

Agatha S. Caraballo, PhD

Teaching Professor, Department of Public Policy and Administration

Founding Director, Maurice A. Ferré Institute for Civic Leadership

Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, Florida International University

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PROFILE

Founding director of a university civic leadership institute, with 25+ years in higher education spanning academic leadership, program design, and community partnership. Led an institute from the launch of a multimillion-dollar startup campaign, and created the affiliated scholarship, fellowship, and civic education programs. Works across government, philanthropy, nonprofit, and education sectors, with a consistently nonpartisan approach to civic engagement.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Institutional startup and growth · Fundraising and donor relations · Strategic partnerships · Board governance · Civic education and engagement · Leadership development · Program design and assessment · Accreditation and compliance · Public speaking and facilitation

EDUCATION

PhD, Public Affairs <i>Florida International University, Miami, FL</i>	2012
BS, Communication <i>Florida International University, Miami, FL</i>	2002
AA, Communication <i>Santa Rosa Junior College, Santa Rosa, CA</i>	1999

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Teaching Professor, Department of Public Policy and Administration <i>Florida International University</i> Affiliate Faculty, African and African Diaspora Studies Program and MA in Global Affairs.	2023 – Present
Associate Teaching Professor, Department of Public Policy and Administration <i>Florida International University</i>	2018 – 2023
Assistant Teaching Professor / Instructor, Department of Public Policy and Administration <i>Florida International University</i>	2013 – 2018

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Founding Director, Maurice A. Ferré Institute for Civic Leadership <i>Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, Florida International University</i> - Appointed to lead the launch of a new institute encompassing research, teaching, and community initiatives in civic engagement and leadership, community infrastructure, and social justice. Reappointed for a second term in 2026. - Direct strategy, operations, programming, communications, assessment, partnerships, and fundraising. - Lead the startup fundraising campaign, securing six-figure gifts, sponsored service agreements, and grant awards; manage donor relationships and stewardship reporting. - Established student fellowship, internship, scholarship, and ambassador programs and launched academic certificates. - Developed the Miami-Dade Civic Academy curriculum with Miami-Dade County, the University of Miami School of Community and Economic Development, and Miami Dade College Institute for Civic Engagement and Democracy. - Lead nonpartisan civic education programming: Government 101, FIUCivics, and Ask Every Student. - Host the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program and the Civic Leadership and Service Series.	2021 – Present
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- Report institutional impact under Experience Impact 2030, including scholarships awarded, fellows supported, national program participation, and event attendance.

Assistant Chair, Department of Public Policy and Administration

2018 – 2021

Florida International University

- Coordinated scheduling and teaching assignments for approximately 30 full-time and adjunct faculty across 65 courses in the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs.
- Assisted the Chair and program committee chairs with selection, supervision, credentialing, training, and evaluation of adjunct and visiting faculty.
- Supported budget formulation and summer teaching assignments based on Dean's Office allocations.
- Managed departmental social media, marketing, graphic design, travel, and community outreach.

Undergraduate Program Director, Department of Public Policy and Administration

2014 – 2019

Florida International University

- Administered the Bachelor of Public Administration major and minor; served as Program Director for the Undergraduate Certificate in Leadership Studies.
- Spearheaded accreditation review and SACSCOC compliance; executed reforms to improve graduation and retention.
- Streamlined required coursework and adjusted the adjunct-to-full-time faculty ratio to meet SACSCOC guidelines.
- Planned and launched a fully online BPA degree option (Fall 2015).

GRANTS, GIFTS, AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

- Maurice A. Ferré Institute for Civic Leadership founding gift, Maurice A. Ferré Foundation — \$2,000,000 (2021). Appointed as the Founding Director to build a new Institute established with an endowed gift.
- Anthony R. Abraham Civic Leadership Scholarships — 2022 endowed \$250K gift from the Anthony R. Abraham Foundation.
- Miguel B. Fernandez Family Scholarship — 2024 endowed \$1M gift from the Miguel B. Fernandez Family.
- Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYLEP) — World Learning, 2024–2026. Role: Co-Principal Investigator / Project Director.
- Cumulative philanthropic and sponsored support raised as Founding Director: \$3.5M, 2021–present.

TEACHING

Courses developed and taught, Department of Public Policy and Administration

Undergraduate

- PAD 3003 Introduction to Public Administration
- PAD 3034 Policy Development and Implementation
- PAD 3431 Exploring Leadership: Yourself, Your Organization and Your Community
- PAD 3800 Managing Global Cities
- PAD 3802 Introduction to Urban and Regional Studies
- PAD 3804 Government and Administration of Metropolitan Areas
- PAD 4046 Values, Ethics, and Conflict Resolution
- PAD 4140 Introduction to Management of Public and Nonprofit Organizations
- PAD 4141 Citizen Participation and Community Empowerment
- PAD 4223 Public Sector Budgeting (now PUP 4110)
- PAD 4432 Administrative Leadership and Behavior
- PAD 4723 Applied Research Methods for Policy and Management
- PAD 4934 Integrative Seminar in Public Administration

Graduate

- PAD 6053 Political, Social, and Economic Context of Public Administration
- PAD 6306 Policy Analysis and Program Planning
- ISS 6307 Research Tools for Global Studies

Teaching development and certification

- Quality Matters certified course developer; trained in Applying the Quality Matters Rubric (2013) and Designing Exemplary Courses (2013).
- Serve as liaison among the department, FIU Online, and the university libraries on online course design, delivery, and evaluation.
- Train faculty colleagues on instructional technology and online pedagogy.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

Board Member, Florida Civic Advance	2026 – Present
Treasurer and Board Member, League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County	2026 – Present
Member, League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County	2015 – Present
Co-Chair, Data Committee, NASPAA	2025 – Present
Curriculum Developer and Educational Partner, Miami-Dade County Civics Academy	2025 – Present
Future Leaders of Schools of Public Service Cohort, NASPAA	2025 – 2026
Board Member, H.G. Frederickson Center for Social Equity, ASPA	2024 – Present
Member, ASPA Section for Women in Public Administration <i>Chair, 2019–20; Treasurer, 2015–19</i>	2015 – Present
Member, ASPA South Florida Chapter <i>President, 2016–17</i>	2010 – Present
Co-Chair, ASPA South Florida Best Practices Conference	2013 – 2026
Scholarship and Awards Committee Co-Chair, ASPA South Florida Chapter	2012 – 2020
Chair, Membership Task Force, ASPA National	2017 – 2018
Program Co-Chair, Southeastern Conference for Public Administration	2017
Co-Chair and Track Co-Chair, NAPA Social Equity Leadership Conference	2022
Member, National Forum for Black Public Administrators, South Florida	2021 – Present
Member, The Higher Education Civility Consortium	2021 – Present
University Liaison, Miami-Dade County League of Cities	2015 – Present
Faculty Member, ICMA Student Organization at FIU	2015 – Present
Member, University Partnerships Committee, International Hispanic Network	2016 – Present
Faculty Mentor, Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders	2015 – 2018
Member, U.S. Technical Advisory Group in Human Resource Management (ISO / ANSI)	2013 – 2016
Director, Council for Corporate Responsibility <i>Summit Co-Chair, 2013–15</i>	2011 – 2017
Chapter Leader and Secretary, Florida Diversity Council, South Florida Chapter	2011 – 2017
Co-Chair, Site Host Committee, PAT-Net Annual Conference, Miami	2014

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Fellow, Faculty Leadership and Success Fellow, FIU	2026 – Present
Member, Carnegie Elective Classification for Leadership and Public Purpose Taskforce	2023 – Present
Member, FIU Democratic Engagement and Student Engagement Committees	2020 – Present
Member, FIU Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Committee	2017 – Present
Mentor, Advanced Research and Creativity in Honors (ARCH) Program	2022 – 2023
Director of Teaching and Community Partnerships, Black Faculty Association at FIU	2020 – 2022
Member, FIU Next Horizons 2025 Strategic Implementation Committees	2020 – 2023
Member, Search and Screen Committee for the SIPA Dean	2021 – 2023
Member, FIU Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Execution Team	2020 – 2022
Senator, United Faculty of Florida – FIU	2018 – 2021
Member, FIU Equity Action Initiative Workgroup	2020
Member, FIU Faculty Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee	2019 – 2020
Faculty Advisor, Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society	2012 – 2019
Member, Prior Learning Assessment Exploratory Committee	2017 – 2018
Member, Online Learning and Technology Committee, College of Arts & Sciences	2015 – 2017
Member, FIU Admissions Petition and Review Committee	2022

HONORS AND AWARDS

Changemaking Education Award, Retired Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida et al.	2022
Educator of the Year, National Forum for Black Public Administrators	2022
Ignite Torchbearer, FIU Foundation	2022
Dr. Jonathan West Presidential Achievement Award, ASPA South Florida Chapter	2022
Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, U.S. House of Representatives	2022
Proclamation, Dr. Agatha Caraballo Day (January 17), Miami-Dade County	2022
Certificate of Merit, City of Miami	2021
Pi Alpha Alpha Advisor of Excellence Award, NASPAA	2020
Public Service Distinguished Alumni Award, FIU	2020
Marcia P. Crowley Service to SWPA Award, ASPA	2020
NASPAA Next Leadership Development Program Cohort	2020
Top Scholars Award for Dedicated Mentoring, FIU	2019
Council for Student Organizations Advisor Excellence Award, FIU	2019
Donald C. Stone Service to ASPA Award	2018
Chester A. Newland Presidential Citation of Merit, ASPA	2018
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award, FIU	2017

Oveta Culp Hobby Training Award, ASPA South Florida Chapter	2017
Patricia Yearwood Newsletter Award, ASPA South Florida Chapter	2017
Legacy Miami 40 Under 40 Black Leaders of Today and Tomorrow	2016
Outstanding Leadership Award, ASPA South Florida Chapter	2011
Inducted, Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society, FIU	2009

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Appointee and Subcommittee Chair, City of Miami Community Advisory Board	2016 – 2018
Appointee, City of Miami Senior Citizen Advisory Board	2016 – 2017
Cohort Member, Educational Leadership Enhancement Program, FIU	2016 – 2017
Volunteer, Honey Shine Inc. Mentoring Program for Girls	2014 – 2017
Scholarship Committee Chair, Allapattah Community Action Committee	2010 – 2011
Board Member, Haitian-American Organization for Women	2010 – 2011

PUBLICATIONS

- Caraballo, A., Lachapelle, K., Vogel, H., Niguidula, A., & Lewis, M. Panthers with disabilities: The launch of the Disabled Student Union at Florida International University. *Public Integrity*. (Under review.)
- Caraballo, A., & Rodriguez-Acosta, C. (2023). Teaching #MiamiTech: A case study of the Public Interest Technology Fellowship at Florida International University. In *Multi-Sector Partnerships for the Public Good*. IAP Publishing.
- Caraballo, A. (2022). Redefining diversity, equity, and inclusion at a minority serving institution: A case study at Florida International University. In *Negotiating Social Equity*. Birkdale Publishers.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Conference Co-Chair, Panelist, and Moderator <i>NASPAA Annual Conference</i>	Oct 2024
Conference Co-Chair, Panelist, and Moderator <i>ASPA South Florida Best Practices Conference</i>	Feb 2023
Presenter, “Three Es: Effectiveness, Engagement, and Equity in Course Building” <i>NASPAA</i>	Oct 2022
Panelist and Moderator, “Redefining DEI at a Minority Serving Institution” <i>ASPA</i>	Mar 2022
Panelist, “Civic LeadHERship: Champions for Change” <i>FIU Women Who Lead Conference</i>	Mar 2022
Panelist, “Civic Leadership 101: Engaging with Others for Change” <i>FIU Student Leadership Summit</i>	Feb 2022
Panelist, “Internships and Experiential Learning during Telework and Social Distancing” <i>NASPAA</i>	Oct 2020
Panelist, “Promoting Ethical Competency in Public Administration” <i>ASPA</i>	Jun 2020
Panelist, Ferrell Heady Roundtable, “Women in Public Administration and Policy” <i>ASPA</i>	Apr 2020

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professional Development Consultant, Montage Education LLC Developed and facilitated instructional workshops for private-school teachers across Broward County.	2015 – 2016
Sole Proprietor, Agatha Swift Caraballo PhD Consulting <i>Miami, FL</i> Advised clients on sustainable economic and workforce development, inclusion and cultural awareness training, and event management.	2010 – 2017
Career Development Coordinator, Florida International University Placed public administration students in internships and paid positions; built and maintained an employer network.	2012 – 2013
Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, Florida International University Conducted quantitative and qualitative analysis for research projects; completed a graduate internship at FIU's Metropolitan Center.	2008 – 2012
Career Services Advisor, Miami International University of Art & Design	2006 – 2008
Financial Aid Officer, Miami International University of Art & Design	2005 – 2006
Executive Assistant, Martin Z. Margulies, Key Biscayne, FL	2001 – 2003
Event Coordinator, Alonzo Mourning Charities, Key Biscayne, FL	2001 – 2002

LANGUAGES

Conversational Spanish; limited Brazilian Portuguese.

References available on request.