Victoria C. Chávez

victoria@vickiebananas.com | vickiebananas.com

Education

Northwestern University | Evanston, IL
Ph.D. Student, Computer Science & Learning Sciences, expected 2026
Advisor: Marcelo Worsley

Brown University | Providence, RI
M.A., Urban Education Policy — Computer Science Education
Advisor: John Tyler

Brown University | Providence, RI
B.A., Computer Science & Hispanic Studies
Advisor: John F. Hughes

University of Granada | Granada, Spain
Scientific and Technical Translation and Interpretation

Research & Teaching Interests

My research interests stem from asking "How can we make computer science a safe and joyous experience for Black, Disabled, Indigenous, and Latine/x college students?". Particular areas of interest include: introductory computer science, accessibility, student retention and attrition, broadening participation in computing, student support systems, department culture and organizational change, tech ethics, Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Current Positions

Northwestern University, Department of Computer Science | Evanston, IL
Teaching Assistant, September 2022—Present
- Human Computer Interaction (Dr. Marcelo Worsley)
- Programming Languages (Dr. Vincent St-Amour)

Higher Education Teaching Experience

University of Rhode Island, Department of Computer Science and Statistics | Kingston, RI
Full-Time Lecturer, June 2020—August 2021
- Computing Concepts
- Being Human in STEM
- Web Design and Programming
- Planning for Academic Success
- Data Structures and Abstractions
- Dynamic Web Design and Programming
- Computer Problem Solving for Science and Engineering

University of Rhode Island, Department of Computer Science and Statistics | Kingston, RI
Part-Time Faculty, August 2019—May 2020
- Web Design and Programming
- Dynamic Web Design and Programming
- Computer Problem Solving for Science and Engineering

Lead Lab Teaching Assistant, August 2019—December 2019
- Joy of Programming (Vic Fay-Wolfe)

Community College of Rhode Island, Computer Studies Department | Warwick, RI
Visiting Lecturer, January 2020—May 2020
- Intro to Computer Ethics
- Java Programming
- Advanced Java Programming

Brown University, Department of Education | Providence, RI
Teaching Assistant/Co-Instructor, January 2019—May 2019
- The Craft of Teaching (Chris Buttimer)

Teaching Assistant, January 2019—May 2019
- Adolescence in Social Context (Chris Buttimer)

Brown University, Data Science Initiative | Providence, RI
Head Teaching Assistant, March 2018—August 2018
- Introduction to Topics in Data and Computational Science (Daniel Potter)

Teaching Assistant, January 2018—May 2018
- Advanced Topics in Data and Computational Science (Eliezer Upfal)

Brown University, Computer Science Department | Providence, RI
Teaching Assistant, September 2015—May 2016
- An Integrated Introduction, Functional Programming course (John Hughes)
- An Integrated Introduction, Object Oriented Programming course (Amy Greenwald)

Head Teaching Assistant, March 2016—December 2016
- An Integrated Introduction, Functional Programming course (John Hughes)

K-12 Teaching Experience
Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth | Saratoga Springs, NY
Teaching Assistant, July 2019—August 2019
- Fundamentals of Computer Science (Stephen O. Agyei-Mensah)

Scituate High School | Scituate, RI
Computer Science Teacher, March 2019—June 2019
- Computer Science A
- AP Computer Science A
- Computer Science Principles
- AP Computer Science Principles
- Foundations of Engineering and Computer Science

Generation Citizen | Pawtucket, RI
Democracy Coach, February 2017—May 2017
- Law and Society, Shea High School (James Matuszek)

Girls Who Code | Chicago, IL
Teaching Assistant, June 2015—August 2015
- Summer Immersion Program, Microsoft (Chrissy Ziccarelli)

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Research Experience

Computer Science for Rhode Island (CS4RI) | Providence, RI
Research Intern, September 2018—June 2019
- ❖ Proposed and conducted original research on the accessibility of computer science programs for students with disabilities in Rhode Island K-12 schools

Brown University | Providence, RI
Research Assistant, May 2017—June 2019
- ❖ Collected and analyzed data for an education policy research project on curricula standardization.

Providence Children and Youth Cabinet | Providence, RI
Summer Practicum Intern, June 2018—August 2018
- ❖ Created three professional development trainings for K-12 educators on trauma-informed practices in the classroom.

Government & Non-Profit Experience

Code.org | Seattle, WA
State Policy Fellow, September 2021—July 2022
- ❖ Collected and analyzed data to understand and support the expansion of Computer Science education in K-12 in the US, contributing to the 2022 State of Computer Science Report.
- ❖ Consulted on the accessibility of the 2021 State of Computer Science Report.

