

RENÉ F. RODRÍGUEZ

2400 S. Sheridan Dr, Muskegon, MI 49442

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CAREER OBJECTIVE

Seeking opportunities to utilize my leadership training and communication skills to help build stronger communities by working collaboratively with organizations that focus on education and prevention initiatives for adults and at-risk youth.

EDUCATION

Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI

2016-2021

Bachelor of Arts in Faith and Community Leadership (Minor in Social Work)

Dean's List: spring 2020, fall 2020

- Extensive training on effective communication and public speaking techniques. Heavy reading, writing, and research skills. Developed critical and analytical thinking capabilities.
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WORK HISTORY / VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Views on LIFE (Founder and Editor-in-Chief)

2022-Present

- Biannual, educational publication dedicated to sharing the unique experiences of those serving life without parole: www.viewsonlife.org

Hope-Western Prison Education Program (Calvin Education Ambassador) Muskegon, MI 2022-Present

- Work closely with program directors, teachers, and faculty members to help establish a strong foundational education program that models Calvin University's Prison Initiative.
- Provide assistance to teachers and ad hoc tutoring services to current students.

Calvin University (Teacher's Assistant) Ionia, MI

2019-2022

- Assisted with administrative tasks, e.g., handing out tests, collecting completed exams, returning graded papers and assignments, and other academic duties as assigned.
- Offered guidance to students on obtaining required texts books for relevant coursework.
- Assisted students with instruction on proper academic research techniques and provided thorough explanation and breakdown of syllabus. Assisted with how-to questions on accessing information and resources for related courses.

Leader Dogs for the Blind (Dog Trainer) Rochester, MI

2017-2021

- Raised pure-bred, 7-week-old Labrador puppies and followed through with 1 year of obedience and guidance training. Trained puppies on recognizing and responding to basic commands, e.g., sit, stay, come, laydown.
- Effectively trained dogs on how to avoid distractions, i.e., people, objects, food on the ground.
- Maintained basic hygiene routine, e.g., daily coat brushing, monthly nail trimming, daily eye and ear care, and adhered to proper waste management disposal guidelines.
- Remained attentive to dog's physical and emotional well-being. Alerted appropriate staff/personnel of any unusual behavior or circumstances that required evaluation by veterinarian. Maintained thorough quarterly records on dog's training and progress.

Calvin University / Vocational Village (Co-Facilitator) Ionia, MI

2017-2018

- Provided guidance on creating effective resumes and assisted with mock interviews using "real-life" scenarios. Provided assistance on accessing reentry resources for those scheduled to return to society.
- Lead mock interviews promoting awareness on displaying positive body language. Provided feedback and evaluated overall performance.

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- Refurbished Pets of Southern Michigan (Rehabilitation Coach) Coldwater, MI* 2014-2016
- Trained a variety of mix-breed dogs including Boxers, Labradors, Poodles, Bullmastiff, Pit Bulls, etc. Identified, recorded, and corrected social behavioral issues.
 - Socialized dogs and focused on activities that reinforce positive human interactions.
 - Provided extensive training on recognizing and responding to basic commands and tricks, e.g., rollover, pray, kisses, stay, sit, come, etc.
 - Adhered to strict hygiene guidelines including bathing, brushing, nail trimming, daily ear and eyecare. Administered flea & tick, and heartworm medications and tended to dog's minor medical needs such as minor cuts and abrasions from rough play with other dogs. Maintained thorough weekly progress report.

- Michigan Department of Corrections (Law Library Clerk) Oaks, MI* 2002-2004
- Provided instruction and guidance in navigating law library and assisted patrons with accessing legal resources for researching cases.
 - Maintained inventory records of administrative policies, Michigan compliance laws, state statutes, law journals, and department office memorandums.
 - Organized and managed legal research materials.
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LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Calvin University Restorative Justice Club (Co-Lead Facilitator / Member) Ionia, MI* 2017-Present
- Assist in coordinating restorative justice annual conferences; work for and in conjunction with Calvin University, Grand Rapids Diocese, and Hope College.
 - Organize bi-monthly restorative justice meetings. Lead, encourage, and participate in open dialogue/discussions on restorative justice.
 - Adhere to the practices and principles as outlined in *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*.
 - Assist and participate in mock victim and offender dialog circle. Review and discuss information on restorative justice literature, books, and videos.

- Hispanic Americans Striving Towards Advancement Carson City, MI* 1993-1998
- Held various positions including chairman, president, secretary, and sergeant at arms.
 - Organized and spearheaded bi-weekly board meetings. Facilitated monthly general meetings.
 - Drafted special project event proposals. Coordinated, instructed and managed special event projects.
 - Maintained meeting structure and order by adhering to *Robert's Rule of Order* guidelines.
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CERTIFICATIONS AND LANGUAGES

- Ministry Leadership Calvin University, Ionia, MI* 2018
- Leadership training to assess, lead, resolve, and manage a variety of church and parachurch ministries.
- House of Healing, Coldwater, MI* 2015
- Peer-lead training certification course from instructional guide (*House of Healing by Robin Casarjian*) on pathways to behavioral change and learning effective techniques for showing mutual respect.
- Chance for Life Organization, Southfield, MI* 2014
- Intensive conflict resolution training using mediation and communication techniques.
- Paralegal Studies, Blackstone School of Law, Allentown, PA* 2002
- Paralegal coursework to help gain foundational knowledge and skills in general law.

English and Spanish, native fluency.