

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
School of Social Work

David Cordova, Jr., associate professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work, is recommended for promotion to professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2010	Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan
M.A.	2005	Alliant International University, San Diego, California
B.A.	2002	San Diego State University, San Diego, California

Professional Record:

2018 - present	Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of Michigan
2012 - 2018	Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation

Teaching: Professor Cordova is a strong teacher who has made significant contributions to the educational mission of the School of Social Work, particularly in the integration of diversity, equity, and inclusion. An important example is his leadership of four different courses for the online M.S.W. program, which launched in 2021. In these courses, he brings his expertise in youth development, substance abuse, and health equity in marginalized communities. His innovative approaches to classroom teaching include a strong focus on universal design and use of diverse forms of media to promote engagement in the classroom. His teaching efforts are well received by students and are especially appreciated by students with marginalized identities due to his sensitivity to their experiences. In addition, his leadership in online teaching was recognized in his appointment as the interim director of the Online M.S.W. Program in 2022. Professor Cordova is also a caring and dedicated mentor and advisor to students at all levels (undergraduate, master's level, and doctoral). He is also a sought-after mentor across the university through programs such as the Michigan Institute for Clinical Health and Research Summer Research Program, the Michigan Center for African American Aging Research, and the Program for Research on Black Americans Summer Program.

Research: Professor Cordova has, since his promotion to associate professor in 2018, built and sustained a coherent and impactful research program focused on the prevention of substance abuse and H.I.V. in marginalized youth, comprising two interrelated areas: a) analyzing factors potentiating their drug use and sexual risk behaviors; and b) applying this knowledge base to the development of preventive interventions for marginalized adolescents using community-based participatory methods. Professor Cordova's work in developing the Storytelling4Empowerment (S4E) mobile app provides an important example of the ways he applies community-engaged approach to address important problems, in this case that of strengthening the ability of clinicians and youth to communicate about risk behaviors and facilitate connections to supportive services where needed. Based on input provided from both clinicians and youth in Ypsilanti, his team developed two mobile app tool, one designed for youth and the other for clinicians. His research testing the feasibility and acceptability of the tools showed that use of

the mobile apps facilitated stronger and more honest relationships between the youth and their clinicians and improved uptake of S.T.I./H.I.V. testing, and a randomized pilot trial of the intervention showed reductions in youth risky behavior.

Since his promotion to associate professor, Professor Cordova has published twenty journal articles, two book chapters, and one editorial, bringing his total publication record to 64 peer-reviewed articles, five book chapters, and two editorials. His work is published in top-tier journals and has been cited more than 3200 times, and his h-index is currently 34 (as of February 10, 2024), which is greater than the average h-index for full professors in schools of social work. Professor Cordova has also been successful in securing funding in collaboration with his research team, primarily from Federal grant sources such as the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Professor Cordova's leadership in advancing community based participatory research in health has been recognized at the university level by his appointment as the co-investigator and core faculty member of the Promoting Academic and Community Engagement Program at the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research. In this role, he is making important contributions to not only his own team-based research program, but to the training of future scientists who aim to apply community engaged research approaches to translational science at the University of Michigan and beyond.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Fernandez, A. R., Ramírez-Ortiz, D., García-Torres, M. M., Lor, M., Luebke, J., Cano, M. Á., & Córdova, D. (2023). Ethnic discrimination, acculturative stress, and sexual risk among Latinx emerging adults: Examining moderation effects of familism support and ethnic identity. *Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 10.1037/cdp0000570. *Advance online publication*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cdp0000570>.
- Córdova, D., Heinze, J. E., Hsieh, H. F., Mistry, R., Salas-Wright, C. P., Cook, S. H., & Zimmerman, M. A. (2018). Are trajectories of a syndemic index in adolescence linked to HIV vulnerability in emerging and young adulthood?. *AIDS (London, England)*, 32(4), 495–503. <https://doi.org/10.1097/QAD.0000000000001717>.
- Lorenzo-Blanco, E. I., Meca, A., Piña-Watson, B., Zamboanga, B. L., Szapocznik, J., Cano, M. Á., Córdova, D., Unger, J. B., Romero, A., Des Rosiers, S. E., Soto, D. W., Villamar, J. A., Pattarroyo, M., Lizzi, K. M., & Schwartz, S. J. (2019). Longitudinal Trajectories of Family Functioning Among Recent Immigrant Adolescents and Parents: Links With Adolescent and Parent Cultural Stress, Emotional Well-Being, and Behavioral Health. *Child Development*, 90(2), 506–523. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.12914>.
- Córdova, D., Mendoza Lua, F., Muñoz-Velázquez, J., Street, K., Bauermeister, J. A., Fessler, K., Adelman, N., Youth Leadership Council, Neilands, T. B., & Boyer, C. B. (2019). A multilevel mHealth drug abuse and STI/HIV preventive intervention for clinic settings in the United States: A feasibility and acceptability study. *PLOS One*, 14(8), e0221508.
- Córdova, D., Muñoz-Velázquez, J., Mendoza Lua, F., Fessler, K., Warner, S., Delva, J., Adelman, N., Youth Leadership Council, Fernandez, A., & Bauermeister, J. (2020). Pilot Study of a Multilevel Mobile Health App for Substance Use, Sexual Risk Behaviors, and Testing for Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV Among Youth: Randomized Controlled Trial. *JMIR mHealth and uHealth*, 8(3), e16251. <https://doi.org/10.2196/1625>. PMID: 32181747. PMCID: PMC7109616. IF: 4.301

