



SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PROGRAM ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Karla Garcia, M.S., CCC-SLP

Karla Garcia is a 2018 Alumna of the University of the District of Columbia's Master of Science program in Speech-Language Pathology. Ms. Garcia has been awarded "The Distinguished Early Career Professional (ECP) Certificate was created to recognize and identify ECPs in the fields of audiology and speech-language pathology who are

making an impact in the areas of leadership, volunteering, or advocacy at the local, state, and/or national level. This will also highlight the involvement of ECPs in their local, state, and community speech-language-hearing associations. "

After graduation, Karla was given the opportunity to work with diverse populations in Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland. Ms. Garcia has given presentations overseas in Central America in Spanish on the topics of stuttering and stuttering therapy interventions. As Ms. Garcia understood the dire need for bilingual speech therapy outside of the school system, she decided to establish a practice and became the Founder and CEO of Leonia Speech & Language Services, LLC. Knowing the importance of training multiculturally and neurodiverse competent clinicians, Ms. Garcia partnered with UDC and other local universities to do her part in giving back to the field. Students learn how to navigate caseloads, work with Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), work on Individualized Education Plan teams, advocate for clients, counsel families and clients, and tailor the needs to suit each client.

Along with the rigorous training in prevention, assessment, and intervention Karla also credits UDC for teaching her the importance of perseverance and providing her with the confidence to explore her capabilities which has allowed her to continue to grow in the field. Karla Garcia's next step is to obtain her doctoral degree in Speech-Language Pathology with research interests in fluency disorders.