

Diana Riviera, PhD

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Westlake resident and parent of two children enrolled in Palm Beach County Public Schools. Social scientist and higher education professional with a doctorate in Conflict Analysis and Resolution and nearly 20 years of experience in academic administration, faculty instruction, research, and doctoral mentorship. Brings expertise in program evaluation, community engagement, qualitative research, and institutional communication. As an active-duty military spouse currently managing household and family independently during deployment, brings firsthand knowledge of the challenges facing military-connected families in educational settings.

CURRENT POSITIONS

Research Faculty, Department of Psychology

Current

Capella University | Remote

- Teach graduate-level research methods courses to doctoral and master's students
- Chair doctoral dissertation committees, guiding candidates from proposal through successful defense
- Provide mentorship and scholarly feedback supporting student success and program quality

Assistant Adjunct Professor, Department of Medical Education

Current

Nova Southeastern University, Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine | Fort Lauderdale, FL

- Teach medical professionals research skills to cultivate a teaching practice complementing clinical work
- Bridge research methodology and practical application for healthcare educators

Founder and Principal Consultant

Current

Riviera Consulting Group LLC | Westlake, FL

- Provide research, evaluation, and consulting services in higher education and social science contexts
- Design and implement qualitative and mixed-methods research projects

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Nova Southeastern University | Fort Lauderdale, FL

Master of Arts, Cross-Disciplinary Studies

Nova Southeastern University | Fort Lauderdale, FL

Bachelor of Science, Psychology

Nova Southeastern University | Fort Lauderdale, FL

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE

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- 20 years of higher education administration including curriculum oversight, compliance, faculty governance, and academic program development
 - Expertise in IRB governance, research ethics, and compliance in academic settings
 - Published qualitative researcher with focus on underserved and marginalized communities.
 - Bilingual in English and Spanish; experience engaging diverse and multicultural communities
 - Associate Member, American Psychological Association (APA)
 - Recipient, Stephen Shank Recognition Award for Teaching and Learning Excellence, Capella University
 - Active military spouse with lived experience navigating educational systems during deployment cycles; committed to identifying and addressing the unmet needs of military-connected families in Westlake public schools

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

Westlake resident since 2023 and actively engaged in the local community as a homeowner, parent, and military spouse. Motivated to contribute to the educational well-being of Westlake students through evidence-informed advocacy, community liaison work, and sustained engagement with the Palm Beach County School District.