and a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program; and developed innovative initiatives, cross-disciplinary educational collaborations and community partnerships.

Also while dean he continued his own research, focused on at-risk women and their families, publishing 23 peer-reviewed manuscripts in the past seven years. He has also been involved in national healthcare reform initiatives, serving on three Robert Wood Johnson Foundation advisory committees on the future of nursing, including one to promote doctoral education in nursing.

His previous experience includes directing neonatal nurse-practitioner programs at both the University of Texas at Houston and the University of Maryland at Baltimore, and serving as associate dean of nursing and health studies at the University of Miami.

Dr. Provencio-Vasquez knows personally the power of education and is deeply committed to student access and diversity. Decades before he became the first Hispanic male nursing dean in the country, he was the first in his family to attend college. Following his first degree from an Arizona community college in 1975, he spent the next 17 years working as a nurse while accumulating a series of nursing degrees during a time when men were very much in the minority in the field. He earned his doctorate from the University of Arizona in 1992 — the first Hispanic male in the U.S. to do this as well.

Please join us in thanking our interim dean and welcoming Elias Provencio-Vasquez as our new dean.

Roderick Nairn, PhD

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs