

Laura M. Uribarri, PhD, MPAff.
Associate Professor -NTI
laura.m.uribarri@uth.tmc.edu

Education:

- 8/13-12/21 **University of Texas at El Paso, Doctor of Philosophy** Borderlands History – Focus Areas: Environmental History, Transboundary Natural Resource Governance, Environmental Health.
Dissertation: *Transboundary Air Quality Governance: A Case Study of the Paso del Norte Air Basin 1940-2000.* The Paso del Norte region, which includes Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, El Paso, Texas, and Sunland Park, New Mexico, was transformed between 1940 and 2000 in terms of industrialization, physical footprint, and population expansion as a result of several bilateral treaties and agreements. The region became a global manufacturing hub overwhelmed by mass migration, depressed wages, and a woefully insufficient public infrastructure that created unsafe and unhealthy living conditions for all of its residents. One of the outcomes of this unfettered growth was the deterioration of the air quality within the shared air basin. By the mid-1990s, the sister cities of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez had the worst air pollution along the border and each city ranked among the most polluted in its respective country. This dissertation explores a six-decade period of bilateral policies that facilitated the devastating degradation of air quality in the Paso del Norte air basin. It examines the factors that drove the dramatic growth in the region, the pressures that growth placed on limited public infrastructure, and the effects of this growth on human health. Finally, this dissertation explores a binational, multi-sector stakeholder organization named the Paso del Norte Air Quality Task Force, which became a catalyst for innovative air pollution abatement strategies and cross-border environmental protection in its community.
Master of Arts, History, Fall 2016.
- 8/96-5/98 **University of Texas at Austin, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, Austin, TX. Master of Public Affairs.** Coursework in public administration, management, statistics, analytical methods for decision-making, policy development, mediation and conflict resolution, public financial management, accounting, political economy, policy research, and grant writing.
- 9/92-6/96 **Stanford University, Stanford, CA. Bachelor of Arts, International Relations.** Conferred with honors. Emphasis on U.S./Latin American relations with major coursework in political science, economics, and history. Stanford Overseas Studies Program at the Pontificia Universidad de Catolica de Chile in Santiago.

Professional Experience:

- 7/22-present **UTHealth Houston, School of Public Health**
Associate Professor – Non-Tenure Instruction, Department of Management, Policy, and Community Health. Teach Health Policy Analysis, Management and Policy Concepts in Public Health, Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Management in Health Services Organizations, and Healthcare Strategic Management. Support the development of the new executive-style Master of Public Health in Healthcare Management in El Paso. Provide academic advising for MPH and doctoral students.
- 9/23-present **Healthcare Management Program Director.** Coordinate program curriculum, admissions, and student advising for all Healthcare Management and Health Policy master's and PhD programs. Responsible for meeting CEPH and CAHME accreditation requirements. Assist with strategic planning, recruitment, and retention efforts for the HCM program. Develop advising tools and training modules to assist faculty with student advising. Manage outreach plan to elevate the

profile of the HCM programs throughout the state and beyond. Collaborate and support academic and industry partnership development. Participate in MPACH Leadership Team efforts to create department-level efficiencies and synergies.

University of Texas at El Paso, College of Business Administration

5/20-6/22

Assistant Dean. Oversaw the College's corporate and community partnerships and outreach efforts. Managed the communications strategy for the College. This included the development of COBA newsletters, annual reports, and social media campaigns. Guided a team dedicated to building and executing academic and professional development partnerships that resulted in expanded opportunities for students. Managed the College's highly successful corporate academies in risk management, human capital management, enterprise resource planning, and banking.

Co-Principal Investigator for a multi-year Prudential Grant totaling over \$1 million for the initiative titled "Risk Management and Advancing Latinx in the Actuary Profession."

Worked with UTHealth Houston School of Public Health to develop MPH/MBA dual degree and certificate partnership. Developed interdisciplinary partnerships that enable access to business coursework for non-business majors. Assisted with accreditation reporting and accreditation review team visit.

9/15-4/20

Assistant Dean for Academic Programs. Oversaw effective management of the Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Business Administration programs. This included providing guidance and support to a staff team of 16 who served approximately 200 MBA students and 2500 BBA students. Established internal and external academic partnerships that resulted in expanded career opportunities for COBA Students. Managed community outreach and marketing efforts for the MBA and BBA programs.

Developed proposals for healthcare management concentration/certificate for the MBA and BBA programs. Developed and managed the structure to establish and track student practicums with community healthcare providers. This included meeting with healthcare partners to identify opportunities for business students and establishing legal agreements to enable the partnerships. Created the Community/Corporate Engagement Project course that allowed MBA students to work with non-profit, governmental or private sector partners in consultancy-type teams. Worked with project groups on feasibility and market studies for healthcare providers in the region.

Developed interdisciplinary partnerships that enabled access to business coursework for engineering and science majors.

Developed strategic community and corporate partnerships for the College of Business Administration. Assisted with accreditation reporting and accreditation review team visit.

1/10-8/15

Assistant Dean for MBA Programs. Managed a recruitment and program development plan that included expansion of the Accelerated MBA format and launch of the Executive MBA, to serve the region's working professionals. Through the successful execution of the program development plan, the UTEP MBA achieved record enrollment and completion levels that garnered numerous national recognitions, including the Example of Excelencia designation. The UTEP MBA program grew to include four Accelerated MBA and two Executive MBA cohorts. Directed the efforts of the MBA program staff to insure students received the advising and academic/professional development support. Served as an ombudsman for MBA students. Worked with the MBA faculty committee to develop program policy and procedures for admissions and curriculum requirements.

Represented UTEP MBA program in Public Relations Society of America's Strategic Corporate Communications pilot program for Business Schools. UTEP was one of six schools selected for this initiative that included curriculum and instructional development training from industry and

academic content experts on-site in New York as well as at Dartmouth and Northwestern Universities. Worked with strategic communications faculty to apply best practices in the UTEP MBA Program curriculum.

Developed, recruited faculty, and managed executive education program titled “Essentials of Effective Management Course” for Texas Tech Medical School faculty in leadership roles including department chairs and program directors. The program received approval for continuing education credits.

Oversaw the build-out and successful operations of the UTEP Graduate Business Center in downtown El Paso. Developed operations procedures for new programs and facility management.

Developed annual short-term faculty-led study abroad programs to allow MBA students who are working professionals to have a study abroad experience and enhance their global business perspectives.

Managed corporate outreach to enhance experiential learning, class engagements and career opportunities for MBA students. Developed and executed international marketing and recruitment strategy to reposition program. Assisted with accreditation reporting.

Served as UTEP’s first *Director of MBA Programs* from 10/06-12/09.

12/04-10/06 **El Paso Electric Company, Austin/El Paso, TX.**

Senior Government Affairs Representative. Coordinated the research and lobbying activities of the company’s contract lobbyists in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Washington D.C. Assisted senior management in developing Government Affairs strategic plan and advocacy agenda for each governmental jurisdiction in the service territory. Facilitated communication between the lobby team and senior management regarding political and legislative developments that may affect operations. Worked closely with key legislators and industry associations to promote the company’s interests and develop alliances. Assisted with certain regulatory filings and represented the company in regulatory procedures at the state and local level.

6/03 – 12/04 **Office of the Mayor, City of El Paso, El Paso, TX.**

Assistant to Mayor Joe Wardy. Served as a liaison to sixteen departments including community development, police, fire, streets, airport, solid waste management, and community development. Provided policy recommendations in the areas of housing, economic development, transportation, environment, arts, workforce development, binational affairs, and healthcare. Spearheaded special projects including the redefinition of the Community Development Block Grant strategic priorities and processes. Worked as Mayor’s liaison to the El Paso City/County Health and Environmental District. This entailed an ongoing review of operational issues with District leadership and developing recommendations for Mayor and Council. Worked with EPCCHD leadership on any crisis response that was necessary, including working with a neighborhood association coalition facing lead and arsenic contamination and potential Superfund designation for their properties. Represented neighborhood associations’ interests in negotiations with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to determine a clean-up strategy for residential soil contamination. Coordinated the City’s State and Federal agenda and planned advocacy activities. Developed media alerts/releases, wrote speeches, and served as the Mayor’s primary liaison to the Spanish language media. Assisted the Mayor and Council with the historic transition from a strong mayor to a council-manager form of government.

8/98-6/03 **Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, El Paso, TX.**

3/01- 6/03 **Vice President,** Government Relations Division. Served as the chief lobbyist, responsible for the advocacy efforts of the Chamber and Team El Paso at the local, state, and federal levels. Coordinated the Chamber’s involvement in key community development issues such as

transportation, healthcare, and small business development. Coordinated the Team El Paso community legislative agendas and advocacy trips to Washington D.C. and Austin. Managed division budget, staff, programs, and membership campaign accounts.

10/99-2/01 **Director of Public Policy.** Lobbied the city, county, and state legislature for member-defined initiatives. Coordinated private sector involvement in transportation funding requests from state and federal agencies. Worked with key partners to improve the ports of entry. Managed the Chamber's Healthcare Committee, which was comprised of the region's hospital executives. This committee developed policy positions as well as the legislative strategy to address Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement disparities and other critical healthcare infrastructure needs.

8/98-10/99 **Director of Workforce Development.** Developed outreach efforts to encourage employer involvement in the development and implementation of training programs. Coordinated efforts of business services representatives in order to expedite services to employers. Developed grant applications to support Workforce Center initiatives. (Assistant Director 8/98-5/99)

1/97-5/97 **Texas House of Representatives – District 76 Capitol Office, Austin, TX.**
Legislative Aide. Assisted with legislative research in multiple policy areas and served as a liaison with Texas Department of Health and Human Services. Assisted with El Paso constituent relations.

Courses, Lectures, and Conferences

UTHealth Houston School of Public Health, MPH – Healthcare Management Program

- ❖ **Organizational Behavior and Human Resources Management in Health Services Organizations (PHM 3744)** – MPH-HCM Course. Taught synchronous, asynchronous, and hybrid. 2022-present.
- ❖ **Healthcare Strategic Management (PHM 3735)** – MPH-HCM Course. Taught asynchronously and hybrid. 2023-2025.
- ❖ **Management and Policy Concepts in Public Health (PHM 3715)** – MPH Core Course. Taught synchronous and asynchronous. 2022-present.
- ❖ **Health Policy Analysis (PH 3815)** – PhD-HCM/HP Course – Team-taught synchronously. Fall 2025

University of Texas at El Paso, College of Business Administration

- ❖ **Global Compliance, Corporate Responsibility, and Sustainability** – Co-taught hybrid course for the UTEP Executive MBA program with a study abroad component in Barcelona, Spain, 2019.
- ❖ **Understanding the Legislative Process - Its Effects on Business and Society** - UTEP Accelerated and Executive MBA Business Law and Ethics classes, guest lectures 2007-2022.

American Historical Association - Cross-Border Community Advocacy and Cooperation in the Paso del Norte Airshed, Annual Meeting Presentation, New York, NY, January 6, 2020.

Western History Association - The Paso del Norte Air Quality Task Force - A Case Study in Cross-Border Community Advocacy and Cooperation, Annual Conference Presentation, San Antonio TX, October 19, 2018.

Service

UTHealth Houston School of Public Health

- ❖ **CEPH Task Force** – Participate in CEPH self-study efforts for SPH, lead HCM Program through the reaccreditation process. AY 23/24-present.
- ❖ **Non-Tenure Track Working Committee of the Dean’s Faculty Advisory Committee** – Develop NTT Expectations and Promotion Guidance Documents, address other NTT Retreat action items. AY 25/26
- ❖ **SPH Admission Committee** – Review admissions updates, policies, and recruitment efforts. AY 24/25-present
- ❖ **El Paso Campus Scholarship Committee** – Worked with committee members to develop scholarship recipient selection criteria and award process. Reviewed and selected scholarship recipients for inaugural round of awards of the Woody and Gayle Hunt Scholarship of El Paso area MPH students. AY 22/23 - present.
- ❖ **Faculty Council** – El Paso Campus Representative AY 23/24-24/25.
- ❖ **Faculty Council Non-Tenure Track Advisory Committee** – Plan and execute NTT Retreat and subsequent action items to develop a promotion process, clarify expectations, and enhance collaboration and professional development opportunities. AY 23/24-24/25.
- ❖ **Marketing Workgroup** - Workgroup member examining SPH Marketing Efforts, Summer 2023.
- ❖ **Information Technology Faculty Advisory Committee** – El Paso Campus representative, AY 22/23.
- ❖ **Department of Management, Policy and Community Health** - Faculty Search Committee Chair for NTI faculty/Program Director positing in Healthcare Management Program, AY 22/23.
- ❖ **Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration (TX RPC) Project.** Volunteered as Policy Researcher for the Texas Legislature 2023 regular session.

Paso del Norte Community Foundation. El Paso, Texas.

- ❖ **Reimagine! Non-Profit Conference.** Planning committee member and panel moderator – 2021-present.
- ❖ **Downtown Deck Plaza Feasibility Study.** Community Advisory Committee Member – 2022 – 2024.
- ❖ **Downtown Deck Plaza Foundation Board.** Board Member. 2024-present.

Medical Center of the Americas Foundation. El Paso, Texas.

- ❖ **Border Health Innovation Summit.** Panel Moderator - Policy and Progress: Building a Competitive Region. August 2025.

Media

El Paso Prime Time, Radio Show on KTEP (El Paso’s NPR Station) - Interviewed by host Richard Dayoub, along with Dr. Kristi Mena. Interview celebrated UTHHealth Houston School of Public Health’s 30th anniversary in El Paso and promoted academic programs including the newly launched executive-style MPH-HCM

program. Aired on 1/7/23. <https://www.ktep.org/show/el-paso-prime-time/2023-01-07/uthealth-houston-school-of-public-health>

Activities/Affiliations:

2020-2022 **El Paso Downtown Management District** – Board of Directors.
2019-2020 **El Paso Chamber** – Board of Directors, Nominations Committee.
2011-present **Executive Forum** – Member; Executive Committee Member- 2014.
2010-2013 **Leadership El Paso**, Officer.
2013 **Las Palmas Hospital Women’s Advisory Board** – Member.
3/10-12/12 **National Society of Hispanic MBAs** – Member of El Paso Chapter-in-Formation
6/07-6/11 **Stanford Associates Board of Governors**, Appointed to a 4-year term.
2005-present **Texas Lyceum**, Director 2005-2009, 2007- Vice President of Leadership. Alumni Status.
1998-present **El Paso Del Norte Stanford Alumni Club**, Co-Chair Alumni Admission Interviews 2013-2015, Recruitment chair 1999-2004, Treasurer 2000-2002

Honors:

8/24 **UTHealth Houston School of Public Health Teaching Innovation Award** - AY 24/25
5/6/11 **UTEP Leadership Development Institute Graduate** – Inaugural Class
12/1/04 **Conquistador Award** for distinguished service to the City of El Paso.
7/27/04 **Stanford Associates Member**, recognition for volunteer service to the University.
11/18/02 **Power Pipeline Participant**, A leadership development program of the Foundation for Women’s Resources
12/9/99 **Leadership El Paso**, Graduate of Class XXI.
11/11/97 **Phi Kappa Phi**, University of Texas at Austin Academic Honor Society.
5/95-6/96 **Departmental Honors Program**, Stanford University. Honors thesis on binational air pollution problems and historic cooperation in the Paso del Norte Region.
3/19/96 **Arturo Islas Award**, Stanford University. Department of Humanities and Sciences award for research and involvement in activities that enrich the Chicano/a community.

Languages:

Speak, read, and write fluently in Spanish.