

## Biographical Sketch for Edwin Meléndez



Edwin Meléndez is a Professor of Urban Policy and Planning at Hunter College and the Director of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies. He has conducted considerable research in the areas of Puerto Rican and Latino studies, economic development, labor markets, and poverty. He is the author to numerous scientific papers and other publications. He is also the author or editor of thirteen books including the *State of Puerto Ricans 2017* (Centro Press), *Puerto Ricans at the Dawn of the New Millennium* (Centro Press, 2014), *Latinos in a Changing Society* (Praeger, 2007) and *Communities and Workforce Development* (Upjohn Institute: 2004).

He has served as invited Editor for “Pathways to Economic Opportunity,” *Centro XXIII* (2), 2011, and other Special Issues on *Radical America* (1989), *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences* (1992), *Latino Studies Journal* (1993), and the *New England Journal of Public Policy* (1997).

Dr. Meléndez has worked as a consultant on employment, economic development, job creation, and small business for numerous government, community, and philanthropic foundations. In his twenty years of experience as principal investigator, he has managed over 30 research, outreach or demonstration projects, and supervised or collaborated with over 60 researchers in projects that resulted in several edited books, special issues of academic journals, and other publications.

Professor Meléndez has an extensive record of community and public service, including numerous appointments to government and community boards. He is presently the President of the ASPIRA Association Board, and a member of the National Advisory Board of the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers The State University of New Jersey.

As an active member of the policy community in New York City, he participates in the Workforce Development Advisory Board of the Hispanic Federation of New York. He has served as a member of the New York City Commission to Study the Feasibility of Creating Public/Private Partnerships to Develop and Operate Job Centers for Immigrant Day Laborers. He was a Board of Directors and Policy Committee Member for the United Neighborhood Houses, and served as member of the Board of Directors of the Structural, Employment Economic Development Corporation (Seedco). He received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Education, 2011, from the New York League of Puerto Rican Women, the 2010 Educational Leadership Honoree award from the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, New York, and El Diario El Awards 2009, New York.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Dr. Meléndez came to the United States in 1978 after receiving a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Puerto Rico. He earned a Master’s degree in economics from the University of California at Santa Barbara, and in 1985 received his Ph.D. also in economics from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He has been the recipient of numerous scholarships and teaching awards, including those from ASPIRA, MIT, UPR, and the National Research Council and Ford Foundation.

He began his teaching career at Fordham University in 1984, teaching economics and Puerto Rican studies. In 1999 he joined Milano, The New School for Management and Urban Policy in New York City. From 1999 to 2004, Dr. Meléndez was the Director of the Community Development Research Center at the Milano Graduate School, and from 1992 to 1998, he was the Director of the Mauricio Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He was also an associate professor in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and served in its faculty from 1986 to 1992.