

Denise Chavez

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EDUCATION

Kansas State University

PhD. in Geography (ABD)

Certificates:

Data Analytics

Geographic Information Systems

East Tennessee State University

Master of Public Health- Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Bachelor of Science in Human Services and Management

Manhattan, KS

Dec 2025

August 2025

May 2024

Johnson City, TN

May 2020

May 2016

EXPERIENCE

Center for Rural Health and Research

Research Assistant

Johnson City, TN

May 2025 - Dec. 2025

- Developed algorithms to further identify rural areas with mental health providers shortage.
- Anticipated future nursing shortage areas using state level data.

Department of Geography and Geospatial Sciences

Research Assistant

Manhattan, KS

Aug. 2022 – Aug.2025

- Created, maintained, and deployed GIS data and geodatabases.
- Used Python, ArcGIS model builder, and spatial analysis to establish links between adaptive behavior towards changing climate.
- Communicated complex data insights and recommendations to non-technical stakeholders.
- Worked with stakeholders to identify indicators of adaptive capacity to climate change and water quality in rural Kansas.

East Carolina University

Program Coordinator

Greenville, NC

Aug. 2021 – May 2022

- Established study design to evaluate intervention efficiency and efficacy.
- Obtained IRB approval to recruit and train 101 participants.
- Managed community engagement, procurement, outreach, and coordination with stakeholders to enhance care linkage, education, and prevention efforts.
- Conducted mixed-methods research to evaluate the impact of health care access and environmental exposures on air quality.

K-State Office for the Advancement of Women in Science and Engineering, KAWSE

Office Assistant

Manhattan, KS

Aug. 2020 – Dec. 2020

- Managed STEM outreach programs to middle school, high school, and college students.
- Created content for social media engagement.
- Conducted program effectiveness evaluation.

Language and Culture Resource Center, ETSU

Office Coordinator

Johnson City, TN

Aug. 2016 – Dec. 2018

- Coordinated and secured funds for community events that aimed to bridge
- Organized health fairs to promote healthy living and preventive health care.
- Served as a medical interpreter for individuals with limited English proficiency at local clinics.
- Conducted outreach programs for local non-native English speakers to motivated students to attend higher education.
- Monitored schedule and attendance of staff.

SKILLS

- Programming languages: Python, SQL, R, STATA
- Software: Microsoft Suite, ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, MATLAB, RedCap, Qualtrics
- Language: Fully bilingual in Spanish and English, beginner French
- Data collection: Qualitative (interviews, surveys, questionnaires), and quantitative

PRESENTATIONS

- Chavez Reyes D, Nelson K, Zipper S (2025) **Variability of an adaptive capacity index to construction method and socio-economic context**. *Paper presentation hosted by 50th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Application Workshop, Broomfield, CO.*
- Chavez Reyes D. (2024) **The Health Impacts of Air Quality Amid Climate Change and Human Activities**. *Community outreach presentation hosted by Flint Hill Sierra Club, MHK KS.*
- Chavez Reyes, D. A & Nelson, K (2023) **Adaptive Capacity in Kansas: An Uncertainty Analysis**. *Paper presentation hosted by AAG GPRM Annual Meeting, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.*
- Chavez Reyes, D. A. Maisonet, M. (2020). **Climate Change and Public Health**. *Lobby Training hosted by the Friends Committee on National Legislation, Washington, DC.*

PUBLICATIONS

- Chavez Reyes D, Nelson K, Zipper S. **Variability of an adaptive capacity index to construction method and socio-economic context** (*Under review*)
- Park YM, Chavez D, Sousan S, Figueroa-Bernal N, Alvarez JR, Rocha-Peralta J. **Personal exposure monitoring using GPS-enabled portable air pollution sensors: A strategy to promote citizen awareness and behavioral changes regarding indoor and outdoor air pollution**. *J Expo Sci Environ Epidemiol*. 2022 Dec 14. doi: 10.1038/s41370-022-00515-9. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36513791.
- Dula, T., Chavez Reyes, D. A., Baker, K., Slawson, D., Cutshaw, L., Kozinetz, C., Maisonet, M. (2019). **Assessment of Stakeholder Engagement for Conducting COPD Research Appalachian Tennessee**. *Presented at the 76th Annual Tennessee Public Health Association educational conference in Franklin, TN*

LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

Kansas State University, Gamma Theta Upsilon
Event Coordinator and Marketing

Manhattan, KS
Aug. 2024 – May 2025

Kansas State University, Department of Geography
Graduate Faculty Student Liaison

Manhattan, KS
Aug. 2023-May 2024

Friends Committee on National Legislation,
Delegation Leader

Washington, DC
Aug. 2018-May 2021

- Organized a lobby training event for faculty, staff, and members of the community.
- Secured funding for traveling expenses of our delegation.

LeaderShape Institute
On-Site-Coordinator

Johnson City, TN
May 2015

- Organized all logistical details for a 6 - day leadership program engaging 45 student leaders.
- Worked in partnership with Lead and Cluster facilitators to model leadership.
- Served as a catalyst for others learning.
- Established a climate to foster a 'healthy disregard for the impossible.'

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities, and Design** \$950, K-State Graduate School
- **Archard Lab Research Incentive Award** \$3,225 to conduct air quality study at the individual level.
- **Graduate Student Leadership Award** \$1000, recognized by the K-State Geography Department for professionalism, dedication, and leadership in the 2024 academic year.

- **Mary Dobbs Outstanding Department Citizen Award** \$1000, recognized by the K-State Geography Department to the student whose actions during 2024 academic year best exemplify the spirit of the department and a willingness to give "110%".

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **William Averette Anderson Fund Fellow** • Sept. 2024 – Present
Fellow for Hazard and Disaster Mitigation Education and Research
- **I-GUIDE Summer School** • UCAR, Boulder, Colorado • August 2023
Participated in a selective week-long immersive program for geospatial data science using cloud- and high-performance computing. Contributed to the completion of a team-based project on *Characterizing the spatiotemporal changes of the wildland-urban interface in the United States*.
- **The Grad WINGS** • UCGIS • Jan.-May 2023
Participated in a selective workshop to learn how to navigate and chart a course forward for Women Graduate Students in Geospatial Science