YWCA YWeb Career Academy | Woonsocket, RI
Instructor, October 2020—August 2021
- ❖ Design and deliver curriculum for a 12-week intensive web design and development program for unemployed and underemployed women and people of color interested in pursuing technical careers.
- ❖ Advise YWCA for scalable and sustainable YWeb practices.
- ❖ Develop proposal for YWCA-URI partnership to enable participants to receive college credit for their participation in the program.

Computer Science for Rhode Island (CS4RI) | Providence, RI
Consultant, June 2019—August 2021
- ❖ Help ensure communication and implementation strategies have a strong focus on broadening participation in computing. Collaborate with external research efforts and activities.

Industry Experience

Microsoft | Cambridge, MA
Software Engineer Garage Intern, June 2017—August 2017
- ❖ Designed and developed accessibility features for an existing Windows native application.

Twitter | San Francisco, CA
Software Engineer Intern, May 2016—August 2016
- ❖ Developed tools to automate the process of reviewing ads (promoted tweets).

Publications

Chávez, Victoria, and Alarcon, Taylor, "Increasing retention rates of undergraduates in STEM" (2017). Broader Impacts and Open Educational Resources, Brown University Student Publications. Brown Digital Repository. Brown University Library. https://doi.org/10.7301/Z0B27SHR

Conference Presentations and Guest Lectures

Chávez, V. (2022). Designing with Accessibility in Mind. Tools and Technologies of the World Wide Web. *Northwestern University.* Evanston, IL.

Chávez, V. (2022). Designing with Accessibility in Mind. Intro to Web Development. *Northwestern University*. Evanston, IL.

Chávez, V. (2022). Accessibility in STEM. Howard Hughes Medical Institute Inclusive Excellence Faculty Cohort. *Rochester Institute of Technology*. Rochester, NY.

Brown, S. M., **Chávez, V.** (2021). Centering Learning and Equity in Assessment. *Tapia Conference*.

Chávez, V. (2021). Expanding Computer Science for All: Effectiveness of State Practices and Implementation. *Virtual American Education Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting*.

Giuriceo, C. M., Bryer, K., & **Chávez, V.** (2019). Engage, Excite, Educate, & Empower ALL Students: Broadening Participation and Success in STEAM. *Computer Science Teacher Association New England Regional Conference*. Boston, MA.

Chávez, V. (2019). Broadening Participation in Computing: Increasing Accessibility for Students with Disabilities. Ensuring Equity and Quality for All Students: Policies and Practice Reconsidered. *Brown University*. Providence, RI.

Giuriceo, C. M., Bryer, K., **Chávez, V.,** Forsythe, D. (2019). Engage, Excite, Educate, & Empower ALL Students: Broadening Participation and Success in STEAM. *Increasing Diversity, Equity and Leadership STEM Conference for Youth*. Providence, RI.

Chávez, V. (2019). Increasing Retention Rates of Undergraduates in STEM. Social Inclusion and Social Justice Conference. *Shippensburg University*. Shippensburg, PA.

Chávez, V. (2018). Increasing Retention Rates of Undergraduates in STEM. Computer Science Undergraduate Research Symposium. *Brown University*. Providence, RI.

Service Experience

Professional Service
- Workshop Reviewer, **SIGCSE 2021**
- Collegiate Award Reviewer, **NCWIT 2018**
- Aspirations in Computing Educator Award Reviewer, **NCWIT 2018**
- Award for Aspirations in Computing Reviewer, **NCWIT 2014**

Institutional Service
- Computer Science & Statistics Undergraduate Committee, **University of Rhode Island**, June 2020—July 2021
- Computer Science & Statistics Diversity Committee, **University of Rhode Island**, June 2020—July 2021
- exploreCSR Program Committee, **University of Rhode Island**, June 2020—April 2021

Professional Development

Alliance for Identity-Inclusive Computing Education (AiiCE) | Online
- Cultural Competence in Computing (3C) Fellow, Cohort 1, Spring/Summer 2021

University of Rhode Island, Department of Computer Science and Statistics | Kingston, RI
- Teaching for Learning HIT Seminar Fellowship, University of Rhode Island, Fall 2020
- Hybrid Online Bootcamp (for teaching hybrid sync/async online courses), Summer 2020

Campus Compact | Online
- Campus Compact Fusion Accelerated Course, Summer 2020

Code.org | Online
- Inclusive and Culturally Relevant Lesson Planning, Summer 2020

Community College of Rhode Island Computer Studies Department | Warwick, RI
- Effective Practices in Online Teaching Course, Spring 2020