Calhoun, K., Burns, T., Smith, A., Ehrlich, E., Gultekin, L., Asabigi, K., Hijazi, M., Buckhoy, N., Rowe, Z., Neff, M., Vaughter, D., Voepel-Lewis, T., Piechowski, T., Jazdyk, D., Córdova, D., & Detroit Area Mental Health Leadership Team. (2022). A Community-Academic Approach to Preventing Substance Use Disorders. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*, 16(2S), 45–58.

Service: Professor Cordova evinces a strong service record to the school, the profession, and the university. He has contributed substantially to M.S.W. curriculum development and evaluation efforts and was asked to serve as the interim director of the online M.S.W. program. At the university level, Professor Cordova serves on the Provost’s Advisory Committee and brings needed perspective to addressing the needs of underrepresented faculty and faculty with disabilities to that group. At the professional level, his membership on four editorial boards and his leadership of the Society for Social Work and Research awards committee are important service roles that signify his national prominence.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “Based on my assessment of his work, I would strongly recommend him for promotion to Professor of Social work. He would be promoted to full professor at my institution.”

Reviewer (B): “In conclusion, I have full confidence that professor David Cordava [sic] meets the criteria for promotion from the rank of Associate Professor with tenure to Full Professor, as per the standards upheld at [my institution]. His scholarship meets the standard of excellence any major university would expect.”

Reviewer (C): “I highly recommend Dr. Cordova for promotion to Full Professor. I am very confident that he would be promotion [sic] to this rank at my own institution.”

Reviewer (D): “In summary, I am pleased to support Dr. Cordova’s appointment. He would be a strong candidate for promotion here at [my institution] and at peer institutions.”

Reviewer (E): “‘Yes’ to this question: Might their work meet the requirements for someone being considered for promotion and, if applicable, tenure at your institution?”

Reviewer (F): “I recommend him for promotion without reservation. It is my opinion that he would likely be promoted to Full Professor here at [my institution].”

Reviewer (G): “I believe Dr. Cordova would be granted Full Professor status at the [home institution] School of Social Work on the basis of his contributions to the field, his commitment to teaching, and his service to the profession.”

Reviewer (H): “In terms of Dr. Cordova’s scholarship, he meets if not exceeds the requirements for promotion at my institution.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Cordova has made important contributions to the science of preventing drug use and sexual risk behaviors among marginalized young people and is well positioned to continue to advance efforts in these area and to promote the use of community-engaged research approaches within the university more broadly. He is a caring and effective teacher who has made especially important contributions to the M.S.W. curriculum, and he continues to be an engaged and impactful citizen of the school, the university, the community, and the profession. It is with the support of the School of Social Work Executive Committee that I recommend David Cordova, Jr. for promotion to the rank of professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work.



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Beth Angell  
Dean and Professor of Social Work  
School of Social Work

May 2024